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Submissions

Please note that the WKC will take its annual break from printing in June and July, and will return in August 2023. In the meantime, please continue follow us online at westernkycatholic.com.

Article guidelines: The Western Kentucky Catholic will consider submitted articles pertaining to issues and events within our diocese. Please contact the editor in advance for a word limit, as space varies by month.

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

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A Word From Bishop Medley

Calling our national leaders to be genuinely pro-life

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

After the Nashville school shooting of a few weeks ago that saw six people, including three nine-year-olds, die, I began to consider writing my next article for The Western Kentucky Catholic on the subject of gun violence. I had done some research and begun to organize the article in my mind. As I sat at my desk to write on Easter Monday morning, my phone alerted me to the first reports of a mass shooting at a workplace in downtown Louisville. As I was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville and served there for many years before becoming bishop of Owensboro, I know hundreds of people who work in downtown Louisville.

As the news unfolded of at least five dead and several more taken to hospitals – including two police officers – I strived to focus my concentration to write. I wrote for a couple of hours and felt my anger rising as more details emerged.

I finally realized that my anger was what was writing the article. If ever anger can be righteous surely senseless killing of innocent people would be such an occasion. But anger can also be sinful; in fact, the Church identifies anger as one of the seven deadly sins.

So how does one address gun violence in a pastoral way? How does one comfort a man or woman who has lost a spouse, a child who has lost a parent, a parent who has lost a child? Where do we begin to turn anger into something constructive? Is that even possible?

The United States is far from the most violent

nation in the world. There are places where criminal militias are armed and cannot be controlled by legitimate police or military authorities. We read of Russia bombing schools and hospitals and residential neighborhoods in Ukraine, and the civil world is outraged.

Yet we show no will as a nation to adopt commonsense limitations on gun ownership or on the availability of automatic assault weapons. Perhaps I should say that our Congress shows no such will. Polls and studies show that a great majority of Americans favor commonsense legislation which in other countries has significantly curbed gun violence. Are we clearly and vocally holding these representatives to accountability?

After the Nashville shooting a member of Congress said in an interview, “If you want to legislate evil, it’s just not going to happen. We need a real revival in this country.” I do not wish to parody, as many do, those who in the face of violence assure us of their “thoughts and prayers” with no desire for tangible change. But as Catholics, we believe that prayer and work go hand-in-hand (“ora et labora”). One way we might act is to demand action from our elected representatives. Through our thoughts and prayers, we are called to action, called to demand a response, called to begin to consider remedies.

Another member of Congress recently said, “A recent report states that Americans own 46 percent of the world’s guns, I think we need to get these numbers up.”

This is obscene. This reminds me of the Biblical

BISHOP MEDLEY'S MAY 2023 CALENDAR	
MAY 1	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho
MAY 3	6 p.m. Confirmation – Christ the King Parish, Madisonville
MAY 4	9 a.m. School Mass – OCS K-3 Campus, Owensboro
MAY 6	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Paul Parish, Leitchfield
MAY 7	10 a.m. Mass for 150th Anniversary – Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville 3 p.m. Confirmation – Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro
MAY 10	10 a.m. Staff Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Oak Grove
MAY 12	6 p.m. Appreciation Dinner for Parish Catechetical Leaders – St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro
MAY 13	10 a.m. Brescia University Commencement – Riverpark Center, Owensboro
MAY 14	2 p.m. Owensboro Catholic High School Graduation – Owensboro Sportscenter
MAY 15	1:30 p.m. Priests' Council – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
MAY 16-18	Bishops of the Province Meeting – Archdiocese of Louisville
MAY 19	7 p.m. Trinity High School Graduation – Trinity High School, Whitesville

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story of the worship of the golden calf where the people put their faith in something other than God to protect them. This truly is idolatry.

Another way to address this violence is to ask our nation, "How is this working out for us?" How is the proliferation of guns – with not even a modest measure to control them – protecting us, as our dead sisters and brothers and children are counted in the hundreds?

We stand alone among the major nations of the world in tolerating such slaughter. After the school shooting in Marshall County in 2018 I wrote, "Calling upon our nation to restrict guns in some manner in no way precludes reasonable gun sports. We set speed limits to save lives. We challenge pro-choice, pro-abortion voices because human life in

the womb is created in God's image and is sacred. Yes, this does limit a woman's control over her body – but for the greater good of preserving human life."

It has been more than five years since young people died in a mass shooting here in our diocese at Marshall County High School. Five years, and as a nation and as a society we have done nothing to curb the insane violence. As believers in Jesus Christ we do not have to accept this sinful pattern of needless killing. As citizens we can demand our leaders to genuinely be pro-life.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Pastor and parochial vicar assignments for 2023

The Office of the Bishop has announced the pastor and parochial vicar assignments for 2023.

Please pray for those who will soon begin their transition into a new assignment and for the communities they serve.

Parish pastor

Dennis, Rev. James | Parish Administrator, St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho. Effective June 13, 2023.

McBride, Rev. Larry | Pastor, St. Martin Parish in Rome. Effective June 13, 2023.

Meredith, Rev. Richard | Pastor, Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson. Effective June 13, 2023.

Okeoma, Rev. Jude | Pastor, Rosary Chapel in Paducah and St. Mary Parish in LaCenter. Effective June 13, 2023.

Udoh, Rev. Emmanuel | Pastor, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Hopkinsville. Effective June 13, 2023.

Parochial vicar

Grief, Dcn. Christopher | Parochial Vicar, Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson. Effective June 13, 2023.

Kight, Dcn. Christopher | Parochial Vicar, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Hopkinsville. Effective June 13, 2023.

Thomas, Rev. Santhosh | Parochial Vicar, St. Leo Parish in Murray. Effective June 13, 2023.

BISHOP MEDLEY'S MAY 2023 CALENDAR CONTINUED	
MAY 20	10 a.m. Priesthood Ordination – St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah 7 p.m. St. Mary High School Graduation – St. Mary High School, Paducah
MAY 21	10:30 a.m. Confirmation – Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro
MAY 23	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Paducah Office – Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital
MAY 24	8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro 5:30 p.m. Confirmation – Holy Redeemer Parish, Beaver Dam (English)
MAY 25	5:30 p.m. Confirmation – Holy Redeemer Parish, Beaver Dam (Spanish)
MAY 27	4 p.m. Confirmation – St. Leo Parish, Murray
MAY 28	11 a.m. Confirmation – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MAY 31	5:30 p.m. Confirmation – Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville

Van lal Than, Rev. Stephen | Parochial Vicar, Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro. Effective June 13, 2023.

Other

Valomchalil, Rev. Augusty | Fr. Augusty Valomchalil has chosen to leave the Diocese of Owensboro to take an assignment in another diocese effective June 13, 2023.

Bittel, Rev. Patrick | Fr. Patrick Bittel will be retiring from active ministry effective June 13, 2023. ■

‘You’ve got to hold the door open and let Christ start working’ After years of following his own path, Deacon Grief answered call

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When it came to recognizing his priestly vocation, “people saw it before I did,” said Deacon Christopher Grief, who will be ordained on May 20, 2023 at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah.

He was a teenager when others would mention the idea – and he said he “shot them down – ‘absolutely not!’”

Deacon Grief also recalls being at his sister’s confirmation many years ago, when Bishop William F. Medley spoke to the faithful about the need for vocations.

He remembers thinking, “Well, that isn’t going to be me!”

Fast-forward 10 years or so, and he had a successful job, his college loans were paid off, and he had a house.

And yet, “I wasn’t fulfilled. I wasn’t happy,” said Deacon Grief.

“I spent a lot of time in Adoration... and in Adoration and personal prayer I realized I was meant for more,” he said. “I got up the courage to call the vocations director and ask what seminary life was like. So began a multi-year conversation.”

The concept required “courage” and accepting that this would be a transition: he was born and raised in Paducah and struggled with the idea of leaving everything familiar.

“I didn’t tell my parents (at first) ... I didn’t want them to be disappointed,” said Deacon Grief.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Deacon Christopher Grief incenses the faithful during Christm Mass on April 4, 2023.

But when he finally did tell them, his father, whom he had rarely seen shed a tear, “broke down in tears of joy. So began a journey for us all,” he said, with gratitude for his family’s support.

In seminary, he met a “great group of friends (from this diocese and others), which has sustained me,” he said. “We help each other, pray with one another, bring our troubles and concerns to one another.”

Deacon Grief acknowledged that “it isn’t easy, especially in this secular world, to hear that call, to trust in others who see it in you.”

“You’ve got to hold the door open and let Christ start working,” he said. “I spent years trying to shut Christ out because I was only doing what I wanted to do.”

Today, in serving as a transitional deacon – the final step before the priesthood – he has had the experience many times of “getting to listen and realizing people are searching – that they want to be recognized.”

He was especially impacted by his clinical pastoral internship at a hospital: “For me it’s necessary to bring Christ to people in the darkness, difficulties, muddiness of life.”

“Bishop Medley often talks about planting seeds,” said Deacon Grief. “Others planted the seed for me, and I hope to do so for others as well. And it’s ok to know we might not see the fruits of those seeds.” ■

Bonus: Read the story of Deacon Grief’s chalice on westernkycatholic.com.

Deacon Kight grateful for multiple priests' witnesses, examples, in his own discernment



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Deacon Christopher Kight leads the prayers of the faithful during a Mass at Owensboro Catholic High School on March 1, 2023, during which fellow seminarian Conrad Jaconette was installed as acolyte.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Deacon Christopher Kight, who will be ordained a priest on May 20, 2023 at his home parish of St. Thomas More in Paducah, first sensed a call to the priesthood “as a little kid.”

“I enjoyed going to Mass; I didn’t understand everything that was going on but I knew something important was happening,” he told The Western Kentucky Catholic in an interview ahead of his ordination.

He said his mother enjoys telling the story of when he was a child, that as their pastor at the time, Fr. Jerry Riney, celebrated Mass, “I would mimic what he was doing” in the pew.

Deacon Kight said some of the most supportive people in discerning his vocation were his parents.

“My dad died before I went to college, but he knew I was interested in the priesthood,” said Deacon Kight.

He said that he was in college studying to be a music teacher when he called his mom to tell her he was thinking about going to seminary.

“She was surprised, but supportive,” he said.

Deacon Kight also credits the support of his friends and of the many priests in his life, such as Fr. Pat Reynolds, Fr. Jerry Riney, and Fr. Jamie Dennis.

He is also grateful for the encouragement of Fr. Daniel Dillard – the now-director of vocations for the diocese, whom Kight met shortly after Fr. Dillard’s ordination when the new priest was made an associate pastor at St. Thomas More.

“In high school I attended the Christian Leadership Institute (CLI),” said Deacon Kight. “Fr. Andy Garner was the chaplain at the time. He was the first priest who asked if I’d thought about the seminary. It caught me off guard!”

He said that during his pastoral years of serving in parishes, he had the chance to help in the classroom and teach sacramental prep.

Spending a summer doing his Spanish immersion in Guatemala was also highly formative for him.

“I walked away from those experiences being more confident in my calling than before,” said Deacon Kight.

He said he looks forward to “presiding at Mass and being with people in their everyday lives – both the sad realities and joyful realities. Being with the people as a representative of the Church to bring the light of the Gospel and the faith into their lives, is a great privilege.” ■

Bonus: Read the story of Deacon Kight’s chalice on westernkycatholic.com.

Discover the unique story of the Ursuline Sisters who arrived in Daviess County in 1874...



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Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph



COURTESY OF GANTT FAMILY

Erica and Elijah Gantt with their pastor, Fr. Tom Buckman, at the convalidation of their marriage on March 13, 2023, at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

For a long time, the only constant thing in Elijah Gantt's life was his Buddhist spirituality.

He never dreamed he would be where he is today: a Catholic, whose wife just joined the

Purchasing a 'beautiful rosary' led former Buddhist monk to the Catholic Church

Church at this past Easter Vigil at St. Mary Parish in Franklin, Ky.

"We've been on cloud nine," Elijah said in a recent interview with *The Western Kentucky Catholic*, during which he and his wife, Erica Gantt, shared their journey.

After a turbulent childhood and young adulthood – in which he endured routine abuse, the loss of his mother in a car accident, bad experiences with a "prosperity gospel" church, and the breakdown of his first marriage – Elijah said he embraced Buddhism.

"I was angry at what I thought God was," he said.

He said the Buddha taught that *dukkha* – often translated to "pain" or "suffering" – must be ended. Elijah did not see how Christians could worship a God up in heaven who permitted suffering to happen on earth.

He entered into Buddhism so deeply that he was even ordained a Buddhist monk for 15 years. Though he claimed to be agnostic, he said he continued to be angry at God.

One day, he was skimming Facebook Marketplace and came across a rosary for sale. Though he "hated all things Christianity" he thought "this is beautiful" – so he bought it.

Later, he came across a crucifix for sale, and bought that to hang decoratively on his wall. Eventually he even bought an image of the Virgin Mary to artistically accompany his crucifix.

One night, when he was alone in his home and

emotionally spiraling, Elijah looked at the crucifix "on the wall with (Jesus's) hands all splayed out."

"Looking at the crucifix, suddenly the word came to mind – *dukkha*: suffering," he said. "And all of a sudden, I understood suffering. This was the God of heaven. And he had suffered."

Elijah said that in that moment, he understood how suffering could exist in a world created by a loving God – because God himself had become man and suffered alongside the rest of humanity.

From that point, he began studying and asking questions about Catholicism. With the help of Fr. Jim Costigan, CPM, a Fathers of Mercy priest who had studied Eastern spirituality, Elijah was able to get many of his questions answered.

Fr. Costigan encouraged him to connect with a parish, and soon after Elijah found himself attending RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) at St. Mary's in Franklin.

He joined the Church – but eventually started to drift away and did not attend Mass regularly.

And then one day, Elijah met Erica.

"It was love at first sight," she said. "I even told him on our first date that I'd marry him!"

Erica had also had negative experiences with religion and experienced an abusive first marriage and divorce, and at the time considered herself atheist.

The two were married in a Methodist church and began raising their children together, but Elijah started to feel drawn back to the Catholic Church.

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Knowing that faith was important to Elijah, Erica “started questioning, being curious.”

Plus, “it felt like the journey we’d been through to reach each other was something divine,” she said. Intrigued, Erica started attending Mass with Elijah, and bringing her children along.

At first, it felt “weird bringing the children to church, it was awkward for them, but as we kept going, Eli would speak about what was happening,” she said. “My son even called it ‘beautiful.’”

“The people in the church were nice, and kind, and friendly,” Erica added. “I didn’t know Catholics would be this nice and welcoming. I started to enjoy going and understanding more.”

Erica began attending RCIA classes and was impressed that “I was inexperienced with religion but wasn’t meant to feel that way.”

St. Mary’s pastor, Fr. Tom Buckman, explained that since the two had been married before, they would need to pursue annulments in order to be married in the eyes of the Catholic Church. With guidance from Fr. Buckman and the diocesan tribunal, they received declarations of invalidity for their first marriages.

On March 13, 2023, the two had their marriage convalidated in the eyes of the Catholic Church and on April 8, Erica became Catholic at St. Mary’s Easter Vigil liturgy.

“I love belonging and seeing how beautiful Catholicism is,” she told the WKC.

Elijah has given every member of their family a rosary of their own, and as a family they regularly pray the St. Michael prayer together.

“It took me a while – but it’s definitely the best thing I’ve ever done for my family,” said Erica.

Reflecting on his journey – from anger at God, to purchasing a rosary, to becoming Catholic and finding the love of his life – Elijah is overjoyed to finally be at home in the Church.

“People tell me it was Mary who led me there,” he said. ■

In pursuit of evangelization: Bishop blesses new communications studio



COURTESY OF DANNY MAY
Bishop William F. Medley sprinkles holy water around the newly-completed communications studio on April 19, 2023.

BY WKC STAFF

On April 19, Bishop William F. Medley and diocesan staff gathered at the newly-completed

communications studio in the McRaith Catholic Center, home to the central offices of the Diocese of Owensboro, to bless and dedicate the new space.

The studio is a function of the Office of Communications, whose tasks include operating the diocese’s social media platforms; producing diocesan video messages, such as Bishop Medley’s “Across the Diocese” series; assisting other diocesan offices in editing and designing materials; overseeing the diocese’s websites; photographing diocesan events; supporting the parishes, schools and other entities in sharing their mission; and publishing The Western Kentucky Catholic newspaper.

The studio includes a small set for video shoots and a space to take professional headshots.

After a restructuring of the communications office in 2015, the department has continued offer more opportunities to assist the diocese in its

mission of spreading the Good News to both those who are regular churchgoers and those who are on the peripheries.

“As digital media continues to grow, it has become a tool for evangelization,” said Riley Greif, the communications office’s digital media specialist. “With the remodel of our space, our team can more effectively create content to reach those who we may not be in the pews on Sunday.”

During the blessing, Bishop Medley prayed that the communications staff would be enabled to “communicate truth, to foster love, to uphold justice and right. Let them promote and support that peace between peoples which Christ the Lord brought from heaven.”

The communications staff are Rachel Hall, director of communications; Riley Greif, digital media specialist; and Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic. ■

God is ‘pulling us all together’

Homeowners rise empowered from tornado destruction



COURTESY OF STACEY MENSER

Deacon Mike Marsili offers a blessing over two new homes built by Catholic Charities on Hall Street in Dawson Springs.

BY STACEY MENSER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

God is at work in western Kentucky.

“And he is pulling us all together,” said Mike Stuckey of Mennonite Disaster Service, a nationwide organization of the Anabaptist tradition that sends volunteers to repair and rebuild homes in disaster-impacted communities.

