

THE WESTERN  
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Bishop William F. Medley distributes Holy Communion during the Sophia Awards Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on Sept. 10, 2023.  
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Front page main photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

## Submissions

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

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# A Word From Bishop Medley

## **Free resources to be provided to individuals and families on Safe Haven Sunday**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Pornography is not a topic most adults are comfortable speaking about. This is especially the case when it comes to parents addressing it with their children. Unfortunately, it's the topic that's becoming more and more necessary to address in our digital age. To help parents with this topic, our diocese's Office of Marriage & Family Life, in collaboration with the Office of Communications, developed the Clean Heart Initiative website, <https://cleanheartinitiative.org>.

Research indicates that the first exposure to internet pornography is often during the elementary school years. This often occurs by accident. Perhaps your child typed in the wrong word on social media, your nephew clicked on the wrong YouTube video, or your godchild's friend showed him his first sexually explicit image on Instagram. When parents and guardians haven't created an environment where it's safe and welcome to talk about uncomfortable topics, children will often hide these experiences out of shame and embarrassment.

Pornography creates an impediment to obtaining deep and lasting relationships with God and with others. But here in our diocese we are passionate about the domestic church and it's our duty and responsibility to guide and equip individuals and parents with forming children to live virtuous and holy lives - both online and offline. To provide you with the tools you need to overcome pornography and to make your home a safe haven for children

and adults - one free of pornography - the Diocese of Owensboro will celebrate its first annual Safe Haven Sunday on Sunday, October 29.

Within the context of Mass that weekend, parishes across western Kentucky will have the opportunity to provide teaching and resources that will support and protect individuals, marriages, and families in making all homes safer. Safe Haven Sunday, and the Clean Heart Initiative, are inspired by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' formal statement "Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography," which explains that, "The use of pornography by anyone in the home deprives the home of its role as a safe haven and has negative effects throughout a family's life and across generations."

By celebrating this awareness day with the theme, "Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children," we as a community are saying we want holy, healthy, and safe homes - free of pornography and other online threats that deprive the home of its role as a safe haven.

To help marriages and families, each home in our diocese will be offered a physical or digital copy of the book, "Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture." This book includes a unique seven-day text-to-opt-in program from Covenant Eyes, the Safe Digital Family Challenge. This challenge provides practical tips that adults can take to create safer digital environments for themselves and our young people.

I encourage you to take advantage of these

<b>BISHOP MEDLEY'S OCTOBER 2023 CALENDAR</b>	
<b>OCT. 1</b>	6 p.m.   Mass and Dinner with Students – Newman Center, Murray State University
<b>OCT. 4</b>	6:30 p.m.   Confirmation – St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Guthrie
<b>OCT. 5</b>	9 a.m.   Breakfast with Senior Priests – Madisonville
<b>OCT. 8</b>	10:30 a.m.   Installation of Pastor – Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson
<b>OCT. 9-24</b>	Pilgrimage to Nigeria
<b>OCT. 25</b>	10 a.m.   Diocesan Staff Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
<b>OCT. 26-27</b>	Brescia Board Meeting – Brescia University, Owensboro
<b>OCT. 28</b>	9 a.m.   Pro-life Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
<b>OCT. 29</b>	4 p.m.   Evening Prayer and Holy Hour for the 10th Anniversary of Perpetual Adoration – St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville
<b>OCT. 30</b>	10 a.m.   Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro

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Bishop Medley continued from page 3



Scan the QR code above to download a free digital book, "Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture."

resources and ask that you be intentional about taking the steps suggested to ensure safety for you, your loved ones, and our local community. The book will be provided at many parishes and there is also a QR code for parents to download a digital copy of the book.

Pornography doesn't need to be fought alone. It is my hope that the resources provided to you on Safe Haven Sunday and through the Clean Heart Initiative will both encourage and teach all individuals and families dealing with the effects of pornography that loving support is available. It's worth battling pornography for wholeness and purity for you, your spouse, your children, and the future of everyone in our diocese. ■

May God bless you all,

Bishop William F. Medley  
Diocese of Owensboro

## 'It's beautiful because God loves broken things,' says Ohio woman who constructed rosary from Kentucky tornado debris

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In July 2022, Cassandra Falcone was cleaning up debris from the December 2021 tornadoes in western Kentucky when she came across an unusual sight: "little beads sticking up out of the ground."

Falcone, who was on a mission trip with her Ohio parish to assist those impacted by the storms, thought at first that she had found someone's missing rosary. Realizing it was just a string of plastic beads like that of a beaded curtain or a necklace, she put it on the debris pile.

"Then the word 'rosary' stayed in my head and wouldn't go away," Falcone told The Western Kentucky Catholic in a phone interview. Later that day she returned to the debris pile and retrieved the beads, unwilling to let them be hauled away with the rest of the garbage.

"I couldn't leave them," said Falcone, who



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Bishop William F. Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro looks at a rosary mailed to him by Cassandra Falcone, an Ohio woman whose parish mission trip helped with cleanup after December 2021 tornadoes devastated portions of western Kentucky. Falcone had assembled the rosary out of beads she uncovered in debris from the tornadoes.

belongs to Sts. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Twinsburg, Ohio.

She put the beads in her pocket, uncertain what to do next, but relieved that she hadn't left them behind. In the evening, she rinsed the dirt off the beads and continued to reflect on her discovery – and noticed there were 55 beads. (A standard five-decade rosary contains 53 beads for the Hail Mary prayers.)

At this point Falcone recognized the string of beads was meant to become a rosary.

When the mission trip returned home to Ohio, Falcone washed the beads thoroughly, and began to

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### *Rosary continued from page 4*

research rosary-making. She had never made a rosary before, nor did she know anyone who made them.

With the encouragement and support of her pastor, Fr. Michael Stalla, Falcone delved into the world of rosary-making. She purchased a small jewelry-style drill so she could put holes in the tiny beads; they had been glued to the string and needed to be drilled before threading onto the wire.

She searched online for the supplies specific to rosary-making, and came across Our Lady's Rosary Makers, a non-profit Catholic apostolate within the Archdiocese of Louisville.

"When I saw the Kentucky connection I knew I was on the right path," said Falcone.

Around Christmas 2022, with her new supplies in hand, Falcone said a prayer and began drilling the holes. The process went smoothly enough, and soon she was putting the beads onto the wire loops to make the "links" for the rosary.

Falcone found beautiful silver beads for the Our Father prayers, which complemented the original black beads. But she was stumped when it came to the right crucifix and rosary centerpiece fixture; she had purchased a set early on but had lost track of them.

She finally found the perfect rosary crucifix detailed with black enamel on Etsy – "that matched all the beads," she said – and when it arrived in the mail, it included a free Miraculous Medal themed rosary centerpiece.

"Again, God provided what he wanted me to use," said Falcone.

She completed the project over two Sunday afternoons, and when it was finished, she knew what she was meant to do with the rosary.

With Fr. Stalla's assistance, Falcone wrote to her bishop, Bishop Edward C. Malesic, for permission

to send the rosary to Bishop William F. Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro – where her mission trip had helped with tornado cleanup.

Bishop Malesic granted her permission, and he and Fr. Stalla helped Falcone find the address for the Owensboro diocese and mail the rosary.