A partnership between Stuckey’s organization (MDS) and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro has resulted in five new homes dedicated in four months in Dawson Springs, one of the communities devastated by the Dec. 10, 2021, tornado.

Catholic Charities’ initial mission in Dawson Springs was to provide case management to tornado survivors. As Catholic Charities case

managers assessed clients’ needs, it became clear new homes for uninsured and underinsured households was one of the greatest needs.

In September 2022, Catholic Charities hired Ohio native Josh Hipp to oversee home builds sponsored by the diocese. Hipp has 12 years’ experience as a disaster recovery construction manager in communities impacted by tornadoes and hurricanes. He brought not only his expertise, but also his connections with organizations like MDS that provide skilled volunteer labor for new home builds.

“Since MDS got here in January, we’ve completed five homes start to finish; and we have four more houses dried-in. So that’s nine under roof so far,” said Hipp.

The first home dedication jointly sponsored by Catholic Charities and Mennonite Disaster Service was held March 2, 2023, for the Hooper family on Industrial Park Road.

By the end of the month, Hipp and MDS had four additional homes completed and ready to hand over to the homeowners.

On March 23, MDS volunteers from Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan, joined with Catholic Charities staff from across western Kentucky to dedicate the home of Michael and Jennifer Jarboe, and their children, ages 16, 13, and 10.

Deacon Mike Marsili offered a blessing over the home, and MDS volunteers offered songs of praise. Hipp had the honor of handing the keys to the new homeowners.



COURTESY OF STACEY MENSER

Mike Stuckey of Mennonite Disaster Service (left) asks new homeowner James Moore to sign the final job card of his house as Catholic Charities case manager Lori Wootton looks on.



COURTESY OF STACEY MENSER

The women of Mennonite Disaster Service present a quilt to the Jarboe family, (from left) Jennifer, Timothy, Annabell, Nathan and Michael, during their home dedication ceremony March 23 in Dawson Springs. The Jarboes’ home was built by Catholic Charities through a partnership with Mennonite Disaster Service.

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“So many hands have touched this home,” Stuckey said during the ceremony. “Some are here today; some were here last week; some were here last month; some have been here for 15 months trying to help families like this one recover from this devastating tornado.”

When homeowner Michael Jarboe spoke, he mentioned one of the people who had been there since day one serving the people of his community.

“If it hadn’t been for Ms. Lori Wooton with Catholic Charities, I don’t know where we would be today,” he said.

Wooton, a retired school counselor and resident

of Dawson Springs, was the first case manager hired by Catholic Charities to serve tornado survivors in Hopkins County. Not only did she help the Jarboe family with a new home, but she also served as case manager for the three families whose homes were dedicated the following week.

On March 29, Catholic Charities and MDS gathered on Hall Street for two home dedications. On one side of the street, James Moore and his two children, Conner and Payton, received the keys to their house. Across the street, homeowner Stephanie Blayer said she was ready to move out of her FEMA trailer and into her new house as soon

as Hipp gave her the keys. On Saturday, April 1, Catholic Charities and MDS gathered once again to celebrate the dedication of a home for Ava Lacy on Railroad Avenue.

Hipp said the next four Catholic Charities/MDS homes, currently under construction, will be completed by the end of the summer, and another round of new home builds will begin in the fall.

“We will have 15 homes built in this town by May 2024,” he said. “That’s what Catholic Charities has committed to do, and we’re making it happen.” ■

At Chrism Mass, priests renew commitment; bishop praises diocese’s cultural diversity

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

During his homily at the Diocese of Owensboro’s April 4, 2023 Chrism Mass, held in the Owensboro Sportscenter, Bishop William F. Medley asked all the priests to stand for a moment.

He then asked the faithful to express their gratitude for their priests – filling the sportscenter with resounding applause.

“We ask you to hold us accountable to our sacred calling, to be spiritual and moral leaders in our Church and the world,” said Bishop Medley.

After the applause had died down, the bishop acknowledged that no priest is perfect – and that sometimes the faithful have told him so.

“I know they aren’t perfect,” he said. “But I am grateful for them.”

The sportscenter then filled with a second round of deep, spontaneous applause from the faithful.

Besides the blessing of the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism, the Chrism Mass also provides the opportunity for the presbyterate to renew their commitment to priestly service.

Following the homily, the priests stood and prayerfully asked for God’s help to remain faithful to their consecrated mission to service the People of God, and the people, in turn, promised their prayers and support for their priests.

The liturgy itself was filled with a variety of music from the various cultures that call the Diocese of Owensboro home.

The introductory rite featured a psalm sung in Swahili by the Congolese choir of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green; the Gloria led by the Hispanic



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Priests share the sign of peace during Chrism Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter on April 4, 2023.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley breathes on the Sacred Chrism during Chrism Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter on April 4, 2023.



RILEY GREIF | WKC
Volunteers fill containers with the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and Sacred Chrism during Chrism Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter on April 4, 2023.



RACHEL HALL | WKC
A child smiles during Chrism Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter on April 4, 2023.

choir of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, and the Lamb of God and post-Communion reflection sung by the Burmese choir of Holy Spirit.

The readings were proclaimed in English, Spanish, and Burmese.

In his homily, the bishop commented on this being his 14th Chrism Mass with the Diocese of Owensboro – and that the face of the diocese has evolved since his arrival in western Kentucky in 2010.

“With every passing year, our profile is more diverse,” he said. “In many parishes, most babies being baptized and children being confirmed are Latino.”

The bishop recalled last year’s National Catholic Burmese-American Conference, hosted by the diocese, which featured the ordination of Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling – only the second Myanmar-born priest ordained in the United States. (Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than, ordained for the diocese in 2020, was the first Myanmar-born priest ordained in the U.S.) The conference drew nearly 2,000 Myanmar Catholics from around the U.S.

“We are richer for it,” said Bishop Medley of this growth in western Kentucky Catholicism.

He also asked that the people continue to pray for vocations, “that the Lord will continue to send workers into the vineyard” and invited all present to attend the upcoming priestly ordinations of Deacon Christopher Grief and Deacon Christopher Kight on May 20 in Paducah.

At the end of Mass, the bishop held up the chalice that had been used during the liturgy.

He said this was the chalice of Bishop Francis R. Cotton, the first bishop of the diocese, which had been recently rediscovered in the diocesan archives – “and it had not been used publicly for 60 years.”

Bishop Medley said that in the spirit of continuity, he hopes to celebrate future Masses with Bishop Cotton’s chalice. ■

Afghan family ‘happy, blessed, grateful’ to be reunited in Owensboro after two years of separation

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

An excited crowd of friends and coworkers welcomed home the Shafaq family as they pulled up to their new house in Owensboro, Ky., the evening of April 2, 2023.

It had been a journey of two long years, but at last Khaibar Shafaq – a case manager and paralegal for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro – was reunited with his wife and three children, who had flown into Chicago earlier that day.

“I feel really happy, blessed, grateful, so thankful,” said Shafaq, who offered both hugs of gratitude and introductions of his family to those gathered at his home.

Back in August 2021, Shafaq had traveled with his wife, Zuhai; daughter, Farangis; and sons, Ahmad Belal and Ahmad Khetab, out of Afghanistan to a safe location in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Taliban’s rapid takeover of Afghanistan that year after the departure of United States troops meant danger for many Afghan citizens – especially Shafaq, who had worked with and supported the U.S. government while aiding those displaced by the Islamic State group.

But Shafaq had not anticipated the Afghan government would collapse so quickly. In fact, after spending 20 days in required COVID-19 quarantine with his family in Istanbul, he planned to fly back alone to Afghanistan to assist those in need.

In order to cherish his quality time with his



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Khaibar Shafaq lifts his youngest son, Ahmad Khetab Shafaq, on April 2, 2023, after Khaibar Shafaq’s wife and children safely arrived in the United States from Turkey.

family, Shafaq had turned off his phone and did not check his email during his final day in Istanbul. They did not know their 20 days together in one room would be the last time they would see each other until April 2023.

Shafaq caught a plane back to Afghanistan, imagining he would return to Istanbul before too long.

“As soon as I landed, I learned Afghanistan had fallen to the Taliban,” he said. “The kids were used to me being gone for months for work, but we didn’t expect this.”

Shafaq was trapped in Afghanistan for two weeks before learning he would be among those able to escape to the U.S.

“I sent (my family) a video telling them I’m leaving the country!” he said. “Everyone was really



RILEY GREIF | WKC

“Welcome Home” and “We love you” signs adorn the front yard of the Shafaq family’s home, prior to their arrival on April 2, 2023.

happy.”

Meanwhile in Owensboro, Susan Montalvo-Gesser, the director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, had been working with her team to provide Afghan resettlement opportunities in the western Kentucky city.

The local Catholic Charities branch had helped resettle people from various countries including Afghanistan, but until now had never served such a large quantity of Afghan arrivals at once. Montalvo-Gesser estimated that they went from two or three arrivals to nearly 170 arrivals in three months.

Shafaq was one of those arrivals, coming to stay temporarily at Owensboro’s Comfort Suites Inn on Nov. 15, 2021, through the efforts of the International Center of Owensboro.

“Khaibar was one of our clients when all of the

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Reunited family continued from page 12

Afghans arrived in 2021,” said Diane Ford, the site director for the International Center of Owensboro. Ford said she witnessed the people of Owensboro “open their arms to the Afghans” to help resettle their new neighbors. Shafaq, especially, became a leader in the community as he helped his fellow arrivals get adjusted.

During this time Shafaq met Montalvo-Gesser, told her about his international disaster credentials, and asked if he could volunteer with Catholic Charities to help other Afghans get settled.

Catholic Charities quickly enlisted Shafaq’s expertise with translating and organizing lists and applications. And when historic tornadoes devastated western Kentucky in December 2021, Shafaq was among those hired as case managers to assist impacted Kentuckians.

Over the next year, Shafaq became a fixture in the Catholic Charities office as he led more resettlement work – which included multiple road trips per week to take other Afghan families to Chicago for asylum hearings – all the while hoping that his family would soon join him in Owensboro.

Shafaq had his asylum hearing in April 2022 and was approved in May, which opened the path for his family to apply to come to the U.S.

The Diocese of Owensboro’s bookkeeper, Mary Margaret Drury, made it her job to pray for his family every day, and during Christmas 2022, diocesan staff secretly amassed houseware items for whenever Shafaq’s wife and children would arrive.

On March 15, 2023, Shafaq received an email from the U.S. embassy that his family’s application had been accepted. Their appointment with the embassy was held March 20, and the next day their visas were approved.

“This was a normal length of time for this process,

but also Senator McConnell’s office helped us with working on the various requirements,” said Shafaq, explaining that Mitch McConnell’s staff had been incredibly helpful with local Afghan resettlement initiatives.

When Shafaq, his wife and children pulled up in front of their house on April 2, the “welcoming committee” included Bishop William F. Medley; Susan Montalvo-Gesser; Diane Ford; Gilbert Mischel, a field representative from McConnell’s office; and many friends.

Earlier, the friends and coworkers had spruced up Shafaq’s home with the collected homewares and spelled out “Welcome Home” with yard signs. A large spread of traditional Afghan cuisine was provided in the kitchen.

“This has been amazing, I am so thankful for all the prayers, for Bishop Medley’s support, for the diocese,” said Shafaq.

A few days later, Shafaq told The Western Kentucky Catholic that his children already love their new city and were excited to start attending school.

Zuhul Shafaq plans to continue her education in medical school. She had previously worked at her mother’s medical practice back home and was almost finished with her degree when they had to leave Afghanistan.

Shafaq acknowledged the long road ahead for him and his family to ultimately acquire U.S. citizenship.

He said that on average, it takes “36 months for a person like me, whose case was approved, to get a green card. Then I can apply for citizenship after having my green card for five years. And that is the expedited process for Afghans!”

But for now, he is thankful for this “amazing



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Zuhul Shafaq smiles at Bishop William F. Medley after she and her children safely reached the United States from Turkey on April 2, 2023.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Susan Montalvo-Gesser (purple Catholic Charities shirt) greets Zuhul Shafaq after the Shafaq family’s arrival to their new home in Owensboro on April 2, 2023.

journey” that brought his family back to him.

“Sometimes when I wake up, I think I’m in my old house, my mind still doesn’t accept that they are here in Kentucky with me,” he said. ■

To learn more about Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro and how to help with resettlement initiatives, visit [owensborodiocese.org/catholic-charities](https://www.owensborodiocese.org/catholic-charities). To learn more about the work of the International Center of Owensboro and how to volunteer, visit www.facebook.com/InternationalCenterOwensboro.

Eucharistic Adoration the focal point of prayer service for healing

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Approximately 20 people attended the Diocese of Owensboro’s Evening Prayer for Healing and Protection on April 12, 2023, hosted at St. Stephen Cathedral. The prayer service, which this year included Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Bishop William F. Medley, is held every April to coincide with National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The annual liturgy focuses on prayer for survivors of any form of abuse, including survivors of sexual abuse by those acting in the name of the Church.

During a short reflection, Bishop Medley said that this awareness month and prayer service “more often than not” occur during the Easter season, which feels “incongruous to sing Alleluia.”

Yet, “it is good that we are here; it’s good that we pray,” he said. He said that when the topic of abuse comes up in conversations he has experienced, often someone speaks up to say “I, too, was a victim: I, too was harmed.”

“The Church has made great strides” in preventing abuse, the bishop said, but added that even one instance of a vulnerable person being harmed “is too much.” ■

To report suspected abuse, call the Kentucky Child Protection Hot Line at 877-597- 2331 or contact your local Commonwealth Attorney. To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church, call Scott Ingram, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English), at 270-852- 8380, or Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (Spanish), at 270-880-8360.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley leads Benediction during the annual Evening Prayer for Protection and Healing on April 12, 2023, held at St. Stephen Cathedral.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley processes up the aisle of St. Stephen Cathedral during the annual Evening Prayer for Protection and Healing on April 12, 2023.

“In a world in which you can be anything - be kind.”

Make someone’s day by sharing a little kindness...

The Ursuline Sisters’ annual Kindness Campaign is about to begin for the fifth year. For a \$50 contribution, the Ursuline Sisters will send one custom card a month for a year to a person of your choice with words of encouragement and inspiration.

Let someone know that you care about them.
Sign up by May 15 (late signups will also be accepted).

Contact Carol Braden-Clarke: 270-229-2008
carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org
ursulinesmsj.org/kindness-campaign



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph
Maple-Mount, Kentucky

Black Americans on the road to sainthood: Mother Mary Lange

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE OF
BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

As we conclude our journey through the lives of the six Black American candidates for sainthood in this WKC series, in this month of May our final candidate chose the name “Sister Mary” when she took her first vows as a religious. She also founded the first religious congregation of Black women in the U.S. – the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

She was born Elizabeth Clarisse Lange on a plantation in the French colony of Saint Dominique in 1774 to the daughter of the Jewish owner and a mulatto slave. The young woman emigrated with her parents from Haiti to the area of Santiago Cuba sometime before the Haitian Revolution. In 1817 she and her mother emigrated to the United States where they eventually settled in Baltimore. Several years later her mother returned to Haiti, and Lange decided to remain alone in Baltimore which was predominately Protestant and slaveholding. Lange was a Black, Catholic French-speaking woman in a city with a French community of white refugees from the French Revolution and Black refugees from the French West Indies. Although segregated, both groups were served by St. Mary’s Chapel which was run by the Sulpicians, a French religious order of emigres from the French and the Haitian Revolutions. It was a French priest, Fr. James Nicholas Joubert, a catechist for the Black students who noted their lack of reading skills and obtained permission from the archbishop to open a school for Black girls.

Lange and another refugee, Marie Magdalene

Balas, opened a school for Black Catholic children in their home since the few existing schools for Blacks were Protestant. They responded to Fr. Joubert’s request to teach Black girls, and Fr. Joubert supported their desire to consecrate their lives to God in a religious order. Since Blacks were denied admission to existing religious communities, the archbishop approved the establishment of the Oblate Sisters of Providence with the primary focus on the education of Black girls.

On July 2, 1829, Lange, who became the first ever Black mother superior general of the Oblates, took her first vows along with three other Black women. They were ridiculed and physically threatened but she persisted in her service to the educationally deprived and her devotion to her faith. The four sisters started with 20 students in a rented house, overcoming racism, poverty and many hardships. They expanded their service to vocational and educational training for women and established homes for orphans and widows. When faced with financial ruin the sisters took in laundry and even hired out as domestics themselves in order to maintain their ministry to the Black community.

Mother Mary Lange served as an Oblate sister until her death on Feb. 3, 1882. The first school, St. Frances Academy, celebrated its 180th anniversary in 2008. After her death many Catholics in Baltimore revered her as a saint.

In 1991, with the approval of the Holy See, Cardinal William Henry Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, officially opened a formal investigation of Lange’s life to study it for her possible canonization. As part of this process, she was titled “Servant of

God” and her remains were exhumed and examined. They were then moved to the chapel of Our Lady of Mount Providence Convent, the motherhouse of the congregation.

In 2004, documents describing Mother Mary Lange’s life were sent to the Vatican’s Congregation for the Causes of Saints. In 2023, the Vatican approved the positio (the documentation of Lange’s life), a key step in the process towards being declared “Venerable” by the Church, and a step forward in the process of canonizing her.

Let us keep her cause for canonization as well as the continuation of her ministry in prayer.

In this month of May, let us also honor Our Lady of Kibeho, Rwanda, recognized by the Vatican in 2001. Currently hers is the only Marian apparition site on the Africa continent approved by the Catholic Church. Her feast day is Nov. 28. ■

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

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Parents urged to be first to explain to their children what happened when a traumatic event occurs



KATIE PETERSON | TENNESSEE REGISTER

Bishop J. Mark Spalding celebrated 5:30 p.m. Mass on Monday, March 27, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in prayer for the victims of the Covenant Christian School shooting.

BY KATIE PETERSON, OSV NEWS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (OSV News) ~ When traumatic events happen, like the recent Nashville school shooting, it's important for parents to explain to their children what has happened, said Melissa Smith, the program coordinator of school counseling and HOPE Clinical Services for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Nashville.

"They will likely hear about it from friends or at school or maybe even see something on the news," she said "so I think it is important for parents to take the opportunity to be the person who is first and foremost talking to their child about what

happened, so that they can hear what questions the child may have and be present for whatever feelings or reactions or responses the child may have."

On March 27, Nashville became the site of the country's latest deadly shooting at a school. That morning a shooter, later identified as 28-year-old

Audrey Hale, left three adults and three children dead at The Covenant School in the city's Green Hills neighborhood. The private Presbyterian school educates students in preschool through sixth grade.

Hale, who was armed with two assault-type rifles, was fatally shot dead in interactions with officers who responded to the scene.

To prepare for that conversation about such a traumatic event, the first thing for parents to consider is the child's age, Smith recommended.

In other words, "what is developmentally appropriate in terms of what they can handle," she told the Tennessee Register, Nashville's diocesan newspaper.

"For an elementary-aged student, you might want to give less specifics," she explained. "Instead, I'd say something along the lines of, 'A bad thing happened at a school and some children and grownups were hurt. I wonder what you may already have heard about it.'"

"Then, provide them with more information, depending on their response. It is important to let them know that you're available to talk about how they feel and that their schools are doing a lot of things to keep them safe," she added.

If a parent knows some specific safety measures at a school, it would be appropriate to share those examples with the child, Smith said. "It can sometimes be reassuring for children to be reminded of the safety measures that are in place. We can't guarantee that bad things won't happen, but you can say that the school has done x, y, and z to keep you safe at school."

Michael "Moose" Moore, president of The Vigilance Group, who has been working with the Nashville Diocese for 10 years on safety training and conducting assessments on safety measures taken at the parishes and schools, agreed that sharing safety protocols can help children feel safer.

"My niece's daughter goes to St. Matthew School in Franklin, and she was scared to go to school" the day after the Nashville school shooting, Moore said. "But my niece told her, 'Uncle Moose is on Angel Watch. You don't have to be afraid because he has been there to teach everybody.' It put her at peace to hear that."

For older children, from about fifth grade and up, Smith said, it may be more appropriate to go into specifics.

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But, no matter how a parent approaches talking to their children, the most important thing is to “be prepared to listen to their responses without judgment or trying to fix the way they’re feeling,” Smith said. “Just affirm however they’re feeling.

“They may be feeling sad or scared or angry, they may not respond at all, and that’s OK, too, and you need to assure them that their feelings are valid,” she said. “The other thing is to answer questions that the child has and be honest with them.

“If a young child asks, ‘Were children killed’ I think it’s OK to be honest with them and say, ‘Yes,’ and then just be prepared to sit with them in whatever feelings that come up as a result,” she continued. “Additionally, it’s wise to use concrete language such as ‘died’ or ‘killed,’ especially for younger children who are very concrete in their thinking, because other broader terms may cause confusion.”

Aside from talking with children about the tragedy and answering their questions, Smith also recommended that parents limit how much exposure they have to news and media surrounding the event.

“What they can handle is different from what we can handle as adults,” she said. “Images from the news, hearing more and more about what happened can be overwhelming and can produce anxiety for children.”

Instead, “keep routines as normal as possible because children thrive with routines and rituals, so keeping your routines normal in the aftermath of something like this is really important and can create safety,” Smith said. “Children feel safe when they know what to expect.”

Finally, another thing parents can consider is having their children take part in making a card or drawing a picture to share with the affected school.

“We can feel powerless in the aftermath of

situations like this, so one of these things can help a child feel like they’re doing something helpful,” Smith said.

If some children seem to be having a harder time coping with the traumatic event, Smith said, most schools have on-site counselors as well to help students who may be having a harder time coping.

“For most kids, this will impact them and there needs to be a conversation about it, but they will be able to recover. But there will be some kids for whom sadness or fear around this does start to interfere with day-to-day life,” Smith said. “It’s normal to be impacted by something like a school shooting, to feel sad, to feel angry, to feel afraid. When you know that you need to look for additional support is when those feelings start to get in the way of daily functioning.”

Examples would be if a child stops wanting to go to school entirely, difficulty sleeping due to nightmares or fears, ongoing and unusual clinginess, excessive moodiness, or decreased interest in activities that they would normally participate in.

“Those are signs that maybe the impact is bigger, and you could use some additional support to get through it,” Smith said. ■

Katie Peterson is a reporter with the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.

The American School Counselor Association has resources available on its website, including a list of suggestions for helping children process their feelings after a school shooting: www.schoolcounselor.org/Publications-Research/Publications/Free-ASCA-Resources/After-a-School-Shooting. The Child Mind Institute also has resources on helping children cope with traumatic events: childmind.org/guide/helping-children-cope-after-a-traumatic-event.

You're invited...



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eucharisticcongress.org

At every Mass, we are sent on a mission

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

As we prepare to celebrate the National Eucharistic Revival in parishes across the diocese beginning in June, let's start with the goal in mind. The goal is fostering a greater understanding that receiving Jesus – body, blood, soul and divinity in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and through the Liturgy of the Word – we are transformed and sent on mission!

In Bishop Medley's homily at the Chrism Mass last month, he reiterated the words of dismissal from Mass and challenged all 78 parishes represented at the gathering to be on mission to serve others. The final dismissal from Mass is "Ite, missa est" translated, "The Mass is ended, go in peace." Pope Benedict XVI personally offered three other endings in October 2008 following a two-year study. First, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord;" second, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life;" or third, "Go in peace." The "go" in each of these statements is a mission mandate! It is an action to go out into the world and witness to what we have just celebrated and received.

Whether you can explain transubstantiation or not, there can be no doubt that Jesus is present and feeds us in the Eucharist. St. Irenaeus in the first century offered "Just as the bread which comes from the earth, have received the invocation of God, is no longer ordinary bread, the Eucharist, consisting of two realities, earthly and heavenly, so our bodies, having received the Eucharist,

are no longer corruptible, because they have the hope of the resurrection." When you receive the gift of the Eucharist, dwell on the fact that God loves you enough to provide for your spiritual growth and strength for your life's journey. God gives you "bread from heaven" to strengthen you, heal you and sends you out on mission.

Reflect on your own personal mission. We all have a mission in our lives. Just as our checkbook reveals our personal priorities, where we spend our time and mental energy reveals our mission.

As Catholics, the paradigm shift we are being called to make as a Church is that each of us has a role to play in the mission. We cannot leave the mission to our priests and lay pastoral ministers. Rather, each of us by virtue of our baptism is called to be priest, prophet, and king. We are called to go into all the places our daily lives take us and to proclaim by the witness of our lives that we have found abundant life in the life, death and



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis leads Benediction as he celebrates Mass marking the feast of Corpus Christi in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in this June 14, 2020, file photo.

resurrection of Jesus and the fruits of the Spirit must be evident in our lives. If we are not changed in our reception of the Eucharist, we are missing something.

Let's grow together as the Body of Christ during this Eucharistic Revival. Check out an Acts 2:42 Small Group in your parish or find more information at: <https://owensborodiocese.org/acts242/>.

Peace,
Jeff ■

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship and can be reached at jeff.andrini@pastoral.org.

Alpha: A wonderful evangelization tool



COURTESY OF PEGGY POTEMLA
Deacon Randy Potempa and his wife, Peggy Potempa, attend the 2023 Alpha Conference in January.

BY PEGGY POTEMLA, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In January my husband, Deacon Randy Potempa and I were privileged to attend the Alpha Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Out of the 1,600 in attendance from all over the United States, 800 attendees were Catholic. This was said to be the largest number of Catholics ever to attend an Alpha Conference. They offered Mass at St. Anthony in Fort Lauderdale the first evening and their local bishop presided.

Alpha is becoming better known to the Catholic population as a wonderful evangelization tool. There were many priests in attendance, and we had fabulous Catholic presenters in the general sessions which could only help in the area of ecumenism. Dr. Mary Healy, who

is a scripture professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and a bestselling author and international speaker, was one of them. A priest from Haiti was another presenter. They were both excellent.

Our parish, St. Henry in Aurora, actually started using Alpha to evangelize back in 2003. We have seen many changes in Alpha and although we stopped for a while because we were caring for my husband's mother, we have begun again and the conference helped us in many ways. We connected with other Catholics who are using the "Alpha in a Catholic Context" program and learned some new ways to approach the praying during the Holy Spirit weekend, and we were able to see Nikki and Pippa Gumble. (Nikki Gumble brought Alpha into the mainstream, making it an evangelization tool for any Christian denomination.) Best of all, it is offered for free to run in our Diocese of Owensboro parishes: we need only go to alphausa.org and register the program we will run. The training videos are provided as well as the program itself.

There are various choices: Alpha in a Catholic Context, Alpha for Teens, and whether you want to run Alpha with just Nikki Gumble or use the Alpha film series whose hosts go all over the world, (which is the one we use at St. Henry). Our next Alpha began April 26, and runs from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. It begins with dinner, then a 25-minute video, followed by dessert and discussion until 7:30. Our parish is small so we do not have the resources for a

weekend away, so we do the Holy Spirit weekend on the Saturday between the seventh and the eighth week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We think Alpha is an amazing tool to help Catholics grow in faith! Check it out. ■

Learn more about Alpha at alphausa.org. You may also contact Dr. Jeff Andrini in the diocese's Office of Evangelization and Discipleship at jeff.andrini@pastoral.org, or Peggy Potempa at peggy.potempa@gmail.com.

Peggy Potempa belongs to St. Henry Parish in Aurora.

ACTS 2:42 GROUPS

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Featuring Videos by Bishop Medley

COMING FALL 2023




or visit owensborodiocese.org/acts242/

'In walking, it is solved'

Young adult hike retreat relies on prayer and each other to complete 24-mile journey



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Meg Marrow from Paducah and Rosendo Lopez from Owensboro laugh while taking a break during The Journey: A Young Adult Hike Retreat in March 2023.



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

The group who participated in The Journey: A Young Adult Hike Retreat, which took place in March 2023.

BY RILEY GREIF, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Friday, March 24, 11 young adults from our diocese gathered at St. Henry Parish in Aurora for the start of The Journey: A Young Adult Hike Retreat, hosted by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Young adult ministry encapsulates the age range of 18-39, so the attendees ranged from recent college graduates to married couples with young children. Each individual had varying levels of connection with one another, from strangers to lifelong friends. The theme of the retreat, *Solvitur Ambulando*, is a Latin phrase attributed to St. Augustine which roughly translates to “In walking,

it is solved.”

On Friday evening, retreatants spent time going over logistics, sharing why they signed up, and prayerfully reflecting on their intentions for the retreat. The intentions chosen became what each hiker “carried” with them through their hike, symbolized by a blessed handheld cross given to each hiker. The next morning the 12 hikers, Fr. Gary Clark, and one of the trip leaders, Danny May, packed up and headed to Smith Bay to begin their 12-mile trek to Sugar Bay Campground. Thoughtful conversation, individual prayer, and enjoying trail snacks were occasionally interrupted by encountering fallen trees that needed to be navigated around, as well as elevated creek waters to cross. However, the beauty of God’s creation did

not cease; blooming redbuds, moss-covered tree roots, and the occasional bald eagle highlighted the path walked. The obstacles encountered by the group pushed them to work together creating a greater sense of camaraderie.

Hikers arrived at Sugar Bay in the late afternoon, set up camp, spent time in prayer, and participated in a vigil Mass celebrated by Fr. Clark. The trip leaders graciously prepared dinner for the group allowing them to rest their tired bodies. Around the campfire that evening, the hikers continued to get to know one another through conversation and playing Mafia, a game many had fond memories of playing in youth group growing up, and making s’mores. The next morning, this

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time led by group leader, Charlie Hardesty, hikers set out for another 12 miles to Golden Pond where their journey would be finished. With soreness and a few blisters from the day before, the group relied a bit more on each other and prayer to complete the miles before them.

At the completion of the hike, the group gathered to debrief and share about their experience. Sentiments of gratitude were expressed by many for the encouragement and service shown to them by the leaders and fellow hikers. Several stated that they could not have done it on their own. Others shared how they experienced God's presence during

the retreat: in the silence, conversation, Mass, and creation. Those who participated had experienced some level of Solvitur Ambulando and shared that they expect to discover the fruits of the retreat given by God for months to come. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry plans to host The Journey: A Young Adult Hike Retreat, again on Oct. 27-29, 2023. ■

For more information about this retreat and other diocesan young adult opportunities, contact Charlie Hardesty at charlie.hardesty@pastoral.org. Riley Greif is the digital media specialist for the Office of Communications in the Diocese of Owensboro.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Fr. Gary Clark, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, celebrates the Saturday evening vigil Mass for the participants of The Journey: A Young Adult Hike Retreat, which took place in March 2023.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 – Diocesan Schools

As an annual tradition for our May issue, The Western Kentucky Catholic requests from the high schools and parishes within the Diocese of Owensboro, the names of graduating high school seniors. Inquiries about these names may be directed to the corresponding schools or parishes.

Congratulations, Class of 2023! **Please note: This list is subject to change due to final grades not being reported before press time.**

Owensboro Catholic High School, Owensboro

Evan Lucas Atherton
Noah Michael Baird
Abby Rose Baughman
Anna Katherine Bell
Logan James Bell
Abby Jean Boarman
Brice Lee Boarman
Jeremy Bryson Brown
Cecilia Rose Broxon
Clare Frances Broxon
Seth Allen Bruner
Ella Grace Buckman
Abby Nicole Burns
Hope Danielle Carter
William Thomas Cecil
Emily Grace Christian
Hadley Layne Corley
Samuel Michael Couch
Braden Alexander Davis
Gabriel Maximus Davis
Samuel Clay Dixon
Abbie Lyddane
Dukate

Matthew Ryan Durbin
Cameron Lee Earnest
William Jude Edge
Kira Angel Edwards
Jesse Ekong
Thomas Reasor Eyre
Lincoln Joseph Ferguson
William Joseph Fogle
Johnathan Gabriel Ford
Caitlynn Lane Futrell
Alexander Joseph Garvin
Ella Claire Goetz
Aiden James Goodwin
Kolton Malcolm Grant
Lilli Paige Grant
Parker Alexander Gray
Brian Malik Griffith
Javier Alexander Guadarrama
Bailey Marie Hamilton
Brooke Michelle Hamilton
Samuel David Hardesty
Alexis Brooke Hatchett
Lily Jane Hayden
Madeline Elizabeth Hayden
Mary Catherine Hayden
Sarah Paige Hayden

Teresa Ann Hayden
Eva Grace Higdon
Jessica Nicole Higdon
Jacob Tyler Hines
Gabriel Thomas Hodskins
Michael Karrick Hyland
Nolan Joseph Igleheart
Wyatt Neal Jenkins
Anthony Gage Johnson
Mary Grace Johnson
Noah Kiefer Johnson
Parker Joseph Jones
Alexis Alane Keelin
Lauren Ashley Keelin
Kolbe Joseph Kemper
Natalie Marie Krampe
Thomas Roger Kurtz
Christopher Patrick Lewis
Mark Austin Marsh
Austin Michael Martin
Lillie Mae Martin
Savannah Marie Masterson
Jacqueline Mae Mattingly
Corrianna Grace Milem
Paige Allison Miles
Carter Stephen Moss
Grant Edward Parson

Bryson Cole Payne
Haley Denise Payne
John Taylor Payne
Maria Katherine Pfeifer
Ava Grace Phelps
Lillian Theresa Pinkston
Randi Carol Porter
Mollie Michelle Pride
Elizabeth Michelle Ramos
Dominic Carmen Ranallo
Eva Grace Ray
Katherine Elizabeth Riney
Tanner Henson Roberts
Cody Austin Schartung
Lillian Frances Silvert
Tyler Sean Simone
Kayla Marie Snyder
Emily Anne Solorza
Chloe Elizabeth Sprague
Jack William Terry
Hayden Joseph Thomas
Addison Marie Tignor
Ashten Nicole Tignor
Rachel Katherine Traylor
Mary Elizabeth Vaught

Jamison Scott Wall
Collin Wayne Waninger
Macy Sung Mi Ward
Abigail Stanette Williams
Nicholas Daniel Wink

St. Mary High School, Paducah

Vanessa Brooke Becker
Jett Sawyer Bohland
Kaitlynn Renae Burrus
Caden Glenn Cobb
Austin Lee Duncan
Shaun Avry Duncan
Ansley Elizabeth Eck
Caitlyn Ruth Farrell
Miranda Skye Gartner
Claire Margaret Haas
Madeline Elizabeth Hatton
Luke Mitchell Heath
David Zachary Johnson
Kathrine Alizabeth Lurtz

Katherine Ann Morrow
Thomas Gage Neihoff
Lane Christopher Potter
Brandon Patrick Quigley
Ellie Nicole Roof
Kendall Rose Shaw
Christopher Palmer Sims
Landre Watson Smiles
Ella Margaret Southern
Ashley Marie Sullivan
Daniel Joseph Willett

Trinity High School, Whitesville

Josie Aull
Allie Barnett
Nicholas Goetz
Allie Graham
Alan Hamilton
Colby Haynes
Nathan Hernandez
Gavin Howard
Landon Huff
Brianna Lawrence
Nolan Mills
Max Nash
Abigail Payne
Landon Smith ■

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 – Non-Diocesan Schools

These include students from public schools, homeschool, private non-Catholic schools and Catholic schools outside the Diocese of Owensboro.