When Bishop Medley received the rosary, and an extensive letter from Falcone detailing her journey, he wrote her a note of gratitude. He also took it along on a recent pilgrimage he led to the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland. The rosary is now back home in Owensboro, to stay.

Falcone told The Western Kentucky Catholic that she is no stranger to devastating storms. She said that in 1985, an EF-3 tornado went through her hometown in Ohio, and while she was fine, it impacted her "friends, classmates, and people I worked with."

Since then, she has deep empathy for those who have experienced the trauma of a tornado.

"You can donate money and send prayers – and those are wonderful," said Falcone, but expressed that this time, she had felt a strong urge "to do more."

Falcone said she heard a voice in her heart telling her that she would get her chance, so she waited patiently. That time came when Fr. Stalla announced that their parish would be sending a mission trip to western Kentucky to help with the recovery and restoration process.

Now she understands why.

In her letter to Bishop Medley, Falcone wrote that "God didn't want a rosary made of gemstones or fine materials. He wanted a rosary made from beads that were literally broken by hell's fury on this earth, beads that had been turned into junk and discarded as worthless... it's made beautiful because



COURTESY OF CASSANDRA FALCONE

Cassandra Falcone of Twinsburg, Ohio, constructs a cameo-centered rosary at her home workstation. The workstation, on her dining room table, includes a blue rubber mat to keep her work area tidy, and a bead tray made especially for rosary-making to help organize the beads.

God loves broken and imperfect things, especially people, very, very much!"

Nearly two years have passed since the tornadoes, and Falcone told the WKC that recovering from such devastation "is not a sprint – it's a marathon. And some people can run that marathon faster than others."

She thinks back to the ministry of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and how her work was focused on the reality that "God loves anything that's broken."

As she wrote in her letter to Bishop Medley, "We are all like the beads of this rosary – weathered, imperfect, all the same yet a little different, and yes, even broken at times by our earthly journey. Yet God loves us and works to help us become more beautiful, more perfect through his love, grace and mercy. The story of this rosary is the story of all of us."

She told the WKC that she sees the rosary as a gift to the people of Kentucky.

"God had his timing on this, and he still does," she said. ■

# ‘It’s like a family’: Religious sister from Vietnam enjoys studying at Brescia

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Sr. Chanh Ngo may be the only member of her religious congregation attending Brescia University in Owensboro, but she nonetheless feels “it’s like a family.”

As a Sister of Our Lady of Unity from Vietnam, Sr. Chanh is one of the many priests, religious and seminarians from the country who have been able to attend school in the United States thanks to Formation Support for Vietnam.

Through the financial assistance provided by this nonprofit organization, Vietnamese priests, religious and seminarians can attend U.S. seminaries and Catholic colleges and universities.

“Some stay to teach here,” said Sr. Chanh, adding that others return home to Vietnam to serve the local Church after their education and religious formation has concluded.

Sr. Chanh, who is majoring in theology with an emphasis on pastoral studies, and hopes to also minor in professional writing, said the current plan is that she will head home to Vietnam after receiving her degree.

“My community has schools for kindergarteners, medical clinics, and helps the poor,” she said. “We don’t have just one mission – we have many.”

The religious sister has been in the U.S. for five and a half years. Two and a half of those years have been spent at Brescia, which is able to provide her with free tuition because of Formation Support for



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Sr. Chanh Ngo stands inside Fr. Leonard Alvey Library at Brescia University in Owensboro on Aug. 14, 2023.

Vietnam. She anticipates graduating in 2025.

Three other members of her congregation are also studying in the United States, with two studying in Maryland and another studying in Massachusetts.

She lives on campus with seven other religious sisters from Vietnam, who belong to various other congregations. Sr. Chanh said that despite being of different congregations, “it is like a small religious community.”

“We pray together, do vespers together,” she said.

The sisters also share a resilience from having grown up in Vietnam when Catholicism was not freely practiced. Sr. Chanh said that when she was a child, they often did not have a priest available to celebrate Mass, due to the communist government’s crackdown on Christianity at the time.

However, she remembers seeing religious sisters serve the local community: “They were really simple and humble, they taught catechism to the kids to help keep the faith and helped it grow in my hometown.”

Despite priests and other Catholics being imprisoned by the government – including Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen van Thuan, who was kept in solitary confinement by the communists for 13 years – Catholicism survived in Vietnam.

Usually, said Sr. Chanh, the government ignored the women, so many of these sisters were able to help with the Catholics’ secret practice of their faith. This included smuggling wine and hosts to imprisoned priests so that they could secretly celebrate Mass.

“They would hide the host in a medicine container and say (to the jailers) that it was medicine,” she said. In a certain sense, this was true: it was medicine for the soul.

The powerful example of these Christians, especially the women religious, helped her discern her own vocation to consecrated life. This summer, on July 2, 2023, Sr. Chanh made her perpetual vows as a Sister of Our Lady of Unity, which was hosted at the Vietnamese Redemptorist Mission in Houston, Texas.

She looks forward to serving the faithful in Vietnam one day, but for now, she treasures her time in the U.S.

When she isn’t studying, she and her fellow Vietnamese sisters help at the local soup kitchen

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and assist with the art and environment for the campus chapel at Brescia. Over the summer, she goes to St. Louis to spend time with a community of School Sisters of Notre Dame.

“Kentucky is a beautiful place,” said Sr. Chanh. “I like Brescia; the people here are very friendly. Even if the sisters who live with me aren’t of the same congregation, we have unity within our community.” ■



COURTESY OF SR. CHANH NGO  
The four Sisters of Our Lady of Unity who made perpetual vows on July 2, 2023, at Vietnamese Redemptorist Mission in Houston, Texas, stand with their other congregation members; Bishop William F. Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro; and the Redemptorist priests of the mission.

## St. Mary of the Woods Parish’s perpetual adoration *A privileged and graced moment*

BY MEL HOWARD, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

*“Catholics need to recover a sense of awe and adoration before the Eucharist knowing that it is the real and loving presence of the Lord.”- Pope Francis, speaking to organizers of the National Eucharistic Revival in the United States on June 19, 2023.*

The 2013 St. Mary of the Woods Parish long-range pastoral plan invited parishioners to deepen a sense of faith and God’s blessings with a grateful spirit. The formation of a perpetual adoration ministry before the Blessed Sacrament was found to be a way to involve more parishioners in prayer, worship and sacraments.

St. Mary’s current pastor, Fr. Brian Roby, commented, “I’m convinced, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that perpetual adoration is the reason why our parish and schools have enjoyed prosperity since 2013, i.e., we’ve grown by 250 families since the beginning of perpetual adoration; growth in

our schools that has allowed us to enjoy being at full capacity; some of the highest percentages of Mass attendance in the diocese; and the continued growth and practice of stewardship.”

“Our people,” continued Fr. Roby, “are generous, and we know the importance of being centered on the Source and Summit of our lives as Christians. Everything we do, as Church, must ultimately flow from our worship and prayer. When such is reality, we bear great fruit!”

Sept. 29, 2023 is the 10th anniversary of perpetual adoration before the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary of the Woods. The ministry started on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013 as Darlene Crabtree, Jerry and Berdelle Howard, and Bill and Katie Christian adored the Blessed Sacrament during the first three hours.