Congratulations, Class of 2023! Please note: This list is subject to change due to final grades not being reported before press time.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Luke Beaver
Abby Burns
Isabella Skibba
Andrew Stevens
Morgan Hall

Christ the King, Madisonville

Andrew Burden
Kuper Chapman

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Brenda Gamez
Torrance Allinder
Maritza Arroyo
Tania Arroyo
Luz Arroyo-Alatorre
Jennifer Arroyo-Patena
Nathan Baird
Kassius Berry
Brayden Brown
Ann-Talbot Crafton
Victor Cruz-Arroyo
Chloe Honeycutt
Grace Johnson
Sara Krampe
Ava Latta
Alyjah Lawing
Gracie McCormick
Abby Rexroat
Luke Robards
Dylan Rodriguez
Jesus Sanchez
Hayden Tichenor
Anna Willett
Grant Wood
Abbie Go
Gabriella Go
Sophie Go
Jack Cassidy
CoCo Davis
Sloan French
Noah Hancock
Peyton McWilliams

Immaculate, Owensboro

Caitlyn Bell
Cole Howell
Andrew Schmitt
Chloe Sims
Kadin Clary
Randy Wahl
Taylor Payne
Riley Hunt

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Adalyn Boutcher
Kyra Conway
Emma James
Andrew Lyday
Ryan Ogle
Abby Walz
Laura Wheatley
Morgan Elizabeth Hall
Kaylee Marie Hutchison
Haley Rose Merkel
Mary Ella Nash
Noah Newton
Kaylan Ridenhour
Easton Wayne Rowan

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Denver Dickens
Nakia Dill
Kristen Head
Paige Murphy
Anna Riney
Riley Schmalz
Elizabeth Schwartz
Karli Trogden
Mark Wedding

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Braydn Dant
Kadin Howard

St. Ambrose, Henshaw

Wade Day

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Linsey Lucas
Nolan Zaim

St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel

Jacob Henning
Bryce Goatley
Allison Hinton

St. Charles, Bardwell

Victoria Burgess
Malle McGee

St. Columba, Lewisport

Alexis Basham
Waylan Emmick
Ashlyn Madden
Bailey Poole
Brooke Toler

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Chloe Ellegood

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Theresa Lattus
Gracey Clements
Sarah McCarthy

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Margaret Cox

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Isabella Canestrini
Josie Dennee
Emma Ellegood
Rachel Hobbs
Joshua Kuntz
Robert Pacheco
Trinity Parrish
Madalyn Thomasson
Lilly Watson

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Morgan Alexander
Kailey Butler
Cambelle Drury
Natalie Elder
Drew Hayden
Ryan Hayden
Macy Marler
Darren Morris
Gabe Redden
Marley Shoulta
Conner Thomas
Robert Thomasson
Avery Thompson
Jaelyn Thompson
Maddy Wilson
Mitchell Wilson
Nicole Wilson

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Cecilia Kaler

St. Joseph, Central City

Andrew Perkins
Haven Eaves
St. Joseph, Leitchfield
Andrew Butler
Griffen Chino

Eliana Falcon
Jackson Kane
St. Joseph, Mayfield

Jennifer Amezcuita
Duran
Skylar Bobbett
Lilia Duran
Emiliano Garcia
Stefeni Garcia
Bryant Hurtado
Margarita Macias
Jonathan Marquez
Arumy Mejia
Carina Oronia
Yasmin Oronia

St. Mary, Franklin

Jack Jeffers
Roslyn Cabrera
Junior Garcia
Rosie Forney

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Mollie Ebelhar
Cameron Fulkerson
Adam McCabe
Madison Scherm
Kaelin Payne

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Ethan Eberlien
Abdou Kpelafiya
Jordyn Ferguson
Kenneth Pierce, III
Scott B. Albertson, Jr.
Mica-Lynn Villagomez
Tamiko-Rose Villagomez
Andre White, Jr.
Rachel Jones

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Olivia Paris
Jarek Whitworth

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Paige Daugherty
Gatlyn Jones
Oakley Pollard

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Anthony Capuano
Landon Shupe
Jacob Wilson

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Allison Bennett

Tommy Clark
Elliot Clements
Matisse Dalton
Carley Dorcholz
Chloe Ebelhar
Addie Gentry
Jayden Gerteisen
Benjamin Haynes
Malia Hicks
Thomas Howard
Ben Hyland
Hayden Mattingly
Jessica Payne
Kayla Thomson

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Luke Washer
Audrey Alexander

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Thomas Ashby
Briley Breeden
Emily Calloway
Cecilia Hemingway
Ava Knoop
Andrew Lanz
Christian Roach
Logan Tinch

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Jordan Baker
Carrie Bell
Simon Bozone
Jordan Bufford
Jackson Butts
Alissa Carr
August Comer
Karen Coronado
Keithlyn Cuellar
Marliese Dawson
Collin Drake
Timothy Giraldo-Reyes
Melany Gonzalez
Day Gore
Meghan Gruber
Emma Henderson
Sophia Hoffman
Eva Johnson
Reese Kupper

Heather Mendoza
Molli Olsen
Madison Patel
Aaron Perrault
Jayvion Powell
Hannah Provenzale
Emanuel Puertollano
Rayna Rogers
Grant Stoerger
Kenlin Thomas
Lucas Wadley
Emma Waltmon
Vance Waters
Abigail Wurth
Isabella York'

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Madelyn Blandford
Hope DiGiorgio
Will Jones
Paola Luga
Blake Mullins
Gabriel Neves
Connor Riedell
Branson Russell
Yadira Santos
Cesar Velasquez-Gonzalez
Caleb Ward

Sts. William and Lawrence, Knottsville

Landon Morris
Garrit Haycraft
Kylie Bowlds
Chance Carmon
Carly Wright
Elijah Mattingly
Elijah Moore
Marcus Murphy
Braxton Clark
Madisyn Montgomery
Haley Barnett
Shelby Horn
Danielle Ford
Corey Connor

Samuel Rhodes ■

Helping young people be the hands and feet of Christ in the world



COURTESY OF MICHELE LINN

Youth and adult leaders paint a ramp for a house on June 20, 2022, during Eucharistic Life Mission, held in summer 2022 in the Owensboro area.

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

On the night that Jesus instituted the Eucharist, surrounded by his disciples, he also modeled for them what a life of discipleship would look like.

The Gospel of John shares, “He rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel around his waist... You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” (John 13: 4-5; 13-15)

What Jesus modeled in the “washing of feet” was a difficult teaching. This was a servant’s job. What we are challenged to remember as Catholic disciples is that a life lived with Jesus and nourished with the Eucharist is a life meant to be poured out for others. As we care for, work with, and accompany young people in the Catholic Church, this is the life we are inviting them to say yes to; this is the life of a missionary disciple.

In my March article we looked at the three big questions that matter to young people: identity, belonging, and purpose. Missionary discipleship

is living out a Christ-centered purpose in the world. As disciples of Jesus Christ, each of us is invited into God’s greater story. The USCCB’s document “Living as Missionary Disciples” states, “As they get to know and love the Lord, disciples experience the need to share with others their joy by proclaiming Jesus Christ, not just with words, but also through service to those most in need.”

Here are suggestions for providing opportunities for youth to live out their lives as missionary disciples.

Walk through scripture with youth. The Gospels are full of the stories and teachings of Jesus and show us how to love and meet the needs of others. The teachings and life of Jesus show us God’s heart for the world.

Accompany young people in processing the

needs of the world. There is much evidence in the world around us of the need for God’s love. We need to enter honest conversations with youth about where they see they need for God in their family, friendships, community, and the world.

Teach discernment. In a world full of need, how are we to know what God is asking of us? The answer comes through prayer and discernment. Disciples have a daily habit of prayer, and this is the space where we are available for the Holy Spirit to call us to love.

Empower and accompany action. Young people are often full of zeal and excitement when they see an opportunity to serve the needs of those around them. As adults in the Church, we need to empower and support that excitement, while also guiding those efforts in wisdom.

Not just service projects. We need to help young people see the often-overlooked needs around them. This includes how they treat and include others, how they act outside of church, how they love inside their families, and their willingness to share the Gospel message in their very lives each day.

As adults who care about young people, the main thing to remember is that we are always modeling a life of missionary discipleship. We are witnesses to a faith that is often easier caught than taught. Let us come alongside young people and help them to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world around them. ■

Charlie Hardesty is the director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry.

Sts. Joseph and Paul hosts youth holy hour

BY LAURA SHOULDERS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC



COURTESY OF LAURA SHOULDERS

Youth and families sit before Jesus in the monstrance during the youth holy hour at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF LAURA SHOULDERS

Two youth, RC Porter and Brooklynn Rednour, lead songs of worship during the youth holy hour at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.

On March 12, 28 youth and their families and various others gathered at Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro in front of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, to offer a Holy Hour of Adoration in intercession for our young people. The holy hour began as youth were invited forward to place their cell phones in a basket in front of the altar before sitting on the floor in front of Him. Two youth, RC Porter and Brooklynn Rednour, led us in songs of worship throughout the holy hour. The time of prayer was a combination of guided reflection and silent meditation as the youth were encouraged to engage in personal dialogue with Jesus, surrendering to Him their worries and concerns, and asking Him to teach them how to cooperate with His perfect plans for their lives. ■

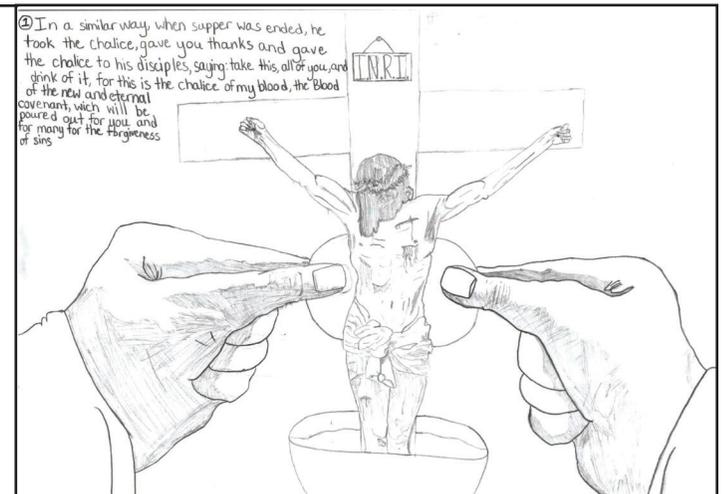
Laura Shoulders is the religious education minister at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.

Catholic Schools Office announces 2022-2023 student contest winners

Editor's note: In April, the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Owensboro announced the 2022-2023 winners of this year's National Eucharistic Revival Catholic Schools Contest,

which was open to all kindergarten through 12th grade students in the diocese's Catholic schools during the current school year. Congratulations to all winners! Congratulations also to Joseph Muan, a student at St. Joseph Interparochial School in Bowling Green, for receiving the 2023 Bishop's Award.

A full list of this year's winners may be viewed online at <https://westernkycatholic.com/2023/04/17/catholic-schools-office-announces-2022-2023-student-contest-winners/>. ■



COURTESY OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Joseph Muan, Bishop's Award, St. Joseph Interparochial School, Bowling Green..

Fourteen Ursuline Sisters celebrate jubilees of religious profession in 2023

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fourteen Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph who have served a combined 965 years in service to God's people are celebrating jubilees of religious profession this year. Four Sisters are from Daviess County, one is from Hancock County, several are from the Archdiocese of Louisville, while four are from out of state.

To read more about this year's jubilarians and their ministries, please visit the Ursuline Sisters' webpage: ursulinesmsj.org/category/jubilarians. You can also follow the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph on Facebook where we will feature

each jubilarian.

Sr. Naomi Aull, OSU, a native of Knottsville, is celebrating 80 years.

Sr. Marie Bosco Wathen, OSU, a native of St. Joseph (Marion County), is celebrating 80 years.

Sr. Luisa Bickett, OSU, a native of Roseville (Hancock County), is celebrating 75 years.

Sr. Clarita Browning, OSU, a native of Calvary (Marion County), is celebrating 75 years.

Sr. Grace Swift, OSU, a native of Bartlesville, Okla., is celebrating 75 years.

Sr. Margaret Ann Aull, OSU, a native of Saint Lawrence (Daviess County), is celebrating 70 years.

Sr. Catherine Barber, OSU, a native of Springfield (Washington County), is celebrating 70 years.

Sr. Paul Marie Greenwell, OSU, a native of New Haven (Nelson County), is celebrating 70 years.

Sr. Mary Gerald Payne, OSU, a native of Knottsville, is celebrating 70 years.

Sr. Mary Agnes VonderHaar, OSU, a native of Vine Grove (Hardin County), is celebrating 70 years.

Sr. Kathleen Dueber, OSU, a native of Kansas City, Mo., is celebrating 60 years.

Sr. Patricia "Pat" Rhoten, OSU, a native of Palmyra, Neb., is celebrating 60 years.

Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU, a native of Glennonville, Mo., is celebrating 60 years.

Sr. Jacinta Powers, OSU, a native of Owensboro, is celebrating 50 years. ■

On the website Soon-to-be ordained seminarians share stories of their chalices

When a seminarian is ordained, he traditionally receives his own chalice with which to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Check out westernkycatholic.com to read the stories of how both Deacon Christopher Kight and Deacon Christopher Grief received their chalices! ■



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRISTOPHER KIGHT



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRISTOPHER GRIEF

Divine Mercy Sunday at the Fathers of Mercy



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE NOLAND

(Left) The Divine Mercy image is displayed in the chapel of the Fathers of Mercy on April 16. (Center) Following a time of Adoration, a relic of St. Faustina is presented for each attendee to have the opportunity to venerate personally. (Right) Fr. John Broussard, CPM, leads Adoration during the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration.

BY MIKE NOLAND, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Chapel of Divine Mercy, and home of the Fathers of Mercy, was host to a special

celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on April 16, 2023. As a part of the special service, the Divine Mercy image was made available for attendees to venerate before and afterwards. Fr. John Broussard, CPM, delivered a homily

detailing the history of Divine Mercy Sunday, the promises given to St. Faustina by Our Lord in regard to those who fulfill the obligations of Divine Mercy, and the qualities of mercy. ■

Lourdes welcomes new sisters and brothers into the Church

BY DEACON MIKE HOUTCHEN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

At the Easter Vigil on April 8, 2023, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish welcomed 12 people into the Church through either Baptism and/or Confirmation. Please pray for these individuals as they continue their journey with Christ. ■



COURTESY OF BILL GLENN

(Left to right) Sophia Casey, Deacon Ken Bennett, Paul Curtis, Ryan Ison, Kimber Gallwas, Nash Gallwas, Fr. Joe Schoettle, Sheila Gallwas, Fr. Pat Reynolds, Brent Lee, Mark Ruben, Luke Morris, Marilyn Sumner, and Maria Tennat. Not pictured: Henry Gallwas.

Holy Week 2023 at diocese's mother church



RILEY GREIF | WKC

(Above) Fr. John Thomas, rector of St. Stephen Cathedral, looks on as men hold baskets of palm branches to be blessed by the bishop during the Palm Sunday liturgy at the cathedral on April 2, 2023.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

(Above) Bishop William F. Medley shares a smile with a father and infant while washing their feet during the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening of Holy Thursday on April 6, 2023 at St. Stephen Cathedral. A parent and baby are traditionally selected to be among those whose feet are washed during the cathedral's Holy Thursday celebration.

RILEY GREIF | WKC

(Left) Altar servers lead the procession as Bishop William F. Medley carries the Eucharist after the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday on April 6, 2023 at St. Stephen Cathedral. The Blessed Sacrament is then taken to the Altar of Repose, which is set up in the cathedral's undercroft, for the faithful to quietly pray.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

(Above) A man and woman light candles during the Easter Vigil at St. Stephen Cathedral on April 8, 2023.

Continues on page 28

Holy Week continued from page 27



RACHEL HALL | WKC

(Above) Deacon Richard Murphy carries the cross that will be venerated during the Good Friday liturgy at St. Stephen Cathedral on April 7, 2023.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Fr. Santhosh Thomas, a parochial vicar of St. Stephen Cathedral, sprinkles the faithful with newly-blessed holy water during the Easter Vigil at St. Stephen Cathedral on April 8, 2023.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Servers hold the cross, which contains a relic of the True Cross, for the faithful to venerate during the Good Friday liturgy at St. Stephen Cathedral on April 7, 2023.

With gratitude and faith, Moussa enjoys working at pastoral center

BY WKC STAFF

When Angelica Moussa arrived in the United States in 2021 with her mother, Raja el Khouri, she had no idea that one day she would gain a new work family at the McRaith Catholic Center of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Moussa and her mother came to the United States from Venezuela with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), an

immigration status provided to nationals of designated countries experiencing problems that make it difficult or unsafe to live there. They resettled in Owensboro, where they became parishioners of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish. Moussa had a job, but hoped she could find something that better used her creative gifts.

She learned that the diocese was looking for an administrative assistant to support several offices. She applied, and on Nov. 17, 2022,

Continues on page 29

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Moussa continued from page 28

started her new role as the administrative assistant for the diocese's offices of Hispanic/Latino Ministry, Human Resources and Safe Environment.

Since then, she has settled into the position and come to enjoy the job that she considers a great blessing as she works with Deacon Chris Gutiérrez in the Hispanic/Latino Ministry office, Mary Hall in the Human Resources office, and Janice Hendricks in the Safe Environment office.