Thereafter until the present time, St. Mary of the Woods adorers have faithfully signed their names in the record books at the church, and prayed their hour before the Blessed Sacrament.



COURTESY OF MEL HOWARD  
St. Mary of the Woods parishioner Tommy Higdon prays during his hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Aug. 12, 2023.

“We’re so blessed to have Jesus here in this church every day,” said Kathy Stiff.

Keeping the perpetual adoration ministry active in the parish church is one of the services

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of Fr. Roby and volunteer Majella Mills, the overall coordinator. Mills shares the filling of the adoration hours with parish volunteers Hope Brey, Sandy Merritt, Sharon Boarman, and Dottie Pogue.

Of the people who started adoration in 2013, parish records show 159 still actively praying their hour each week before the Blessed Sacrament, said Mills. A total of 220 parishioners (82 men and 138 women) are currently praying in adoration every week. The team has also enlisted 42 substitute adorers who step up to pray an hour when the regular adorer can't be in church at adoration.

As of Jan. 1, 2023, St. Mary parishioners have prayed before the Blessed Sacrament for a total of 91,245 hours. About 10% of the parish step up and sign their name in the register book of adorers weekly.

Mills commented on this record: "Signing the adorers' book is a privilege and a graced moment."

"We give all the praise and glory to God for this beautiful ministry," she said. "The students of St. Mary of the Woods Elementary and Trinity High



COURTESY OF MEL HOWARD

The leadership team for St. Mary of the Woods Parish's perpetual adoration stand in front of the statue of Our Lady. (Left to right) Hope Brey, Sharon Boarman, Majella Mills, Dottie Pogue, and Sandy Merritt.



COURTESY OF MEL HOWARD

Hugh and Mary Johnson, St. Mary of the Woods parishioners, pray during their Aug. 12, 2023 hour of the parish perpetual adoration ministry.

School take time for adoration at least quarterly – with some classes praying in adoration weekly. We thank Jesus for all the blessings he has bestowed on our parish and our schools." ■

*Mel Howard is the founding editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic and retired in 2015. He resides in Whitesville and belongs to St. Mary of the Woods Parish.*

## Safe place for newborns provided as Safe Haven Baby Box is unveiled in Owensboro

BY RILEY GREIF, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Owensboro Fire Department is now home to the #160 Safe Haven Baby Box. Dedication of the box took place Saturday, Aug. 26. Community members lined 9th Street in front of the newly-installed Safe Haven Baby Box. Mayor Tom Watson gave the opening address, highlighting the need for

the box: "Public safety is the number one goal of elected officials."

son went on to share how the project was a joint effort between local government and non-profit organizations.

According to their website, a Safe Haven Baby Box is "a safety device provided for under state's Safe Haven Law and legally permits a mother in crisis to safely, securely, and anonymously surrender

if they are unable to care for their newborn. A Baby Box is installed in an exterior wall of a designated fire station or hospital. It has an exterior door that automatically locks upon placement of a newborn inside the Baby Box, and an interior door which allows a medical staff member to secure the surrendered newborn from inside the designated building."

Owensboro Fire Department's Chief James

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## October is Respect Life Month

In October, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops places special emphasis on respecting every human life, reflecting on how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death. For digital and print resources to help your parish celebrate Respect Life Month, visit [respectlife.org](http://respectlife.org).

Howard, having heard of Safe Haven Baby Boxes from a couple of the firemen, was on board to have the box installed at First Station #1 once the House Bill #155 was passed, making this type of surrender legal in Kentucky. Throughout the process Chief Howard said it was “met with enthusiasm and open hearts.”

One of the organizations that worked closely on the project is Right to Life Owensboro, whose mission is “to educate the public on the dignity of each human life, regardless of his or her circumstances, and to foster respect for human life from conception to natural death.”

Stacey Davis, president of Right to Life Owensboro, worked with Chief Howard, the Knights of Columbus, the Fraternal Order of Police, Owensboro Health and various other organizations and nonprofits to fund the project. Some funding went directly toward the installation of the box, and some will go to yearly maintenance expenses.

A significant contribution came from the Dunn family who raised \$8,000 after their eight-year-old daughter, Lillie, heard about Right to Life on the radio. Inspired to help, she and her brothers began making, selling, and taking donations for their art.

The founder of the Safe Haven Baby Box, Monica Kelsey, was present for the dedication and shared that her passion for the safe surrender of babies



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Monica Kelsey (right), the founder of the Safe Haven Baby Box, helps Stacey Davis, the president of Right to Life Owensboro, and her children, cut the ribbon for #160 Safe Haven Baby Box at Fire Station #1 in Owensboro on Aug. 26, 2023.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Shown is the interior wall side of #160 Safe Haven Baby Box, located at Fire Station #1 in Owensboro, on Aug. 26, 2023. A plaque reads “Bassinet Sponsored by the Lo Family.”

stems from her experience of being surrendered by her mother as an infant.

Ben Cecil, chaplain for Owensboro Fire Department, closed the ceremony in a prayer as individuals placed their hands on the box, quoting the first chapter of James, “to look after orphans

and widows in their distress.” Safe Haven Baby Boxes are making that possible in Kentucky with three babies safely surrendered through baby boxes this year in the state. ■

*Riley Greif is the digital media specialist in the Office of Communications for the Diocese of Owensboro.*



RILEY GREIF | WKC

A crowd gathers on the sidewalk outside Fire Station #1 in Owensboro for the Aug. 26, 2023 installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box. A Baby Box is a safety device provided for under state’s Safe Haven Law and legally permits a mother in crisis to safely, securely, and anonymously surrender if they are unable to care for their newborn.

# The Eucharist: God's daily provision

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF  
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

In the words of St. John Vianney, “What does Jesus do in the Eucharist? If you are in difficulties and sorrows, he will comfort you and relieve you. If you are sick, he will either heal you or give you the strength to suffer so as to merit heaven. If the devil, the world, or the flesh are waging war upon you, he will give you the weapons with which to fight, to resist and win the victory. If you are poor, he will enrich you with all sorts of riches for time and eternity.”

The Eucharist is necessary food for the journey and our Acts 2:42 Small Groups this month are reflecting on God's provision in our lives. God is at work in our lives every moment of every day. In fact, God incidences happen daily, but we often miss the point and consider them as coincidences.

Just as God fed the Israelite community manna in the desert, God feeds us his Body and Blood and provides for our every need. Literally, we can depend on God's daily provision.

When my wife and I were pregnant with our fourth child, we had an ultrasound at 20 weeks. We were sent to a specialist and told that he had a concave chest and other indicators of Down Syndrome. Thirty to forty people gathered at church to pray for us. At our next ultrasound, they could not see the concave chest but still cautioned us to do further testing, even though the amniotic fluid was low, and testing could have negative impact on the baby. We decided to not test further and trust. Joey was born

healthy and graduates from University of Louisville next May!

My dad was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer a year ago in August and we wondered if he would be with us at Christmas. Last weekend, my parents celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. He is living with cancer and every day is a gift.