"We all deserve an opportunity to succeed," she said. "God put me on the right path to continue growing, I feel blessed and grateful to each of my coworkers."

Moussa said that since she arrived in Owensboro, God has opened doors for her, and has been there for her through life's "ups and downs, moments of love and disappointment," such as learning of her mother's cancer diagnosis earlier this year.

Her mother's surgery went well and she is currently on the path to recovery, but Moussa says the beginning of the year was challenging.

"Thank God for placing in my way wonderful people with whom I work and who have been my family in difficult moments that I have experienced at the beginning of this year," she said, grateful to her pastor, Fr. Jean-Rene Kalombo, Catholic Charities paralegal Miguel Quintanilla, Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, her mother, and her boyfriend and his family.

She said that these people have been her support in the worrisome moments through her mother's health journey.

Having studied graphic design at Félix

Maria Paredes School in Venezuela, where she received her bachelor of science degree, Moussa especially enjoys opportunities to do design work among her various responsibilities.

"I feel very proud of who I am and how I am growing in the path that God chose for me," she said. "It has not been easy; it has been a challenge for me. Life gave me a 360 degree turn when I stepped on American soil - and for that reason I am very grateful."

Moussa added that, "having faith is what makes us move forward, but it is not just saying it, but really feeling it, believing is what gives us the strength to be better - having faith is the greatest thing that God gives us, because that is how he tests his strongest warriors." ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley greets Angelica Moussa (center), and her mother, Raja el Khouri, before the April 4, 2023 Chrism Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter.

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Tibetan Buddhist monk visits Ursuline sisters while in Owensboro



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Tibetan Buddhist monk Venerable Tsering Phuntsok shows Sr. Susan Mary Mudd, OSU, some of the Buddhist sacred scripture, as Sr. Ruth Gehres, OSU, (left) and Sr. Rebecca White, OSU, wait to talk with him after his March 23 presentation for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (and many others) received a lesson on kindness and compassion from a Tibetan Buddhist monk who visited Owensboro in March. Venerable Tsering Phuntsok came to Saint Joseph Villa on March 23 to pray with the Sisters, explain some of his religion, and share his message of maintaining a good heart – known as ‘dharma.’ Tsering (it rhymes with “sharing”) is friends with Elaine Wright, an associate professor in the School of Social Work at Brescia University. ■

Soup, Salad, and a Sermon return to Lourdes



COURTESY OF MARY LASLEY

Fr. Ed Bradley speaks at Soup, Salad, and a Sermon on March 23 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro.

BY MARY LASLEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro hosted Soup, Salad, and a Sermon in March for its parishioners during their Lenten journey. Three consecutive Thursdays, beginning on March 9, approximately 25 parishioners gathered in the parish hall to share soup and salad that the members prepared for lunch. After food and fellowship, there was a short talk on a Lenten topic. Deacon Jay W. VanHoosier gave the first sermon on March 9. The following Thursday, Fr. Tony Shonis spoke to the group, and Fr. Ed Bradley spoke the last week. This event has taken place since 2019 but was paused during 2020 and 2021 due to Covid. ■

Hardinsburg community supports soon-to-be ordained seminarians



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM AULL

(Left) Chris Brumfield presents a check to Deacon Christopher Grief on April 4, 2023 at the Owensboro Sportscenter, where the diocese had gathered to celebrate the annual Chrism Mass. (Right) Chris Brumfield presents a check to Deacon Christopher Kight.

BY TOM AULL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Knights of Columbus Hardinsburg Council #2499, along with the St. Romuald Altar Society, teamed up to provide a donation of \$1,000 to two soon-to-be-ordained seminarians of the diocese. The council’s Grand Knight, Chris Brumfield, presented the donations to Deacon Christopher Grief and Deacon Christopher Kight at the Owensboro Sportscenter on April 4, 2023. That evening, the diocese had gathered at the Sportscenter for the annual Chrism Mass. Both deacons are scheduled to be ordained on May 20 in Paducah. ■

MAY 2023 BULLETIN BOARD

Attention all Cursillistas and families

The Cursillo Secretariat of the Diocese of Owensboro would like to invite you to celebrate with us the first-ever Hispanic/English Grand Ultreya on May 27, 2023 at Christ the King Parish gym in Madisonville. Sign-in is at 11:30 a.m. Catered meal at 12 noon; donations accepted. Closing song and prayer at 4 p.m. Teresa Westerfield – Post Cursillo (270) 256-8864.

New extended hours of Eucharistic Adoration at Precious Blood beginning May 31

Beginning Wednesday, May 31, Precious Blood Parish will be extending hours of Eucharistic Adoration on the last Wednesday of every month. Eucharistic Adoration will begin at 12 noon CT with closing Benediction starting at 5:40 p.m. CT. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available from 5 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. Additionally, the Anointing of the Sick occurs during the 6 p.m. Mass the last Wednesday of every month. All are welcome! Precious Blood is located at 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro, KY 42301. For more information, please contact the parish office at 270-684-6888.

Come join us for a weekend of emotional healing and spiritual renewal

Rachel's Vineyard offers post-abortion healing retreats for women and men who are suffering from the lingering effects of abortion. Next retreat is June 2-4, 2023. Location near Nashville, Tenn. Rita: (270) 474-4707, retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com, <http://hopeafterabortionky.com>.

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.
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

It's not too late to get an Ursuline Sisters' Quilt Club ticket

It's not too late to purchase your annual Quilt Club tickets from the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. The first Quilt Club drawing of the new club year was on April 6, but 11 drawings remain. For one \$25 ticket, you will get 11 chances to win a new handmade quilt! (Get your ticket by May 4 for 11 drawings or sign up by June 1 to get 10 chances to win.) Quilts are made by Ursuline Sisters, Associates and friends, and the proceeds help support the Ursuline Sisters and their ministries. A new name is drawn on the first Friday of each month at noon Central Time through March 2024. You can watch the drawings live on the Ursuline Sister's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/ursulinesmsj>. Only 2,500 tickets will be sold. Call 270-229-2008, email carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org or order online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/purchase-your-mount-saint-joseph-quilt-club-tickets/>

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. A committee will serve as judges. The winner will be announced at the 2022 Celebration of Catholic Schools event. This award is sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Schools Office and the Principals Association. For the nomination form, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/educator-award/>.

Save the date for St. Paul School car show

Saturday, Sept. 9, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information please contact the school at (270) 242-7483.

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/>.

Need a meeting space? Maple Hall is available at Mount Saint Joseph

Need a meeting space for up to 200 people? Maple Hall (formerly known as Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium/Gym) is available for rent. It is located on the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph campus, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky., 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56, across from the park. Maple Hall 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 for plays, recitals, and 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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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for setup, or this can be done for you for an additional fee). To reserve Maple Hall, 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. Normal 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-maple-hall/>

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 and click Contact Us. You can 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/UrsulineSistersMSJ)). 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! ■

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.

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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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

Quilting Friends return to Mount Saint Joseph

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Quilting Friends was the brainchild of Ursuline Sr. Amelia Stenger, OSU, back in 2002. She received many donations of fabric from people, and also knew many women who loved to quilt. Each year this group came to Maple Mount in February or March to sew quilt tops with donated fabric and leave them for the sisters to quilt. The annual tradition ceased three years ago with Covid, with this year the first time many of the volunteers have returned to the Mount. The participants gathered for the “quilt-a-thon” from March 26-29. The quilt tops will either be hand quilted for the Mount Quilt Club, or machine quilted to use for Quilt Bingo in September, both of which serve to support the mission of the Ursuline Sisters. ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
(Above) Judy Hayden of Calhoun works on squares during her first experience with the Quilting Friends. “I love it,” she said. “I enjoy the camaraderie, that’s the best thing.”

COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
(Left) Laura Merz of Aurora cuts small black and white squares for her next project. She has been coming to the Quilting Friends event at Mount Saint Joseph since the second year it was held. “I thoroughly enjoy it. I get to see a lot of people I haven’t seen in three years,” she said. “I love to sew,” which she’s been doing for 60 years.

Save the date!



QUILT BINGO

Sunday, September 10

1 p.m.–4 p.m.

Mount Saint Joseph Maple Hall

(Formerly known as Gym/Auditorium)
8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky.

Play bingo to win quilts!

Enjoy lunch and have fun!

\$25 per person.

One bingo game card provided. Then \$1 games for small quilt prize and \$2 games for large quilt prize.

Seating is limited. Sign up online:

ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-bingo

or mail a check payable to Ursuline Sisters, Development Office, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount KY 42356

Don't forget your \$5 raffle tickets!

You could be our lucky \$10,000 winner!

Or you could win • \$5,000 • \$2,000

• Beautiful Handmade Quilt

Order tickets online:

ursulinesmsj.org/mountraffle

Drawing takes place on Sept. 10 at 4 p.m.



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9998

For more information, contact Carol Braden-Clarke
270-229-2008

carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org

License 0290

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

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

Editor's note: This article is the second in a two-part series on German POWs at Mount Saint Joseph.

In my article last month, I relayed the story of an archived letter from Germany to Mother Laurine Sheeran, OSU. The letter was dated 1947 and its writer thanked the mother superior for sending him several religious items to the post-war country. The letter mentioned prisoners of war working on the farm at Mount Saint Joseph. This raised several questions as this is information that has been lost to the current place memory at the Mount. This article will reveal the identity of the author as well as the second letter's contents.

The letters were signed "Georg Rupprecht." As I would later find out, his full title was Fr. Georg Rupprecht. In 1934, after high school, Georg entered the seminary. In 1939 after completing five years of theological studies, he was drafted into military service. During a vacation granted by the Wehrmacht, Georg returned to the seminary and completed his studies and exams. On March 7, 1943, in Limburg Cathedral, at the height of the Second World War, Fr. Georg Rupprecht was ordained a priest. After being called back into military service, he was captured and taken as a prisoner of war by the American Army.

Fr. Rupprecht was shipped to America and eventually transferred to a prisoner of war camp in the Fort Campbell area. Stating that as a Catholic priest he was naturally opposed to the Nazi party,

he offered his assistance to the allies. He was placed in a leadership position of two anti-Nazi POW camps in the area.

Historian Antonio S. Thompson, in his book "German Jackboots on Kentucky Bluegrass," remarks that "Acting on information given by POW Sergeant Georg

Rupprecht... the military located many 'werewolves' within the anti-Nazi compounds and removed them." No dates or information about his time at Mount Saint Joseph could be obtained from any of the former POW camps contacted by the archives. However, according to Fr. Rupprecht's letter, he did work on the farm. Referencing the kindness shown by the MSJ Sisters his letter humbly states, "I was only an insignificant prisoner of war on your farm."

The final letter from Fr. Rupprecht tells a story of German hardship and Catholic friendship. Upon his return to Germany, Fr. Rupprecht became the chaplain for St. Hubertus in Rennerod. With several of the religious items mailed by the MSJ Ursulines, during the German winter the good priest had been going by sleigh into villages saying Mass and distributing clothing to the homeless and needy. In a previous package, though he had not asked for them, the sisters sent the priest wool gloves, a sweater, shirts, socks, and soap. Thanking them, he remarked all of those were so necessary and could not be bought in Germany. This was true

COURTESY OF MSJ ARCHIVES

The signature of Fr. George Rupprecht, taken from the second archived letter.

a little more than a year and a half after the end of the disastrous war.

On March 7, 2003, Fr. Rupprecht celebrated his diamond jubilee to the priesthood. After a lifetime dedicated to the Church, at the age of 93, he passed away and was laid to rest on Dec. 16, 2008 in a burial that, by his request, took place in silence. Fr. Georg Rupprecht, pray for us!

The diocesan archives would like to extend a special thanks to Gustav Kesper and Britta Fischer of the Diocese of Limburg for their assistance with this article. ■

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.

Learn more

For more information about this period of Kentucky history, check out "German Jackboots on Kentucky Bluegrass" by Antonio S. Thompson.

Baptism and Confirmation – A Catholic’s ‘work-order’

BY DEACON JAY W. VANHOOSIER, OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

With Spring upon us, it is hard to look at the beauty we see in the natural world around us and not be filled with the sense of God’s majesty. In our Church, the advent of Spring also brings us the many opportunities to celebrate, with our youth, the Sacrament of Confirmation. I would challenge those who do not have any family members who are being confirmed to go to a scheduled Confirmation in your parish and support those who are receiving this Sacrament – not only showing support for these young men and women, but also taking the opportunity to renew your own baptismal promises that you made during your own Confirmation. For you see, the baptismal promises that were said for us at our own Baptism and that we said for ourselves at our Confirmation are, in fact, God’s “work-order” for us to live out our faith as Christians. Let me explain.

When we are baptized then anointed with Sacred Chrism, we are baptized into the three-fold ministry of Christ – priest, prophet, and king... our “work-order,” so to speak. This happens after a renunciation of sin and profession of faith is said for us and after our actual Baptism. Our parents and godparents told the Christian community that they will do everything they can to help us understand the importance of this three-fold ministry.

At our Confirmation, we have the

opportunity to tell the whole Church for ourselves that we understand that this is to be our work as Christians – to live lives of sacrifice to the other (our priestly ministry), to always proclaim the Gospel in the way that we live lives of Christian love for everyone we meet (our prophetic ministry), and to devote ourselves to kingly service to God and everyone – just like Jesus did as the Servant King (our kingly ministry). In our Confirmation, like in our Baptism, we are anointed with Sacred Chrism and sealed with the Holy Spirit, receiving from him his gifts to help us live out these ministries in our daily lives...in effect, our “work-order.” Attending these celebrations helps us to recall and affirm these duties that we have as Jesus’ disciples.

Living out these ministries of sacrifice, proclamation, and service is not always easy. In fact, they are rather difficult at times because



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley confirms Alison McFarland at the April 8, 2023 Easter Vigil at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

that “work-order” is really never completed. Living out these ministries is a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year kind of job. We are always on the clock. However, like God renewing the earth with the beauty of Spring, his Holy Spirit is there to give us the grace and strength to live our lives as followers of Christ. ■

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

When ‘honeymoon phase’ wears off, Grace Marriage helps marriages thrive across diocese

BY DANNY MAY, OFFICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

On a rainy March evening in Owensboro, couples from around the diocese gathered to hear Brad and Marilyn Rhoads, the founders of Grace Marriage, share the story of how their marriage survived and thrived “in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health.”

They shared openly about the struggles of their first years of marriage after the “honeymoon” phase wore off. Sitting on a stool because of a recent foot surgery, Marilyn shared her recent hardship of caring for their teenage son’s injury when she was also “down and out.” Brad shared a particularly stressful time in his job.

Those common struggles most married couples experience together is part of the beauty of Grace Marriage because it teaches you to extend grace to each other. That concept, along with spending intentional time together, is the core foundation of Grace Marriage. Each quarterly session is a time to talk together as husband and wife in undistracted, uninterrupted time – which most couples rarely get in their busy day-to-day lives.

I think that’s why Grace Marriage has grown so quickly in our diocese. At the time of this printing, over 150 couples in the Diocese of Owensboro are participating in ongoing marriage enrichment through Grace Marriage. Each Grace Marriage session, couples watch teaching videos as a group, read scripture, and discuss topics one-on-one, but

the “bonus date night” on March 11, 2023, was the first time couples in the diocese got to hear Brad and Marilyn’s story in person. Participating couples from all 11 Grace Marriage locations in the diocese were invited.

Investing in marriage

In response to Pope Francis’ emphasis on discipleship and evangelization, and more specifically the focus on marriage and family life in his encyclical *The Joy of Love* (*Amoris Laetitia*), the Diocese of Owensboro Office of Marriage & Family Life has

been investing heavily in marriage ministry on the parish level beyond basic marriage preparation.

In 2022, the Office of Marriage & Family Life was granted a \$50,000 matching grant from the Catholic Marriage Initiative (CMI) grant which was specifically to be used for strengthening marriage and family ministries. The CMI grant support coincided perfectly with the growth of Grace Marriage in the Diocese.