Our first home in St. Charles, Ill., was another one of those God incidences. My wife, daughter and I moved in with my parents. Housing prices were out of reach for my church salary. Then a home went up for sale a block away from my parents. I called immediately, as the phone number was further west. The guy told me the price and I bought it over the phone!

God works in all our lives in the inevitable suffering, and in ways beyond our wildest dreams. We simply need to see life from God's perspective and recognize that the kingdom of God is present in and through our lives as Christians. God takes a personal and daily interest in our lives and walks with us through it all.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley lifts the Eucharist during Mass for Celebration of Catholic Schools on July 28, 2023, at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson.

As we receive him; Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, we are united to him and him with us. In his deep love, he transforms our human existence into his divinity and walks with us every moment of every day. Come to him and receive your daily provision. ■

Peace in Christ,  
Jeff

*Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, and can be reached at [jeff.andrini@pastoral.org](mailto:jeff.andrini@pastoral.org).*

## Friends, family, and fellow religious gather for sister's 75th jubilee

BY SR. MARIA CARMELITA NAVARRO CARMEL, DCJ, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The date of Carmelite Sister M. Bernadette's 75th Jubilee of Religious Profession was on July 2, but the celebration needed to be moved to Sept. 9, 2023, due to availability of friends, family and fellow sisters. That day, the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus South Central Province, family, and friends gathered at the Carmel Home chapel to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity.

The principal celebrant was Bishop William F. Medley; Fr. Mike Clark and Fr. Patrick Cooney, OSB, concelebrated; and Deacon Richard Beaven assisted. ■



COURTESY OF THE CARMELITE SISTERS

Sr. M. Bernadette Niehaus, Carmel DCJ, surrounded by fellow sisters and priests on the day of her 75th Jubilee of Religious Profession on Sept. 9, 2023.

## Discover the Joy of Being Loved by God!

**“Come and Be” weekend November 3-5**

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite **single Catholic women ages 18-40** to a “Come and Be” Weekend. Be our guest and step aside from the noise of life to spend time in prayer and silence while exploring our beautiful Motherhouse grounds and chapel. You are also invited to join the Ursuline Sisters at Mass, prayer and meals. **Retreat begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday and ends at 1:00 p.m. Sunday.** Meals and accommodations will be provided at no charge.

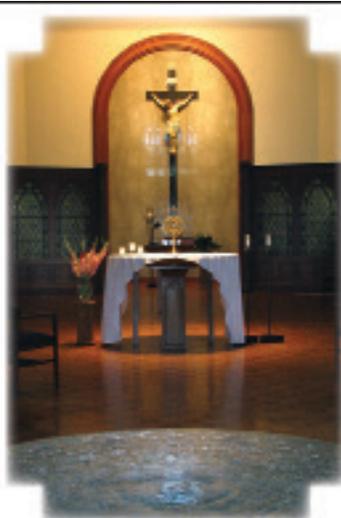


To register,  
call Sister Monica Seaton  
at 270-229-0601 or email  
[monica.seaton@maplemount.org](mailto:monica.seaton@maplemount.org)



**Ursuline Sisters**  
of Mount Saint Joseph

8901 Camerlengo Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356  
270-229-0185 • Fax 270-229-4933  
[www.ursuline.org](http://www.ursuline.org) • [info@ursuline.org](mailto:info@ursuline.org)

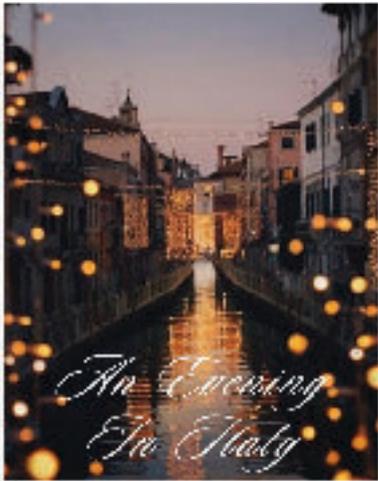


DEAR MOTHERHOUSE

RETREATS & SPIRITUALITY HOME

## SAVE the DATE

10-4-11-2024



An Evening In Italy

## Fr. Shonis receives award at Labor Day Picnic honoring holiday's legacy



COURTESY OF TODD JOHNSON

Rev. Anthony Shonis stands with his J.R. Gray Labor Person of the Year award, presented on Sept. 4, 2023 at the Owensboro Central Labor Council's annual Labor Day Picnic at English Park.

BY KARAH WILSON, MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The 34th annual Labor Day Picnic hosted by the Owensboro Central Labor Council was held Monday at English Park to celebrate the reason for the holiday.

Donna Haynes, financial secretary for the council, said it's important to her to keep the tradition of the picnic alive.

"If we forget where we came from, we forget

what we had, then there's nothing to build on," she said. "I don't want (the picnic) to die, and I'm hoping a younger generation will see what we're doing and why we're doing it."

Haynes said Labor Day is dedicated to the working men and women of the United States.

"It doesn't matter if you work in the best-paying job or flipping hamburgers, you're working, and this is your day," she said.

Across the country, Haynes said union membership is declining.

"We used to be 38% union, and now it's half that," she said. "There is a voice for it now, and I hear a lot more talk about it now."

Haynes said unions fight for job quality and job security.

"If our CEO is making \$10 million a year, we ought to get a percentage of that," she said. "Fast food places wouldn't be offering \$15 an hour if they didn't realize that they have to pay workers to come in to work."

Haynes said unions are needed "now more than ever."

"Prices are skyrocketing, corporate greed has taken over, we got to have jobs," she said.

Jeff Wiggins, secretary-treasure of Kentucky AFL-CIO, said Labor Day is a time to celebrate the labor that is executed everyday.

"The meaning of the holiday has been watered down and lost," he said. "Different communities try to take over Labor Day because it's the last big holiday before the fall."

Wiggins said one statistic he found is related to the amount of younger people in favor of unions.

"Eighty-eight percent of people under 30 want to belong or believe in a labor union," he said.

Berry Craig, Kentucky AFL-CIO executive board member and the event's speaker, said the meaning of Labor Day often gets lost in the celebration.

"People see Labor Day as summer's last hooray," he said. "However, it's about labor and how hard laborers had to struggle in this country."

Craig said life before unions was unlike life today.

"In 1900, for example, if you worked in a factory, you worked 100 hours a week, and there was no overtime," he said. "You basically worked until you couldn't work anymore — there were no pensions, no social security, no worker's compensation, no Medicare, no Medicaid, no unemployment insurance."

Rev. Anthony Shonis received the J.R. Gray Labor Person of the Year award. The award honors Gray, late state representative and labor commissioner.

"(Rev.) Shonis submitted a letter to the newspaper several years ago knocking unions," Haynes said. "I read it, and we called him to come to a council meeting, so he did, and he saw that we were trying to protect immigrants."

Haynes said Shonis has been a "staunch supporter" of the labor council and working people since attending the meeting. ■

*This story was originally printed in the Messenger-Inquirer on Sept. 5, 2023, and has been reprinted with permission.*

# Daughters of Isabella Circle #258 celebrates 100 years

BY AMY SULLIVAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

August 2023 marked the centenary of St. Francis de Sales Parish's Daughters of Isabella Circle #258 in Paducah, Ky., chartered 100 years ago in 1923.

Scribe Laura Shaw, past regent Tracy Crawford, and regent Sheena Thomas Brown oversaw the planning of a celebration held on Aug. 27 at St. Francis de Sales Parish Hall attended by members, their guests, and local clergy. The group is the only remaining circle in Kentucky.

"As many meetings as I had attended, I never paid close attention to our charter that hangs in our meeting hall," said Crawford. "One day last year I decided to look at it in more detail and noticed we were coming upon a hundred years! So we started talking about it at our meetings and agreed we needed a celebratory event."

The evening began with a catered dinner and delectable desserts from Cindy Futch of Cindy's Kitchen bakery and catering. Members and guests were invited to view tables of memorabilia including scrapbooks, photographs, prayer cards, stoles, banners, letters, and other treasures displayed in the hall which invoked reflection upon the circle's rich roots.

Past Regent and Past State Regent Jackie Hopper, and member Mary Weitlauf – whose mothers were also both active members and past officers of Circle #258 beginning in the 1950s and continuing into the new century – shared inspiring historical memories. The two remembered attending Daughters of Isabella state and international conventions in



COURTESY OF LYN SALOVINO

Daughters of Isabella Circle #258 in attendance at the 100th anniversary event on Aug. 27, 2023.

both the U.S. and Canada. They recalled formal initiations of members clad in robes with pomp and circumstance. Many current members have never experienced state or international conventions, and their words inspired the Daughters to consider doing so in the future.

Past Regent Sheri Babbs, a member for more than 20 years, recounted the history of the Daughters of Isabella and shared how the Paducah circle continues to embody its founding motto of unity, friendship, and charity.

The objective of the Daughters of Isabella is to unite Catholic women into a fraternal, beneficial, and social society. Queen Isabella of Castile, for whom the organization is named, aided Christopher Columbus to undertake the greatest voyage in history. Her benevolent sponsorship of the discoveries of the new world, where Christianity

was yet unknown, and untiring preservation of Christianity, is emulated in the Daughters of Isabella, who seek to promote the welfare of the community and to follow in mutually supportive ways the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The national Daughters of Isabella was founded in New Haven, Conn., on May 14, 1897, organized by the members of Russell Council #65 Knights of Columbus and also incorporated as an auxiliary to that Council in 1904. On July 25, 1907, they secured a national charter under the name "National Circle, Daughters of Isabella." The charter gave them permission to establish subordinate branches throughout the country with the purpose of uniting all Catholic women in sisterhood.

St. Francis de Sales Circle #258 was formed in August 1923, long before Kentucky became a state circle in August 1947. Currently, it is the lone

*Continues on page 14*

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### *Isabella continued from page 13*

surviving circle in Kentucky serving the Paducah Deanery. The group is comprised of members from St. Francis de Sales, St. Thomas More, St. John the Evangelist, Rosary Chapel, and St. Mary of LaCenter parishes.

The Daughters have always worked in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, demonstrated year after year with its donations of baked desserts during Lenten fish fry fundraisers and barbecue dinners. Monies raised from these events support their charitable contributions to Hope Unlimited, Victory through Grace Ministries, local Catholic parishes, St. Mary School System, Moses Basket, Easter Seals, Child Watch, and tornado victims in the region.

After this history was shared, Tracy Crawford presented information about the circle's activities in most recent years. Though the current body is small and has undergone participation and attendance challenges since COVID-19, she commended the circle for continuing to come together monthly to lift up those in need of prayer and recite the rosary prior to meetings.

Despite the pandemic, they received dues from many faithful members including longstanding Daughter, Edith Wurth, who passed away a few months ago at age 103. She annually reminded the circle, "I have lived as a Daughter of Isabella and I want to die a Daughter of Isabella" – a goal which she accomplished. The past several months the group planned the anniversary event which included commissioning local artist and Daughters of Isabella member Rebekah Thuline to create a commemorative oil painting of the organization's logo and 100-year milestone that will hang next to the charter at Paducah's Columbia Hall on Jefferson Street.

Current Regent, Sheena Thomas Brown, commented on future plans for the group and said the circle will concentrate on boosting membership in hopes of flourishing another 100 years.

"Our past is rich with service," she said. "In the future we plan to return to our roots, go back to our bylaws and back to the basics, and remind ourselves where we have come from. We want to go back to our mission, focusing on prayerful intentions and service work at a pace we can handle."

Paducah Middle School choral director and former music minister at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Samantha Veal, presented several musical selections, including "We're the Daughters of Isabella," by H. O'Reilly Clint, sung at countless Daughters of Isabella meetings throughout the years.

Member Amy Sullivan read letters from Bishop William F. Medley and D of I International Regent, Micheline Huard, who both congratulated and commended Circle #258 on the 100th anniversary of their charter.

Bishop Medley's letter stated, "To me, a jubilee is not just a time to honor the past and history, but to look ahead and ask now how the charisms that have carried the Daughters of Isabella these one hundred years will continue to further a sacred mission for years and generations to come."

Fr. Gary Clark, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, gave a final blessing and charged those present with continuing to strive in the mission of Christ.

"We need the Daughters of Isabella now more than ever... it's part of your DNA, your makeup and who you are," he said. "Fight for it, because the world is becoming more barbaric, and we don't want to lose this. You have your work cut out for you." ■



COURTESY OF AMY SULLIVAN

Rebekah Thuline holds her commemorative oil painting of the organization's logo and 100-year milestone that will hang next to the charter at Paducah's Columbia Hall on Jefferson Street.

thank  
you!

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph would like to thank every person who supported their ministries by purchasing raffle tickets and/or

attending Quilt Bingo on Sept. 10. To see the raffle winners, visit <https://ursulinesmsj.org/raffle-for-the-ursuline-sisters/>

To see Quilt Bingo photos, including many quilt winners, visit

<https://ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-bingo-brings-lots-of-smiles-and-winners-to-maple-mount/>



**Ursuline Sisters**  
of Mount Saint Joseph  
8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356

# Butler county students put on their ‘happy feet’

BY BERNIE HAYES, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Fr. Joseph O’Donnell Knights of Columbus Council #17606 of Beaver Dam and Morgantown, Ky., was chartered less than three years ago, but they have wasted no time in serving their community in the spirit of Fr. Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus. Each year since their formation, Council #17606 has partnered with the Butler County Family Resource center in providing shoes for school children whose families are unable to do so.

This year, the Knights provided \$1,000 for the purchase of new shoes for the “Happy Feet” Program. On Aug. 2, 2023, 100 pairs of shoes were distributed to students from Morgantown Elementary, North Butler Elementary, Butler County Middle and Butler County High School who came to Morgantown Elementary School to pick out the shoes they wanted from a large stock of shoes. The shoes were provided at a discounted price by Shoe Sensation because of the school’s partnership with the Happy Feet Equals Learning Feet Organization.

Family Resource Center director, Melissa Glass, said “Parents and caregivers bring the children to their appointment and wait in the hall while the children get the chance to enter the gym where we have the shoe store set up. Each child has their foot professionally measured by Shoe Sensation staff. Then they each get to pick out a new pair of Bombas socks, select their new shoes and leave with ‘happy feet’ ready to start back to school. It is one of our favorite programs and we truly appreciate the

Knights of Columbus Fr. Joseph O’Donnell Council! They are our local heroes and their consistent financial support of this program provides a lot of shoes for some very deserving kids.”