An effective model

One of Grace Marriage’s keys to success is the lay-led, shared leadership model. Typically, a



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Kristina Jones speaks with her husband, Jason Jones, during a Grace Marriage session at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro in February 2022.

team of four couples run the ministry for each parish, parish cluster, or county. Responsibilities are divided between two co-facilitator couples, a hospitality couple or team, and an administrator (group leader) who is the point of contact for Grace Marriage and the Office of Marriage & Family Life. Grace Marriage is designed that way so the ministry is not dependent on the parish staff or pastor to be successful. The shared leadership model also fits well into the accompaniment aspect of discipleship and evangelization. The time commitment is another key to success. Most groups in the diocese run the four-hour model, which means each

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May, June and July Wedding Anniversaries

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

MAY

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Ed & Ellen Higdon, 53
James & Janet Hagan, 51
Joseph & Donna Roby, 51
Mike & Alice Hays, 50
Ray & Judy Taylor, 54
Ronald & Lanita Robertson, 40
Timothy & Katherine Purcell, 10

Christ the King, Madisonville

Kenneth & Chastity Boucherie, 10
Ralph & Jeanne Hines, 57
Shawn & Chrissy Watts, 5

Christ the King, Scottsville

Bill & Catherine Grapes, 54
Bill & Nancy Wooldridge, 58

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Bart & Dana Robards, 25
Darrel & Darlene Cummings, 55
David & Kathy Butler, 51
Don & Joyce Hutchinson, 55
Larry & Cheri Phillips, 40
Richard & Linda Day, 53
Rick & Sally Clements, 54
Robert & Dee Dee Sellars, 52
Tracy & Jennifer Haley, 25
William & Phyllis Durham, 58

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Anto & Milica Markovic, 40
Bill & Carolyn Siebold, 60
Chris & Patty Kantosky, 25
Donald & Valerie Salomoni, 57
Dudley & Michele King, 25
Emmanuel Kim & Monica Muang, 10
Glenn & Edith Lohr, 55
Jack & Georgie MacEachern, 61
James & Carol Blackburn, 55
Jerry & Carolyn Allred, 52
Jordan & Amanda Eddings, 10
Kham Langh & Lian Huai, 5
Kirby & Kim Jernigan, 40
Terry & Kerry Kerr, 40
Tony & Sharon Payne, 51
Warren & Nancy Irons, 40

Wayne & Jenifer Orscheln, 10

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Daniel & Janet Hartline, 63

Immaculate, Owensboro

Bob & Sylvia Lovett, 57
Don & Shirley Story, 53
Ernie & Shirley Taliaferro, 53
Fred & Helen Meister, 54
Jerry & M'Alys Bowen, 51
Joe & Bev Rudy, 53
Matt & Lorynn Willis, 10
Michael & Patsy Snyder, 55
Mike & Elaine Mills, 50
Nick & Jeanie Norcia, 40
Steve & Etta Cooper, 53
Ted & Susan Belcher, 40
Thomas Shively, 5
Tony & Celia Roach, 58

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Allen & Margaret Henderson, 55
Bob & JoAnn Vessels, 70
Cecil & Janice Thomson, 61
David & Catherine King, 59
James & Lenna Elder, 59
Jerry & Charlotte Moore, 55
Joseph & Joan Wathen, 59
Ken & Marjorie Raley, 5
Matthew & Jordan Wells, 5
Michael & Janet Wathen, 51
Nicholas & Brittany Lanham, 5
Nolan & Ashley Thomas, 10
Phil & Kim Haire, 40
Russ & Jennifer Ranallo, 25
Samuel & Jean Payne, 55
William & Carolyn Cecil, 57
William & Sheila Kyle, 54

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Steve & Judy Fogle, 51
Tony & Mary Edna Payne, 59

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Marion & Diana Simmons, 56

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Donald & Marietta Hagedorn, 57

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Henry & Hattie McGuire, 40
John & Debbie Henshaw, 52
Michael & Jackie Pierce, 54

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
David & Cecilia McCarty, 50

St. Ann, Morganfield

Arnold & Rita June Wolfe, 59
Robert & Sue Beaven, 59
Wayne & Arletta Bickett, 50

St. Anthony, Axtel

Bernie & Marquita Campbell, 64

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Kenneth & Martha Rieger, 50

St. Augustine, Reed

Herman & Martha Miller, 67

St. Charles, Livermore

Kevin & Judy Fee, 25

St. Columba, Lewisport

Clyde & Georgene Poole, 66
Paul & Cindi Hoppe, 40

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Troy & Brenda Ellegood, 55

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Pat & Toni Thompson, 25

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Bernard & Connie Hayden, 51
Bill & Karen Carlson, 54
Blake & Stephanie Johnson, 5
Joe & Carolyn Saffer, 59
Michael & Shelia Newman, 40
Paul & Linda Cissell, 53
Tom & Minerva Neihoff, 40
Tony & Donna Lazzaro, 58
William & Lorraine Weaver, 51

St. Henry, Aurora

Casey & Diane Orłowski, 52
Felix & Annette Papa, 63
John & Marie Stepanek, 63

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Clint & Stacey Hayden, 5
David & Teresa Hobbs, 50
Gerald & Mary Ann Carrico, 58
Greg & Carol Higdon, 54
John & Mary Ann Andrews, 51
Scott & Andrea Elder, 40
Thomas & Mary Lou Curtsinger, 53

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Frank & Margaret Montgomery, 57

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Corey & Cassandra Grace, 10
Joe & Celeste Russell, 69
Paul & Judy Hayes, 54

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Joseph & Rose Maxwell, 55

St. Joseph, Central City

Howard & Georgia Snyder, 58

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Gary & Stephanie Render, 25
Larry & Linda Clark, 51

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Michael & Mary Clapp, 40
Ronald & Gloria Gregory, 51
Salvador & Celia Paxtor, 10
William & Ann Wilson, 51

St. Jude, Clinton

Michael & Andrea Williford, 25

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Russell & Rose Mary Payne, 58
Stanley & Brenda Howard, 50
Thomas & Mildred Carrico, 51

St. Leo, Murray

Jerry & Julia Monahan, 55
Ronald & Carolyn Reimer, 63

St. Martin, Rome

Steve & Deborah Hopkins, 50

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

David & Rose Marie Cecil, 56
Mark & Becky Miles, 50

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Eddie & Donna McKinley, 57
Edward & Ruth Clark, 51
Greg & Lisa Howard, 40
Jeff & Paula Higdon, 40
Jim & Mary Ann Higdon, 62
John & Tara Kirkpatrick, 5
Mel & Beverly Howard, 52

Mike & Marlene Hamilton, 51
Robert & Doris Howard, 71
Tyler & Shelby Clark, 10

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Charles & Donna Pelletier, 53

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Dale & Sue Milliner, 55
Joseph & Agnes Kipper, 58

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

James & Vonda Morris, 40
Phil & Judy Keller, 55

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

Burch & Theresa Wolfe, 52
Derek & Cris Payne, 10
Gary & Phyllis Wolfe, 53
Joseph & Gwen Fulkerson, 50
Wiley & Pam Gipson, 40

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Bernie & Pat Fendler, 65
John & Marilyn Brooks, 68

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Bruce & Joyce Yeiser, 52
Chip & Maria Thompson, 40
Don & Agnes Powers, 69
Gary & Joanne Warren, 51
Joe & Joyce Payne, 57
Josh & Shelly Maffia, 10
Zach & Katie Rhodes, 5

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Bob & Linda Rhodes, 66

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Mike & Beverly Himmelhaver, 66

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Daniel & Sally Halbig, 60
David & Rebecca Millay, 63
Ed & Betty Wedding, 54
George & Sandy Hagan, 58
Joseph & Felicity Polio, 40
Joshua & Cesiley Bartley, 10
Rick & Freda Rhodes, 53
Robert & Joyce A Ballard, 63
Ronald & Jackie Jones, 59

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Dan & Maria Bruzewski, 57
Jack & Joyce Kotarek, 60

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ANNIVERSARIES

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St. Thomas More, Paducah

Bob & Marylou Caron, 53
John & Janet Colgan, 40
Landen & Van Meeks, 10
Mike & Pat Hobbs, 53

St. William, Knottsville

Jacob & Tori Payne, 5
Jared & Katie Payne, 10
Josh & Heather Clark, 25
Michael & Nicole Mudd, 25
Phillip & Susan Payne, 40

St. William, Marion

Leo & Marian Alvey, 57

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Bill & Kathy Mattingly, 50
Bob & Norma Bivins, 67
Bobby & Anne Mulligan, 40
Darryl & Linda Warren, 51
Richard & Dorothy Thomas, 63
Steve & Diane Coomes, 50

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Andrew & Ellery Naghtin, 10
Charles & Mary Ann Keel, 64
James & Jane Brockman, 59
William & Brenda Chaudoin, 25

JUNE

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Alan & Sandy Ebelhar, 53
Bill & Joy Bach, 62
Joseph & Ann Evans, 50
Keith & Jeannie Best, 40
Michael & Debbie Roberts, 52
Russell & Virginia Corley, 63
Tom & Betsy Fusco, 53

Christ the King, Madisonville

Bernard & Rita Rich, 77
Byron & Joan Hobgood, 55
Edward & Carol Fields, 50
John & Peggy Crockett, 51

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Joseph & Judy Fey, 51
Roger & Gail Decker, 54

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Bill & Beverly Croft, 25
Birdie & Judy Vowels, 15

Brad & Jessica Bickett, 10
Gary & Shannon Long, 40
Glenn & Sheila Duncan, 50
James & Maxine O'Nan, 67

James & Peggy Cooksey, 51

John & Judith Cavins, 50
Joseph & Anna Wurth, 52
Kenneth & Judy Lapradd, 54

Larry & Ginny Sigler, 60
Mauricio & Cecilia Gomez, 25

Melton & Wanda Griffin, 53

Noel & Alicia Canlas, 51
Pascal & Elaine Benson, 61

Patrick & Holly Neel, 5
Paul & Phyllis Berberich, 54

Paul & Sue Kuerzi, 59
Ralph & Kay Banks, 56

Richard & Joann Dziubich, 54

Romuald & Betty Mills, 61

Ron & Judy Bugg, 60
Ronnie & Bernie Cooper, 63

Sonny & Lynda Peters, 63
Tim & Charyl Farley, 40

Tony & Martha Royster, 54
William & Midge Greenwell, 60

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Bill & Connie Jordan, 50
Bob & Francil Higdon, 60

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Bubu & Akumu Bilo, 5
Charles & Leannah Mayo, 55
David & Amanda Farmer, 10

David Tun Naing Linn & Rosa Hau Lam Niang, 10

Gary & Cheryl Best, 50
John & Laurie Lippert, 40

Lynn & Sally Gough, 54
Randy & Clare Brooks, 50

Rex & June McWhorter, 50
Richard & Shirley Jakel, 67

Robert & Elizabeth Crowe, 63

Robert & Theresa Hoyt, 61
Terry & Patsy Clayton, 53

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Jason & Angela Curry, 25
Logan & Victoria Wheatley, 10

Norman & Nancy Wheatley, 60

Immaculate, Owensboro

Bill & Sally Buford, 54
Bob & Kaye Wethington, 65

Charles & Lucy Adams, 66
Jacob & Jordan Boswell, 10

Jerry & Kathy Gray, 55
Larry & Brenda Hayden, 52

Mike & Karen Mischel, 50
Rick & Lisa Bivins, 40

Roger & Susan Kamuf, 40
Ron & Tonja Gregory, 50

Steve & Debbie Thompson, 50
Terry & Sissy Weber, 51

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Anthony & Lydia Fusco, 25
Billy & Mary Ann Terry, 50

Clyde & Mary Fogle, 60
David & Barbara Weidner, 54

Don & Dora Hulsey, 50
Edwin & Barbara Merimee, 66

Harold & Barbara Johnson, 56

Jacob & Brooke Bennett, 5
Jeremy & Kimberley Demarest, 10

Joe & Alicia Hamilton, 25
John & Nancy Lewis, 58

Robert & Paula Taul, 62
Robert & Vicky Cundiff, 52

Ronnie & Judy Peach, 57
Trevor & Nancy Neal, 25

Walter & Margaret Knott, 57

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Dean & Mary Hartz, 54
Hubert & Judy Wilkens, 10

John & Mary Phillips, 61
Larry & Gail Mullen, 51

Larry & Sheila Abel, 55
Paul & Helen O'Bryan, 59

Robert & Lisa Wimsatt, 40
Roger & Barbara Bucklin, 54

Resurrection, Dawson Springs

Norman & Millie Thomas,

65

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

David & Kathy Roberts, 50

Sacred Heart, Hickman

Matt & Micha Gardner, 25

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Thomas & Judith Hoover, 62

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Bryce & Kassie Danhauer, 10

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Bob & Nancy Brewer, 51
Charles & Carolyn Buckman, 56

Donald & Cheryl Thomas, 51
Dwight & Alice Grundy, 52

Steve & Agnes Girten, 51

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

James & Sue Towery, 51
Randy & Judy Thompson, 51

St. Ann, Morganfield

Blake & Liz Lott, 54
Donald & Helene French, 40

Gary & Lisa Ervin, 40
James & Margie Smith, 64

Jerry & Kathleen Thompson, 59
Paul & Brenda Hargrove, 50

Terry & Linda Wedding, 55
Thomas & Margaret Clements, 68

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Grant & Sommer Johnson, 5
Kevin & Barbara Diamond, 51

Wayne & Georgia Bradshaw, 62

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

David & Paula Hayden, 51
Eddie & Peggy Grant, 50

Joe & Tammy Tucker, 40
John & Carol Zarembo, 58

John & Janice Taul, 40
Larry & Gennie Payne, 55

St. Anthony, Peonia

Daymond & Mary Ellen Higdon, 51

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Bill & Deborah Grant, 53

St. Benedict, Wax

David & Lisa Alvey, 40

St. Charles, Bardwell

Billy & Cindy Russelburg, 50

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Gerald & Elaine Milliner, 56
Jim & Edna Bratcher, 51

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Alan & Ruth Ann Thompson, 54
Frank & Faye McCarty, 66

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Gary & Rosemary Snyder, 60
Leroy & Kathy Willett, 54

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Bob & Shirley Coleman, 56
Charles & Alberta Fox, 57

Daniel & Janice Howard, 40
Gordon & Linda Williams, 55

John & Donna Trogolo, 68
Paul & Colleen Stovesand, 10

Phillip & Tiffany Ellegood, 25

St. Henry, Aurora

James & Janice McAllister, 62
John & Elaine Wood, 58

Milton & Mable Keifer, 72

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Chris & Jill Cope, 25
Clayton & Andrea Key, 10

Donnie & Eva Toon, 55
Frankie & Roxie Toon, 40

Freddy & Janet Wilson, 55
Leo & Willene Thomas, 63

Micah & Carlie Elder, 10
Ralph & Jeanie Stamper, 50

Rudy & Judy Elliott, 70
Thomas & Audrey Elliott, 5

Tom & Lois Ballard, 50

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Bruce & Marcia Roby, 51
St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Lawrence & Judy Seitz, 57
Rod & Jane Martin, 51

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Alan & Adrienne Dieball, 65
James & Janet Hasford, 57

Jim & Judy Allen, 56
Lloyd & Susan Crabbe, 55

McCauley & Carleigh Mattingly, 5

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

David & Joyce Langley, 56
Joe & Nadyne Lee, 55

John & Freda Shull, 53
Ken & Sharon Smart, 60

Lamont & Betty Miller, 60

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ANNIVERSARIES

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Mike & Helen Shull, 50

St. Joseph, Mayfield
Antonia & Araceli Alanis, 25
Bob & Connie Sparks, 10
George & Emma Hayden, 51
James & Sondra Ballard, 51
Jerry & Rita Suiter, 50
Joe & Jackie Skinner, 64
Junior & Barbara Hobbs, 53
Oribel & Maricela Arellano, 10
Scott & Lauren Ellison, 10

St. Lawrence, Philpot
David & Mary Wimsatt, 53
John & Sarah Boarman, 53
Jonathan & Kayla Veach, 10
St. Leo, Murray
David & Nancy Bell, 53
James & Shirley Minton, Jr., 59
Norman & Jo Rae Peiffer, 64
Rocky & Debbie Shapla, 54
Roger & Mary Haney, 55
Sam & Erica Hunter, 53
Sean & Alex Edgin, 5
Victor & Lynn Fromm, 51
St. Mark, Eddyville
Bob & Jan Chaplin, 53
Joe & Wanda Loftus, 51

St. Martin, Rome
Byron & Diane Lane, 60
Harold & Joyce Ebelhar, 56
Preston & Barbara Fulkerson, 65

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
Greg & Kim Woodall, 40
Joe & Jean Blandford, 54
Kurt & Melissa Osborne, 25
Larry & Dottie Elder, 59

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Barry & Kim Myers, 25
Bob & Sharrie Cinnamon, 62
Brandon & Samantha McMichael, 5
Charles & Linda Onstott, 55
Fred & Alice Howard, 58
JC & Margaret Boarman, 61
Kennedy & Sheila Nash, 40
Mike & Kathy Calcaterra, 5
Nick & Ashley Fulkerson, 10
Randall & Dianne Hagan, 54
Roger & Barbara Coomes, 61
Stephen & Krystal Burch, 10
William & Charlotte Payne, 60

St. Mary, Franklin
Allan & Barbara Matherne, 52
Ed & Helen Berry, 57

Willie & Mary Sloan, 52

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove
John & Mae Raymond, 55

St. Michael, Sebree
Keith & Donna Kenney, 50
Randy & Judy Thompson, 51

St. Paul, Leitchfield
Jerry & Becky Carroll, 51

St. Paul, Princeton
Larry & Sherry Fannin, 50

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
Clayton & Nichole Daugherty, 25
James & Debbie Edelen, 54
Pat & Joy Coomes, 51

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly
Alan & Jessica Clements, 5
Archie & Judy Coburn, 51
Chase & Emily Girten, 10
David & Nancy Wolfe, 58
Eddie & Rose French, 66
Jim & Cathy Mattingly, 50
Paul & Brenda Fredrick, 57
Tim & Louise Tennyson, 55
Will & Nicole Jones, 10

St. Pius X, Calvert City
Donald Carmella Milne, 56
Jerry & Anita Pidcock, 57
Merle & Marilyn Wysock, 67

St. Pius X, Owensboro
Benjamin & Cynthia Harrington, 5
Bob & Alice Freels, 52
Gary & Karen Jarboe, 51
Michael & Velma Reed, 51
Oo Reh & Beh Meh, 10
Per Reh & Mary Say, 5
Roger & Dottie Kirk, 53

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
David & Shirley Bland, 54
Wayne & Martha Cashen, 57

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport
Jim & Susie Camp, 55

St. Sebastian, Calhoun
Eddie & Judy Sallee, 50
Joseph & Judy Christian, 51

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Bob & Roberta Berry, 58
Frank & Moggie Riney, 52
Frankie & Theresa Jones, 56
James & Connie Demarest, 54

Larry & Gene Lyon, 54
Larry & Suzanne Lee, 55
Michael & Patricia Winstead, 53
Phil & Mary Beth Hurley, 40