The joy in the faces of these young ones is heart-warming. Serving God by serving others is our mission, and we enjoy it! ■

*Bernie Hayes is the treasurer for the Fr. Joseph O’Donnell #17606 Council of the Knights of Columbus.*



COURTESY OF KYLE COLEMAN

Fr. Joseph O’Donnell Knights of Columbus Council #17606 presents a check of \$1,000 for the purchase of new shoes for the “Happy Feet” program on Aug. 2, 2023. (From left) Kyle Coleman (Council #17606 Grand Knight); Amanda Crowell (Shoe Sensation regional manager); Bernie Hayes (Council #17606 treasurer); Melissa Glass (Butler County Family Resource Center director); Brandie Smith (Butler County Family Resource Center assistant ); and Dave Ashley (Council #17606 financial secretary).

## THE 33<sup>RD</sup> DIOCESAN MARIAN CONGRESS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

"ST. JOSEPH, PILLAR OF THE FAMILY"

Keynote Address by Fr. Joseph Morgan, CPM  
Adoration, Marian Procession, and Confessions

4 pm Vigil mass offered at Parish

To be held on the campus of Saint Joseph Catholic Church  
434 Church Ave. Bowling Green, KY 42101

# Owensboro Walk for Life draws 150 people

BY WKC STAFF

Approximately 150 people attended this year's Walk for Life in Owensboro on Sept. 9, 2023. Hosted by Right to Life of Owensboro, the Walk has taken place for 30 years. To learn more about Right to Life of Owensboro, visit [rtlo.org](http://rtlo.org), email [rtlo1973@gmail.com](mailto:rtlo1973@gmail.com), or call (270) 685-4922. ■



COURTESY OF JESSICA ROBINSON  
Members of Brescia University's Students for Life wave as they participate in the Sept. 9, 2023 Walk for Life in Owensboro down Frederica Street.



COURTESY OF JESSICA ROBINSON  
Young people hold a banner for Right to Life of Owensboro during the Sept. 9, 2023 Walk for Life in Owensboro down Frederica Street.



COURTESY OF MARY ANN EBELHAR  
Fr. Jamie Dennis, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, is all smiles after receiving a gift from parishioner Mary Ann Ebelhar. On the t-shirt is "St. Mary Magdalene," printed in textured Braille. The parishioners did not tell Fr. Dennis what was on the shirt, so he was thrilled to read it with his fingers.

## Parish presents unique gift to new pastor

BY LAVIDA MISCHEL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When substituting for previous pastor Fr. Augusty Valomchalil in 2022, Fr. Jamie Dennis mentioned to the parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene that he could see himself living in the beautiful Sorgho community and shepherding the parish, adding that, "The layout of the campus lends itself well to a 37-year-old blind priest."

We all know the saying: "Be careful what you ask for..."

In June 2023, parishioners warmly welcomed new pastor, Fr. Jamie Dennis, to St. Mary Magdalene Parish, as he made his new home in the one-story, smartly laid-out rectory.

This being his first parish on his own, and his

first time living alone, Fr. Jamie quickly mastered the six-acre country campus which encompasses the rectory, church, office, parish hall, and men's club building. Parishioners were amazed that within only a week or two, Fr. Dennis appeared to be totally settled and excitedly happy with his new assignment.

When he is in need of drivers to take him to visit the sick, hospital and schools, there is never a shortage of parishioners volunteering and accepting the task as an enjoyable ministry.

Welcome, Fr. Jamie! It's interesting seeing the world through your eyes! ■

*Lavida Mischel is the administrative assistant at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho.*

# Bishop to celebrate diocese's first-ever Black Catholic History Month Mass

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

Please join the Diocese of Owensboro as we observe Black Catholic History Month with Bishop William F. Medley's celebration of Mass on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at 11:30 AM at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, with a luncheon in the undercroft immediately afterward. Special guests will include representatives of the historic organization of the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver. Volunteers for altar serving, choir, liturgical dance, Eucharistic ministries, greeters and food prep and serving are needed.

Please contact the Office of Black Catholic Ministry for information and to volunteer. Email [veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org](mailto:veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org) or call (270) 683-1545.

Let's make this first celebration in our diocese memorable for all in our diocese. ■

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

## Gathering for Black Catholic Men in October 2023

Register now for the Fr. Chester Smith National Black Catholic Men's Conference in Louisville KY October 12-15, 2023, presented by the Francis Bowsman Ministry. Find details and register here: <https://www.blackcatholicmessenger.com/national-black-catholic-mens-conference-2023/>

## Register for the Certificate Program on Contemporary Black Catholic Spirituality

These online courses from Loyola Marymount University Center for Religion & Spirituality "focus on the concerns of Black Catholics and their unique history, traditions and voice in the universal Church." Registration is open now for 2 courses in October: Black Catholics Sharing their Distinctive Gift of Blackness in the Catholic Church (AAMX 920) and Living the Gospels with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Sr. Dr. Thea Bowman (AAMX 922). Here's the link: <https://crs.lmu.edu/programs/aac/>

## NBCC XIII – The Vision Continues!

Check Eat the Scroll Ministry's new blog for Black Catholics to witness "good or bad," about their experience at the National Black Catholic Congress XIII. This blog will allow participants to process their Congress experience and write a vision for their faith community. And those unable to attend this Congress can hear about the faith of those who did. Visit the link to keep the flame burning from Congress 2023: <https://www.eatthescrollministry.com/nbccxiii-testimonials>

DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO  
**BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH MASS**

Saturday, November 4, 2023 11:30 AM

Please join the Diocese of Owensboro as we observe Black Catholic History Month with Bishop Medley's celebration of Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral with a luncheon in the undercroft immediately afterward. Special guests will include representatives of the historic organization of the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver.



St. Stephen Cathedral 610 Locust Street, Owensboro KY 42301

## Just Need to Talk?



Catholic Charities collaborates with several counselors who offer their services at a reduced rate for parishioners of the Diocese of Owensboro.

For a list of counselors ready to speak to you, visit [owensborodiocese.org/counseling](https://owensborodiocese.org/counseling).

Confidentiality assured.



## Mount honors two new Maple Leaf Award winners at alumni banquet

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

More than 100 alumnae of Mount Saint Joseph Academy returned to Maple Mount on Aug. 27 for Alumnae Weekend, using the theme, “The Wizard of Oz.” The group had a banquet where they honored two new Maple Leaf Award winners: Sheila Ward A’71 and Sister Pam Mueller A’68. This award is bestowed on someone who personifies the values of their Mount Saint Joseph education in contributions to their local faith communities, civic communities, and/or Mount Saint Joseph.

Sheila Ward earned her nursing degree and then



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH  
Sister Pam Mueller A’68, center, accepts her Maple Leaf Award from Stephanie Warren, left, Alumnae Association president, and Carole Caummisar Sanders, her classmate and nominator.

a degree as a nurse midwife. She and her husband Phil Adkins moved to Mississippi, where she worked in a hospital serving indigent people. Ward returned to Kentucky and opened a birthing service in Monticello, and later moved to Louisville, where she provided lectures and trainings, all the while still delivering babies. When she realized there was a need

for prenatal screening for depression, she completed a master’s degree as a psychiatric nurse practitioner. She opened an office in Louisville seeing patients with a range of diagnoses. Ward was named Nurse of the Year in 2008 for the Kentucky chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. Between 2006-2019, Ward visited Kenya four times to provide support and education for orphans and vulnerable children. Her next effort is in September 2023, when she will travel to Ecuador.

Sister Pam Mueller completed six years serving on the Ursuline Leadership Council in 2022, and continues to serve as director of Campus Ministry at Brescia University, where she began in 2005. She has also served as a teacher, speech pathologist for the Diocese of Owensboro, professor of speech language pathology at Brescia, director of the Speech and Hearing Center at St. Louis University, and director of Vocations for the Ursuline Sisters. ■

## Coming soon: St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home in Bowling Green

PRESS RELEASE

St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home, with the blessing of Bishop William F. Medley, plans to open its doors in Bowling Green, Ky., on Holy Spirit Parish property in 2024. St. Gianna CPH will fall under the umbrella of the Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Charities. As Catholic Charities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all donations made to St. Gianna CPH are tax deductible.

We are a Catholic, Christ-centered program whose mission is to help the pregnant woman who has chosen life for her unborn child, through support,

resources, and educational, financial, emotional, and spiritual guidance. We will strive to provide her with a safe, nurturing environment where she can achieve a healthy pregnancy. This is a working program so all residents will work or go to school unless medically restricted, furthering their journey along the path towards independence. Our motto is: Defending Life with Love!

The home is currently undergoing repairs and renovations to make it into a safe, tranquil refuge for a woman experiencing a crisis pregnancy with no means of support. We do not accept government funding so are seeking private donations and applying for grants

to fund a dual-purpose dining/classroom space. This addition will enable us to more effectively achieve our goals for these women.

Please visit our website, [www.stgiannacph.org](http://www.stgiannacph.org), or scan the QR code with this article for more information about our home and ways you can become involved through giving of your time, talents, and treasure. Under the Get Involved button, you can also visit our spring Gala page for sponsorship and event information. ■



### The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Western Kentucky receives national distinction in disaster service



COURTESY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
Richard B. Remp-Morris, SVDOWKY chief executive officer; and Nancy Harris, diocesan council president, receive the DSC Council of the Year Award from Brian Burgess, St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Services Corporation board member, at this year's St. Vincent de Paul National Assembly.

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The spotlight shone brightly on the St. Vincent DePaul Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky as they emerged the recipients of the prestigious DSC Council of the Year Award. The award was bestowed at the Sept. 6-9, 2023 St. Vincent de Paul National Assembly held this year in St. Louis Missouri, the birthplace of the Society in America in 1845.

This national award recognized the efforts put forth by a team to serve 2021 tornado survivors throughout western Kentucky. This impactful work was led by St. Vincent de Paul chief executive officer, Richard B. Remp-Morris who said, "Our amazing service was accomplished through the dedicated efforts of many St. Vincent de Paul unsung heroes in-

cluding the Diocesan Council Board; Patrick Clary, warehouse manager; and warehouse assistants, Lee Wilson and Herbert 'Herbie' Allgood. Also included in the efforts are Vicki Duncan, community liaison; and Belinda Abell, marketing coordinator."

At the heart of their humanitarian efforts lies the House In a Box program, an initiative led by the St. Vincent DePaul Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky. This program has been a lifeline for families who lost everything in the wake of disasters, providing them with new furniture and furnishings to rebuild their lives.

Remp-Morris expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve more than 300 tornado survivor families, to date, with the goal of serving 500 families.

He said, "This has been a humbling experience, meeting the tornado survivors and hearing their horrific stories. I've felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude and support in serving those in need alongside fellow Vincentians, Disaster Services Corp, Catholic Charities, American Red Cross, VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters), and Long-Term Recovery groups."

St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council president, Nancy Harris, added "We are extremely honored to receive this prestigious award from our peers. It recognizes the great effort from our team and many community partners. Direct service in times of crisis is at the heart of Vincentian spirituality". ■

*To learn more about how you can help St. Vincent de Paul of Western Kentucky visit [svdpwky.org](http://svdpwky.org) or call (270) 315-5747.*

### St. Agnes picnic grateful for large crowd, supporters

BY KATHY HUMPHREY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Agnes Parish in Uniontown, and the Uniontown Knights of Columbus, had their annual church picnic on Saturday, Sept. 9. There was delicious barbecue, a bourbon pull and raffle, inflatables, a cake walk and much more. Roughly 4,500 pounds of meat were cooked. We were truly blessed with beautiful weather and a great crowd! Thanks to all who helped out and also to those who supported our picnic. ■



COURTESY OF ST. AGNES PARISH  
The crowd enjoys St. Agnes Parish's annual picnic on Sept. 9, 2023.

## A new road for camp



BY BEN WARRELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

For years now, one of the only complaints we receive from camp families and retreat guests is about the road into and out of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. The 0.75-mile gravel road is on hilly terrain with poor drainage and many downpours, and maintenance on the road has been difficult to maintain with our yard equipment. Over the years, the quality and safety of the road has deteriorated greatly.

But recently, the diocese has approved a plan to fix the road into camp! The new plan, which will start on November 15 and be completed before Christmas/New Year's Camp, will widen the existing road so two vehicles can safely pass coming or going in to camp. Also, large buses and delivery trucks will have no problems entering or exiting camp. The plan will improve drainage in three areas along the road to prevent washouts. In addition, the road and all gravel areas at camp will be chip sealed. This should last for at least 10 years before we need to look at maintenance on the road. Scott, Murphy and Daniel construction group will complete the



COURTESY OF CRYSTAL COLEMAN

The current entryway for Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, which has experienced increasingly poor drainage for the past few years.

plan for us and our guests.

The diocese has allotted money to get this project going, however, it may cost more than what has been already been given to complete the project. We ask that you prayerfully consider giving to help cover the total cost of the project. Just go to our website, [www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org) and click on the "Support Us" in the upper righthand corner to give towards this exciting new project for camp.

This road will ensure a new, safe and smooth entrance for all to enjoy the beautiful and holy land that is Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. As always, we do ask that you pray for the ministry here at camp and be assured of our prayers for you all as well. Thank you for all your years of love, prayers and support of Gasper River and may God bless your generosity! ■

*Ben Warrell is the camp director of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center.*

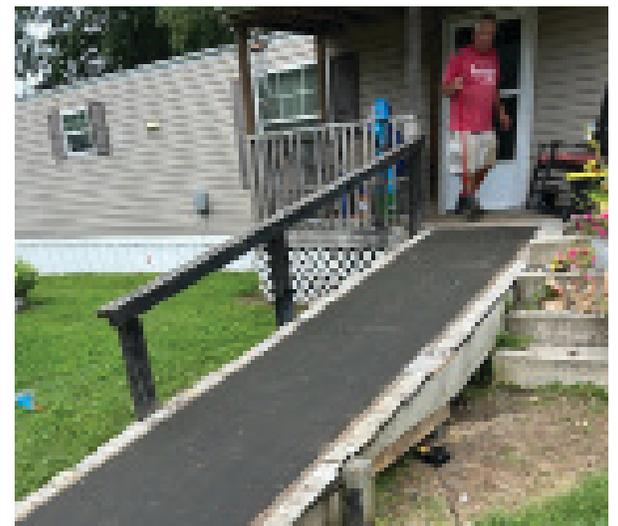
## Knights repair handicap ramp

The Uniontown Council #1367 Knights of Columbus in Uniontown, Ky., recently repaired a handicap ramp for a St. Agnes parishioner. It took the men approximately four-and-a-half hours to repair the ramp for parishioner, Hattie McGuire. To learn more about the Knight of Columbus in Kentucky or to get involved, visit [kykofc.com](http://kykofc.com). ■



COURTESY OF KATHY HUMPHREY

The Uniontown Knights of Columbus work on a handicap ramp for a St. Agnes parishioner.