St. Stephen, Cadiz
Charles & Judy Garnett, 55
Dean & Terry Duncan, 54
John & Margie Tomalewicz, 51
Mike & Eileen Kehrwald, 57
Pat & Sam Carter, 51

St. Thomas More, Paducah
Albert & Janet Krall, 40
Dan & Lynn Brown, 54
Jason & Jennifer Lorch, 25
Pat & Anna Cairney, 51
Pat & Linda Carroll, 56
Raymond & Tammy O'Nan, 40
Robert & Beth Garey, 51
Steve & Judy Williams, 52
Thomas & Janet Montgomery, 70

St. William, Knottsville
Hugh & Marie Payne, 52
John & Annette Payne, 53
John & Brenda Haynes, 54
Jonathan & Tonya Payne, 25
Mike & Patricia Mattingly, 55
Patrick & Patricia Cecil, 62
Ronald & Karen Goetz, 52
Terry & Lynda Payne, 40
Vince & Rebecca Horn, 25

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
Doug & Dorothy Hood, 62
Gary & Nadine Trogden, 51
Joe & Karen McBride, 55
Joseph & Monica Blandford, 59
Joshua & Jaime Wilks, 5
Kenneth & Margaret Willett, 56
Lyn & Rita Hardesty, 60
Ryan & Heather Smith, 10
Tom & Joyce Hayden, 60

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
Francois & Kim Coulombe, 52
Gene & Tommie Pniewski, 51
Jamel & Rita Mayo, 10
Johnathon & Kendyl Dozer,

5
Patrick & Taylor Wheeler, 10
Ryan & Jennifer P'Pool, 5
Ryan & Morgan Milauskas, 10
Wilson & Frieda Augsburg, 56

JULY

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Bill & Myra Carrico, 55
Bobby & Peggy Hicks, 57
Chadd & Leigh Clark, 25
Glenn & Mary Ann Snyder, 54
Joseph & Carolyn Church, 58
Joseph & Patricia Hoskins, 55
Kenny & Virginia Blandford, 53
Mike & Joyce Pearl, 25
Richard & Judy Greenwell, 58
Tony & Donna Powers, 40

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Ray & Venice Higgs, 40

Christ the King, Madisonville

Daniel & Debbie Smith, 51
Greg & Hannah Dick, 10

Christ the King, Scottsville

Ted & Kathleen Gramm, 55

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Eugene & Veronica Compton, 61

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Andy & Brenda Thomas, 56
Jimmy & Janice Williams, 52

Paul & Angela Johnson, 25

Paul & Iris Drury, 66

Paul & Pam Titzer, 25

Ricardo & Zenaida Maddela, 52

Roy & Barbara Kurtz, 53

Russell & Dorothy Borries, 56

56

Shane & Caroline Satterfield, 10
Tyler & Candice Young, 10
Vance & Joann Fritz, 40

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Tommy & Brenda Laws, 53

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Alexander & Katelin Rowland, 10
Casey & Rachel Tinius, 10
Dallas & Mary Decker, 56
Gary & Bonnie Broenneke, 55
Jack & Michele Thomas, 60
John & Katherine Gorecki, 10
John & Mary Jane Garrett, 54
John Lang & Martha Vung Lian, 10
Kyle & Suzanne Allen, 10
Richard & Doris Miller, 50
Samuel & Gloria Peach, 58
Steve & Laura Bowra, 40
Thomas & Diane Landrigan, 51
Timothy & Sylvia Risher, 53
Viet Pham & Dung Nguyen, 5

Immaculate, Owensboro

Don & Mary Theresa Hayden, 66
Jerry & Rita Holtzman, 60
Joseph & Marie Hancock, 51
Paul & Tanya Ackerman, 25
Rodney & Denise Payne, 25
Sam & Pat Patterson, 51
Steve & Linda Rocco, 40
Steven & Agnes Mayberry, 51
Terry & Mavis Blandford, 57
Tom & Ann Meyer, 53
Vince & Teresa Edwards, 25

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Carl & Wanda Atherton, 51
Donald & Jane Gerbitz, 58
Eugene & Jennie Clemens, 64
James & Beverly Calhoun, 62
James & Joyce Dant, 62
Jim & Karen Billman, 56
Joseph & Rita Ballard, 59

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Phil & Cheri Hayden, 40
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James & Joyce Riney, 52
John & Kristy Fulkerson, 25
Jonathon & Melissa Coomes, 5
Sean & Erin Borland, 10
Victor & Carol Howard, 52
- Resurrection, Dawson Springs**
David & Beri Zaparanick, 59
John & Therese Falder, 53
- Rosary Chapel, Paducah**
Richard & Janice Yasko, 59
- Sacred Heart, Waverly**
Joe & Kathy Welden, 55
Marion & Sue Berry, 61
- St. Agnes, Uniontown**
James & Jessica Hooper, 10
James & Raley Pierce, 5
Pat & Teresa French, 50
Ray & Diane Conley, 55
- St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**
Gary & Angie Murphy, 25
Gene & Elaine Glenn, 57
- St. Ann, Morganfield**
Brad & Mitzi Ervin, 25
Gary & Brenda Stenger, 56
Gary & Lou Lovell, 54
Gerald & Ruth Gibson, 59
Joseph & Wilma Adamson, 51
Martin & Mary Rose Thomas, 58
Mike & Karla Baird, 40
Patrick & Suzanne Dailey, 56
Robbie & Kassie Greenwell, 25
Robert & Alice Griggs, 57
- St. Anthony, Browns Valley**
Earl & Pat Allen, 56
Gene & Pauline Wink, 64
William & Rosemary Thompson, 56
- St. Anthony, Peonia**
Eddie & Linda Portman, 56
- St. Augustine, Reed**
Robert & Doris Purgeason, 58
Walter & Kathy Wolfe, 52
- St. Benedict, Wax**
Richard & Cathy Grant, 50
- St. Columba, Lewisport**
Dan & Agnes Murphy, 52
Jim & Lillie Lanham, 66
- St. Denis, Fancy Farm**
Wallie & Rhonda Wilson, 50
- St. Elizabeth, Clarkson**
Martin & Roslyn Hill, 58
- St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis**
Charlie & Gloria Mendoza, 51
Don & Barbara Smith, 54
- St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**
Greg & Sabrina Doyle, 10
Jason & Danielle Cope, 25
Santo & Vincenza Tripoli, 71
Tommy & Patsy Hayden, 54
Wayne & Peggy Miller, 55
- St. Henry, Aurora**
Bob & Kathy Nord, 53
Bob & Marge Norman, 57
- St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**
Benjamin & Savannah Green, 10
David & Carol Speed, 55
Eugene & Vickie Willett, 53
Gregg & Whitney Gordon, 10
John & Joan Mills, 52
John & Pat Carrico, 40
Josh & Kristi Redden, 25
Marty & Janet Toon, 50
Michael & Julia Ivie, 52
Wesley & Tammy Goin, 40
William & Donna Thomas, 68
Wm. Dewey & Mary Ruth Hobbs, 72
- St. John the Evangelist, Paducah**
John & Cindy Crivello, 56
Michael & Regina Wurth, 53
- St. Joseph, Bowling Green**
Benny & Cissy Clark, 58
Brayan & Molly Pena, 5
Douglas & Roxanne Nordike, 58
Gerald & Jessie Starkey, 55
- St. Joseph, Central City**
Keith & Genon Putnam, 53
- St. Joseph, Leitchfield**
Danny & Phyllis Payne, 54
David & Amelia Thompson, 58
Dean & Ruth Basham, 54
Delbert & Rose Durham, 52
Ray & Nellie Stevenson, 62
Rick & Frankie Smith, 54
Scott & Amy Kane, 25
- St. Joseph, Mayfield**
Marvin & Ollie Lee, 65
Randal & Tina Dowdy, 40
- St. Leo, Murray**
Bill & Cheryl Whitaker, 57
John & Joan Krieb, 51
Ronald & Joyce Sallin, 61
Sam & Patricia Willett, 58
- St. Mark, Eddyville**
Jim & Margie Hibbard, 65
- St. Martin, Rome**
Jerry & Liz Hamilton, 63
- St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**
Bill & Rita Wood, 51
Dustin & Katie Jones, 5
Gary & Cami Fulkerson, 25
Tony & Mary Askin, 40
- St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady**
Dylan & Elizabeth Gipson, 5
Shelby & Loretta Newton, 62
- St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville**
BB & Shirley Howard, 56
Buddy & Jan Mattingly, 53
Emett & Mary Barnett, 51
Floyd & Christine Edge, 60
Fredrick & Phyllis Barr, 57
Hugh & Mary Jo Johnson, 58
Jarrod & Danielle Rhodes, 10
Jeremy & Haley Morris, 25
Jordan & Samantha Bittel, 10
Joseph & Patty Wright, 60
Larry & Connie O'Bryan, 53
Larry & Teresa Sandefur, 52
Leon & Sandra Mills, 52
Trey & Megan Beets, 5
- St. Mary, Franklin**
Major & Joann Bradford, 66
Ted & Donna Kennedy, 55
- St. Mary, LaCenter**
Bud & Gayle Waltmon, 58
Danny & Judy Poole, 56
Michael & Evelyn McGowan, 63
Terry & Donna Quarles, 40
- St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove**
Ralph & Nay Thi Hutcheson, 52
- St. Paul, Leitchfield**
Floyd & Janice Wilaby, 52
Jerry & Evelyn Sims, 52
- St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley**
Ricky & Karen Spalding, 40
- St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly**
George & Cindy Payne, 40
- St. Pius X, Owensboro**
Larry & Shirley Millay, 53
Tom & Carol Payne, 52
- St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**
Bernie & Ginny Flood, 58
Buck & Dorothy Jarboe, 55
William & Dayle Riley, 52
- St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport**
Joe & Donna Hagman, 10
- St. Sebastian, Calhoun**
David & Lynne Scott, 54
Paul & Betty Logsdon, 52
- St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**
Danny & Rose Ann Payne, 57
David & Jill Head, 40
Harry & Peggy Bellew, 58
Jim & Karen Keoughan, 59
Jim Sullivan & Emily DeMoor, 5
Lucian & Sheryl Lott, 25
Mike & Katy Topp, 5
Mills & Monika Logan, 65
Ron & Denise Payne, 52
Thomas & Janet Ebelhar, 51
- St. Thomas More, Paducah**
Bruce & Margie Bunte, 40
Frank & Carole Shields, 65
John & Lena O'Nan, 63
Jordan & Wendy Turnage, 5
Joseph & Diane Jordan, 50
Kevin & Ann Kauffeld, 40
Michael & Connie Perry, 51
Phillip & Cynthia Hornbeak, 52
Shayne & Kelly Veatch, 25
- St. William, Knottsville**
David & Charlotte Payne, 53
Ethan & Katie Ford, 10
Garry & Dian Johnson, 51
Gary & Debora Fulkerson, 52
Hubert & Joyce Hurm, 56
Jack & Mary Ann Haycraft, 62
Jackie & Dorothy Kirk, 58
Joseph & Dianne Harley, 51
Joseph & Marianne McPherson, 58
Robert & Anna Turner, 72
Tony & Diana Elliott, 62
Walter & Mary Isbill, 64
Will & Sophie Howard, 5
- St. William, Marion**
Bill & Sherry Frazer, 57
- Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**
Budgie & Carla Payne, 63
David & Anna Faye Montgomery, 59
Dean & Janie Stiff, 25
Larry Ray & Arlene Dunn, 56
Mark & Susan Woodward, 40
Paul & Linda Mitchell, 51
Richard & Nancy O'Bryan, 50
Terry & Brenda Royal, 55
- Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**
Donald & Mary Ann Moore, 66
Garrett & Jessica Wadley, 5
Michael & Mary Kay Green, 57
Robert & Christine Stites, 50 ■

Happy anniversary to our priests!

In May we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

Fr. Fid Levri, GHM | Ordained 5/13/1967
Retired

Bishop William F. Medley | Ordained 5/22/1982
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

Fr. Bruce Fogle | Ordained 5/21/1983
Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Paducah

Fr. Tony Bickett | Ordained 5/21/1983
Retired

Fr. Greg Trawick | Ordained 5/11/1985
Pastor of St. Henry Parish, Aurora; and St. Stephen Parish, Cadiz

Fr. Terry Devine | Ordained 5/11/1985
Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawesville; and St. Columba Parish, Lewisport

Fr. Larry Hostetter | Ordained 5/30/1987 | *President of Brescia University, Owensboro*

Fr. Larry McBride | Ordained 5/30/1987
Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson

Fr. Freddie Byrd | Ordained 5/28/1988
Pastor of St. Ann Parish, Morganfield

Fr. Bruce McCarty | Ordained 5/27/1989
Pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown

Fr. Darrell Venters | Ordained 5/27/1989
Pastor of St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm

Fr. Dave Johnson | Ordained 5/27/1989
Pastor of Sacred Heart & St. Peter of Antioch Parishes, Waverly

Fr. Richard Cash | Ordained 5/27/1989
Coordinator of Catholic Pastoral Care at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital

Fr. Tony Jones | Ordained 5/27/1989
Pastor of St. Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg

Fr. Ray Clark | Ordained 5/25/1991
Chaplain of Carmel Home, Owensboro

Fr. John Thomas | Ordained 5/29/1993
Rector of St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Fr. Carl McCarthy | Ordained 5/27/1995

Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Madisonville

Fr. Mike Clark | Ordained 5/27/1995
Pastor of Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Brian Roby | Ordained 5/25/1996
Pastor of St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville; and St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Fr. Brian Johnson | Ordained 5/31/1997
Pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Calvert City; and St. Anthony Parish, Grand Rivers

Fr. David Kennedy | Ordained 5/31/1997
Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Providence; Immaculate Conception Parish, Earlington; and Resurrection Parish, Dawson Springs

Fr. Mike Williams | Ordained 5/31/1997
Parochial vicar of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro; and chaplain at Brescia University

Fr. Lustein Blanco Grajales | Ordained 5/9/1998
Parochial vicar of St. Michael Parish, Sebree

Fr. Eric Riley | Ordained 5/23/1998
Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield

Fr. Tom Buckman | Ordained 5/20/2000
Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Franklin; and Christ the King Parish, Scottsville

Fr. Randy Howard | Ordained 5/26/2001
Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green

Fr. Al Bremer | Ordained 5/25/2002
Parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville; and sacramental minister of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Guthrie

Fr. Mark Buckner | Ordained 5/25/2002
Pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Utica

Fr. Jason McClure | Ordained 5/24/2003
Chaplain and director of St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, Bowling Green; ministry to Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, Bowling Green; vicar for clergy

Fr. Daniel Dillard | Ordained 5/30/2009
Parochial vicar of Sts. Joseph and

Paul Parish, Owensboro; chaplain at Owensboro Catholic High School; and director of vocations

Fr. Joshua McCarty | Ordained 5/30/2009
Pastor of St. Leo Parish, Murray; chaplain and director of Catholic Newman Center, Murray State University; director of ongoing formation for priests

Fr. Brandon Williams | Ordained 5/29/2010
Pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Peonia; St. Augustine Parish, Grayson Springs; and St. Benedict Parish, Wax; and co-coordinator of the Office of Worship

Fr. Steve Hohman | Ordained 5/29/2010
Pastor of St. Paul Parish, Grayson County

Fr. Uwem Enoch | Ordained 5/29/2010
United States Air Force Chaplain

Fr. Ryan Harpole | Ordained 5/21/2011
Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green

Fr. Emmanuel Udoh | Ordained 5/31/2014
Pastor of Rosary Chapel, Paducah; and St. Mary Parish, La Center

Fr. Will Thompson | Ordained 5/31/2014
Pastor of St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley; and St. Augustine Parish, Reed; part-time defender of the bond in the Diocesan Tribunal

Fr. Gary Clark | Ordained 5/30/2015
Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah

Fr. Michael Charles Ajigo | Ordained 5/30/2015
Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, Cloverport; and Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Irvington

Fr. Basilio Az Cuc | Ordained 5/28/2016
Parochial vicar of St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah

Fr. Jamie Dennis | Ordained 5/28/2016
Parochial vicar of Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than | Ordained

5/23/2020

Parochial vicar of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson

In June we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

Fr. Frank Ruff, GHM | Ordained 6/1/1963
Retired

Fr. Frank Roof | Ordained 6/10/1972
Retired

Fr. Joseph Schoettle | Ordained 6/8/1974
Parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Richard Meredith | Ordained 6/3/1978
Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville

Fr. Robert Drury | Ordained 6/2/1979
Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Hickman; St. Edward Parish, Fulton; and St. Jude Parish, Clinton

Fr. Ray Goetz | Ordained 6/6/1981
Chaplain of Mount Saint Joseph; Part-time Lecturer of Theology at Brescia University, Owensboro

Fr. Patrick Cooney, OSB | Ordained 6/1/1991
Judicial vicar of the Diocesan Tribunal

Fr. Julio Barrera | Ordained 6/1/2013
Pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, Beaver Dam; and Holy Trinity Parish, Morgantown; Director of Formation for Hispanic Candidates for Permanent Diaconate

In July we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling | Ordained 7/2/2022
Parochial vicar of Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green

Fr. John Vaughan | Ordained 7/20/1974
Pastor of Immaculate Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Jojy Joseph, HGN | Ordained 7/18/2008
Pastor St. Paul Parish, Princeton; and St. Mark Parish, Eddyville ■

Please continue to pray for more vocations in our diocese!

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Muy estimados hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Después del tiroteo en la escuela de Nashville hace unas semanas en el que murieron seis personas, incluidos tres niños de nueve años, comencé a considerar escribir mi próximo artículo para El Católico de Kentucky Occidental sobre el tema de la violencia con armas de fuego. Investigué un poco y comencé a organizar el artículo en mi mente. Mientras me sentaba en mi escritorio para escribir por la mañana del lunes después de la Pascua, mi teléfono me alertó sobre los primeros informes de otro tiroteo masivo en un lugar de trabajo en el centro de Louisville. Como fui ordenado sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de Louisville y serví allí durante muchos años antes de ser ordenado como obispo de Owensboro, conozco a cientos de personas que trabajan en el centro de Louisville.

A medida que se supo la noticia de al menos cinco muertos y varios más transportados a hospitales, incluidos dos oficiales de policía, me esforcé por concentrarme en escribir. Escribí durante un par de horas y sentí que mi enojo aumentaba a medida que surgían más detalles.

Finalmente me di cuenta de que mi ira era lo que estaba escribiendo el artículo. Si alguna vez la ira puede ser justa, seguramente el asesinato sin sentido de personas inocentes sería tal ocasión. Pero la ira también puede ser pecaminosa; de hecho, la Iglesia identifica la ira como uno de los siete pecados capitales.

Entonces, ¿cómo se aborda la violencia con armas de fuego de una manera pastoral? ¿Cómo se

consuela a un hombre o una mujer que ha perdido a su cónyuge, a un hijo que ha perdido a un padre, o a un padre que ha perdido a un hijo? ¿Por dónde comenzamos a tratar de convertir la ira en algo constructivo? ¿Es eso posible?

Los Estados Unidos está lejos de ser la nación más violenta del mundo. Hay lugares donde las milicias criminales están armadas y no pueden ser controladas por autoridades policiales o militares legítimas. Leemos sobre Rusia bombardeando escuelas y hospitales y barrios residenciales en Ucrania, y el mundo civil está indignado.

Sin embargo, no parecemos mostrar, una voluntad decisiva como nación en adoptar límites de sentido común sobre la posesión de armas o sobre lo fácil que es conseguir armas automáticas de asalto. Tal vez debería decir más bien que nuestro Congreso no muestra tal voluntad. Las encuestas y los estudios muestran que la gran mayoría de los estadounidenses está a favor de una legislación de sentido común que en otros países ha reducido significativamente la violencia armada. ¿Estamos nosotros exigiendo cuentas a estos representantes de manera clara y verbal?

Después del tiroteo en Nashville, un miembro del Congreso dijo en una entrevista: “Si quieres legislar el mal, simplemente no va a suceder. Necesitamos un verdadero avivamiento en este país”. No quiero parodiar, como muchos lo hacen, a quienes ante la violencia nos aseguran de sus “pensamientos y oraciones” sin un deseo de cambios tangibles. Pero como católicos, creemos que la oración y el trabajo van de la mano (“ora et labora”). Una forma en que

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MAYO DE 2023	
1 DE MAYO	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María Magdalena, Sorgho
3 DE MAYO	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Cristo Rey, Madisonville
4 DE MAYO	9 a.m. Misa escolar – Campus OCS K-3, Owensboro
6 DE MAYO	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pablo, Leitchfield
7 DE MAYO	10 a.m. Misa por el 150 Aniversario – Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón, Russellville 3 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro
10 DE MAYO	10 a.m. Reunión del personal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro 6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Miguel Arcángel, Oak Grove
12 DE MAYO	6 p.m. Cena de Agradecimiento para Líderes Catequéticos Parroquiales – Parroquia San Pío X, Owensboro
13 DE MAYO	10 a.m. Graduación de la Universidad de Brescia – Centro Riverpark, Owensboro
14 DE MAYO	2 p.m. Graduación de la Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro – Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter]
15 DE MAYO	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro

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CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MAYO DE 2023	
16-18 DE MAYO	Reunión de Obispos de la Provincia – Arquidiócesis de Louisville
19 DE MAYO	7 p.m. Graduación de la Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad – Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad, Whitesville
20 DE MAYO	10 a.m. Ordenación sacerdotal – Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah 7 p.m. Graduación de la Escuela Preparatoria Santa María – Escuela Preparatoria Santa María, Paducah
21 DE MAYO	10:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Preciosa Sangre, Owensboro
23 DE MAYO	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Horas de Oficina en Paducah – Hospital Mercy Health Lourdes
24 DE MAYO	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro 5:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam (inglés)
25 DE MAYO	5:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam (español)
27 DE MAYO	4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San León, Murray
28 DE MAYO	11 a.m. Confirmación – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
31 DE MAYO	5:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville.

podemos actuar es exigir que se tome acción por parte de nuestros representantes electos. A través de nuestros pensamientos y oraciones, somos llamados a la acción, llamados a exigir una respuesta, llamados a comenzar a considerar soluciones.

Otro miembro del Congreso mencionó hace poco: “Un informe reciente afirma que los estadounidenses poseen el 46 por ciento de las armas del mundo, creo que debemos aumentar estos números”.

Comentarios como estos son obscenos. Esto me recuerda la historia bíblica de la adoración del becerro de oro donde la gente pone su fe en algo que no es Dios para protegerlos. Esto verdaderamente es idolatría.

Otra forma de abordar esta violencia es preguntarle a nuestra nación: “¿Cómo nos está yendo en esto?” ¿Cómo nos protege la proliferación de armas, sin siquiera una medida modesta de control, mientras que nuestros hermanos, hermanas e hijos muertos se cuentan ya por los cientos?

Nuestro país es el único entre las principales naciones del mundo que tolera tal matanza. Después del tiroteo en la escuela en el condado de Marshall en 2018, escribí: “Hacer un llamado a nuestra nación para que restrinja las armas de alguna forma, de ninguna manera excluye los deportes razonables con armas. Establecemos límites viales de velocidad para salvar vidas. Desafiamos las voces a favor del derecho a decidir y a favor del aborto porque la vida humana en el útero es creada a imagen de Dios y es sagrada. Sí, esto limita el control de una mujer sobre su cuerpo, pero por el bien mayor de preservar la vida humana”.

Han pasado más de cinco años desde que los adolescentes murieron en un tiroteo masivo aquí en nuestra diócesis en la Escuela Preparatoria del

Condado de Marshall. Cinco años, y como nación y como sociedad no hemos hecho nada para frenar la violencia insensata. Como creyentes en Jesucristo, no tenemos que aceptar este modelo pecaminoso de muertes innecesarias. Como ciudadanos, podemos exigir a nuestros líderes que sean genuinamente provida.

William F. Medley

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro



Dos seminaristas serán ordenados en mayo

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El sábado, 20 de mayo de 2023, el Diácono Christopher Grief y el Diácono Christopher Kight, seminaristas de la Diócesis de Owensboro, serán ordenados sacerdotes en la Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah.

Ambos seminaristas crecieron en Paducah, razón por la cual las ordenaciones se llevarán a cabo en Santo Tomás Moro. Por lo general, las ordenaciones al sacerdocio se llevan a cabo en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro.

Al estudiar para el sacerdocio, el Diácono Kight dijo que una de sus experiencias más formativas fue asistir al programa de inmersión en español en Guatemala. Esto fomentó su devoción al Beato Stanley Rother, un sacerdote de Oklahoma que fue martirizado mientras servía como misionero en Guatemala.

Algo que el Diácono Kight espera con ansias es “presidir la Misa y estar con las personas en su vida cotidiana, tanto en las realidades tristes como en las alegres”.

El Diácono Grief dijo que no es fácil escuchar el llamado de Dios, especialmente en este mundo secular. Dijo que durante muchos años siguió una carrera e hizo lo que quería hacer.

“Pero no estaba satisfecho”, dijo. “No estaba feliz”.

Eventualmente, a través del tiempo en adoración y oración personal, “me di cuenta de que estaba destinado a algo más”, dijo el Diácono Grief.

Él está emocionado “por continuar predicando el Evangelio y por celebrar la Misa”. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE SAN MEINRAD

El Diácono Christopher Grief es hijo de la Parroquia San Juan Evangelista en Paducah.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE SAN MEINRAD

El Diácono Christopher Kight es hijo de la Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah.

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Dra. Iris Gutierrez LCSW

COLABORACION \$15.00

REGISTRACIONES ABIERTAS

FECHA TOPE 20 DE MAYO

Contactos:

Dcn. Cristobal Gutierrez (270) 880-8018
Angelica Moussa (270) 852-8341



OFICINA DEL
MINISTERIO HISPANO
DIÓCESIS DE OWENSBORO

Parroquias con misa en Español



Vía Crucis vivientes presentados por católicos hispanos/latinos

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

La Semana Santa es una semana solemne y de oración para todos los católicos, incluidos los católicos hispanos/latinos, muchos de los cuales celebran con devociones tradicionales en las parroquias de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Una tradición popular incluye el Vía Crucis viviente, en las que los fieles, en un espíritu de oración, representan los acontecimientos del camino de Jesús hacia el Calvario.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE JENNY GLENN

El P. Carmelo Jiménez enciende el fuego durante la Vigilia Pascual del 8 de abril de 2023 en la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE JENNY GLENN

Los feligreses de la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree participan en la liturgia del Domingo de Ramos el 2 de abril de 2023.

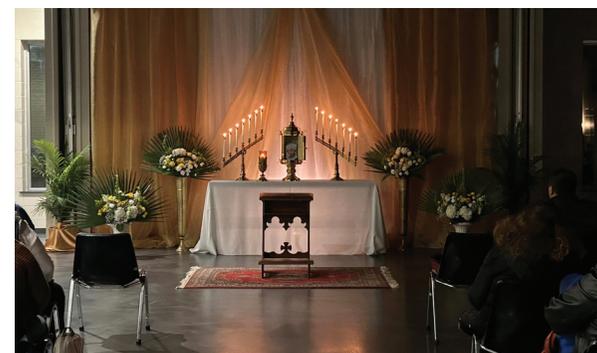


FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. COREY D. BRUNS

El Altar del Reposo se instala en el centro comunitario parroquial de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green el Jueves Santo, 6 de abril de 2023.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE ABRAHAM BROWN

El P. Stephen Van Lal Than, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson, lava y besa los pies de una feligresa durante la Misa de la Cena del Señor del 6 de abril de 2023 el Jueves Santo.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. COREY D. BRUNS

Los actores, en un espíritu de oración, representan a Jesús encontrándose con Nuestra Señora y San Juan durante el Vía Crucis viviente el Viernes Santo, 7 de abril de 2023, en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.

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FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE MARIA MOLINA

La Parroquia Santa María en Franklin celebra la Semana Santa con el Vía Crucis viviente, en el que los feligreses, y el párroco, el P. Tom Buckman, representan en un espíritu de oración las estaciones de la cruz para meditar en la Pasión de Cristo.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. COREY D. BRUNS

El P. Corey D. Bruns sostiene el crucifijo mientras un niño lo besa durante la Veneración de la Cruz en la liturgia del Viernes Santo el 7 de abril de 2023.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE ABRAHAM BROWN

Las mujeres llevan las ofrendas al altar durante una liturgia de Semana Santa en la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson.

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Díacono Cristóbal Gutiérrez
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Diócesis de Owensboro
chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org
270-880-8018



Saint Meinrad

Con gratitud y fe, Moussa disfruta trabajar en el centro pastoral

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Cuando Angélica Moussa llegó a los Estados Unidos en 2021 con su madre, Raja el Khouri, no tenía idea de que algún día obtendría una nueva familia de trabajo en el Centro Católico McRaith de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Moussa y su madre llegaron a los Estados Unidos desde Venezuela con el Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS, por sus siglas en inglés), un estatus migratorio proporcionado a los ciudadanos de países designados que experimentan problemas que hacen que sea difícil o inseguro vivir allí. Se establecieron en Owensboro, donde se convirtieron en feligreses de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo. Moussa tenía un trabajo, pero esperaba poder encontrar algo que usara mejor sus dones creativos.

Se enteró de que la diócesis estaba buscando un asistente administrativo para apoyar varias oficinas. Presentó su aplicación y, el 17 de noviembre de 2022, comenzó su nuevo rol como asistente administrativa de las oficinas diocesanas del Ministerio Hispano/Latino, Recursos Humanos y Ambiente Seguro.

Desde entonces, se ha acomodada en el puesto y ha llegado a disfrutar el trabajo que considera una gran bendición ya que trabaja con el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez en la oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino, Mary Hall en la oficina de Recursos Humanos y Janice Hendricks en la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro.

“Todos merecemos una oportunidad para tener éxito”, dijo. “Dios me puso en el camino correcto para seguir creciendo; me siento bendecida y agradecida con cada uno de mis compañeros de trabajo”.

Moussa dijo que desde que llegó a Owensboro, Dios le ha abierto las puertas y ha estado ahí para ella en los “altibajos, momentos de amor y decepción” de la vida, como cuando se enteró del diagnóstico de cáncer de su madre a principios de este año.

La cirugía de su madre salió bien y actualmente está en camino a la recuperación, pero

Moussa dice que el comienzo del año fue un desafío.

“Gracias a Dios por poner en mi camino a personas maravillosas con las que trabajo y que han sido mi familia en los momentos difíciles que he vivido al inicio de este año”, dijo agradecida con su párroco, el P. Jean-Rene Kalombo, el asistente legal de Caridades Católicas Miguel Quintanilla, el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, su madre y su novio y su familia.

Dijo que estas personas han sido su apoyo en los momentos de preocupación durante la situación de la salud de su madre.

Habiendo estudiado diseño gráfico en la escuela Félix María Paredes en Venezuela, donde recibió su título de licenciatura, Moussa disfruta especial-



RILEY GREIF | WKC

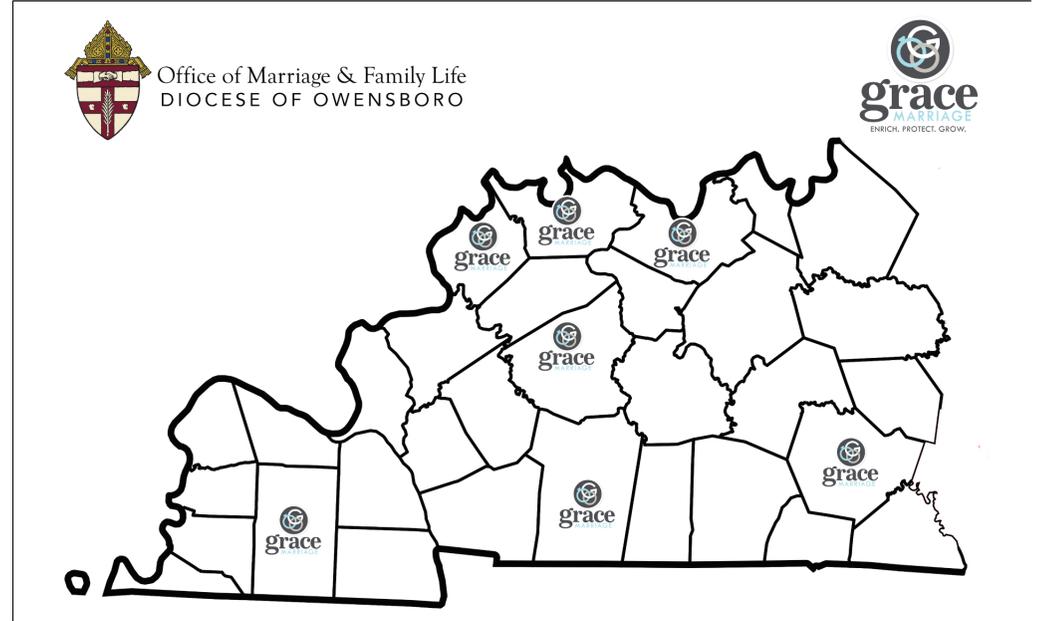
El Obispo William F. Medley saluda a Angélica Moussa (centro) y a su madre, Raja el Khouri, antes de la Misa Crismal del 4 de abril de 2023 en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro.

mente de las oportunidades de hacer trabajos de diseño entre sus diversas responsabilidades.

“Me siento muy orgullosa de quien soy y de cómo voy creciendo en el camino que Dios escogió para mí”, dijo. “No ha sido fácil; ha sido un reto para mí. La vida me dio un giro de 360 grados cuando pisé suelo estadounidense, y por eso estoy muy agradecida”.

Moussa agregó que “tener fe es lo que nos hace seguir adelante, pero no es solo un dicho, sino realmente es algo que se siente, creer es lo que nos da la fuerza para ser mejores, tener fe es lo más grande que Dios nos da, porque así es como pone a prueba a sus guerreros más fuertes”. ■

Grace Marriage continued from page 39



COURTESY OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Growth of Grace Marriage: After piloting a year of Grace Marriage in 2019 with 22 couples from Owensboro-area parishes, the marriage ministry has grown rapidly throughout the Diocese of Owensboro to more than 150 couples. This map shows the current 11 Grace Marriage locations in the diocese, including St. Pius X, Lourdes, St. Stephen Cathedral, and Immaculate in Owensboro; Holy Spirit in Bowling Green; St. Mary of the Woods in Whitesville; St. Jerome in Fancy Farm; Holy Name of Jesus in Henderson; Christ the King in Madisonville; Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville; and Union County.

session is four hours once a quarter. It's consistent and ongoing, but manageable.

Speaking from personal experience, my wife and I have been in Grace Marriage for four years and we plan to continue. I would say we had a great marriage going into it. We didn't have problems. We didn't "need" it. We were fine. But once we got into the rhythm of it, we can't imagine not having it. ■

Danny May is the director of the Office of Marriage & Family Life in the Diocese of Owensboro. To learn more about Grace Marriage, visit owensborodiocese.org/grace-marriage.

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