COURTESY OF KATHY HUMPHREY

The newly-repaired handicap ramp for a St. Agnes parishioner.

# The label that matters

BY SUSANA SOLORZA, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

During a beautiful summer weekend in August 2023, 25 young people and leaders from around the diocese and episcopal region gathered at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center to retreat from the world and spend time reflecting on labels.

As Gabriella Escalante, youth ministry coordinator for the Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI), reminded us, we fill our life with labels. We describe ourselves by what we do, who we are in relation to our family, our hobbies, the areas in life where we succeed or maybe we define ourselves by our failures. As we made our way from session to session, we began to break down the labels and focus on one: “Loved” or in Spanish, “Amado o Amada.” This was the label that God first placed on us mattered the most, the one that superseded the rest.

As Hispanic young adults in the Diocese of Owensboro, there are many labels that get put on us by people that do not know us. As young people in a world that wants to define itself, instead of discovering the person God created us to be, we are tempted to find belonging in places outside of the Church where we are affirmed. This weekend provided the opportunity to find belonging in Christ, in His Body, where we are loved and seen. With the help of the Gasper



COURTESY OF OFFICE OF HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY

The young adult attendees of this August's Pastoral Juvenil Retreat, held at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center.

River staff, this community of young people took leaps of faith and tested boundaries of trust through ziplines and giant ladders. In between leaps, participants and leaders managed to communicate between languages and cultures. More and more often, labels are being used to separate, but when we hold the label of “Loved” above all else, language and culture become a tool to communicate and not a barrier to separate.

The messiness of the label “Hispanic,” in the context of the United States, leaves many with more questions than answers on how to reach Hispanic young people. However, our diocesan effort to step into that messiness has seen fruit in the relationships and leadership we are seeing with our young people. If you would like to join in the effort of helping reach Hispanic youth and young adults in our diocese, please reach out to me, Susana Solorza, diocesan coordinator for the Pastoral Juvenil at [susana.solorza@pastoral.org](mailto:susana.solorza@pastoral.org) or at (270) 683-1545. ■



COURTESY OF OFFICE OF HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY

The participants of the Pastoral Juvenil Retreat at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center take part in an activity. The retreat was held in August 2023.

## A Halloween tale from the Mount Saint Joseph Archives



COURTESY OF MSJ ARCHIVES

An Ursuline sister of Mount Saint Joseph walks through the Mount Saint Joseph Cemetery in this undated

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

It's October and you know what that means; this month we celebrate a holiday that many proudly claim as their favorite. I'm not referring to the feast day of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, although that's undoubtedly a hands-down top five. I am of course talking about Halloween. Few holidays are as rife with lore and unmistakable imagery. For several years I have thought about doing this exact article. I finally decided to do it after I recently had a conversation with one of our priests about a local church that is rumored to have been visited by the spirit of one of its former monsignors. So, get your favorite pumpkin shaped candy because I am going to recount a seasonally appropriate tale from our very own diocese.

This is a story that I imagine few are familiar with. It comes from the archives of Mount Saint Joseph. Fr. Paul Joseph Volk is the saintly founder of the Mount.

He was born and raised in the town of Hünfeld (in what is now Germany). After moving to America and establishing the Mount, he invited his beloved mother Elizabeth to come spend her remaining years with him. She accepted and became a staple of the Mount until her death in 1884.

After her passing, several people began reporting strange happenings in the Mount Saint Joseph Chapel. According to an article in the Sept. 21, 1969 issue of the Messenger-Inquirer, Mrs. Francis Brandt Markowitz reported that her mother, Mrs. Mary Bell Alvey and several others heard Mrs. Volk's footsteps in the old chapel soon after she was laid to rest. Her footsteps were described as being a very discernable heavy step followed by a soft pat. This would not be the end of the occurrences, however.

After the reported footsteps the story only grew. In addition to the footsteps, it was reported that Mrs. Volk was actually seen after her passing. This also took place in the chapel where she was seen sitting in her regular spot in the pew. In addition to this, when asked, Fr. Volk reportedly acknowledged the sightings and confirmed that his mother was a saint and there was no reason that she wouldn't appear among them.

Did any of this actually happen? Did Fr. Volk actually confirm, deny or even hear of the matter? Being that the Messenger-Inquirer article was published 50 years after his death, it is doubtful. But tales such as these are signs of a happy and well-developed community and that community's unique culture. Mount Saint Joseph Academy was a school for young women; I imagine that the tale was a favorite for the academy girls to whisper about, especially around the Halloween season. For any

Owensboro Catholic High School graduates, this could bring the story of the Sister of Charity on the top floor of OCHS to mind. However, for those of you unfamiliar with that tale, it is perhaps one for another October. ■

***During this season, it is important that we remember to pray for the dead***

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1030 states that "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." Thus, it is an important act for all Catholics to pray for the deceased. This is so paramount that praying for the living and the dead is one of the seven spiritual works of mercy. Speaking on this spiritual work, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has stated that such prayer entrusts the living and the dead "into God's care." The practice is also deeply regarded by many saints, including St. Thomas Aquinas. Aquinas, grounding his claim in Proverbs 10:12 in his Summa Theologiae, assures us that the charity of our prayer would "cover the sins" of the dead. Further, the practice is biblically grounded in both the Old and New Testament including 2 Maccabees 12:40-46, which speaks of making atonement for the dead "that they might be delivered from their sin" as well as, 2 Timothy 1:16-18, when the apostle Paul prays for God's mercy on Onesiphorus. ■*

# October Wedding Anniversaries

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

**Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

Hugh & Samantha Cravens, 5  
Jack & Doris Mills, 65  
John & Riley Hess, 53  
Steve & Gloria Baker, 53

**Christ the King, Madisonville**

Christopher & Emily McEnaney, 10  
Jud & Karen Caldwell, 56  
Rob & Sarah Whittington, 40  
Zackary & Sierra Boarman, 5

**Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington**

Jay & Janet Stith, 54

**Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

Brian & Andrea Alvey, 25  
Corey & Abby Jewell, 5  
David & Lisa Maish, 25  
Dean & Mary Ann Jorgensen, 58  
Dwight & Diana Emerson, 59  
James & Betsy Darche, 51  
Jan & Theresa Chambliss, 25  
Larry & Phyllis Bumpus, 56  
Logan & Shae Nunley, 10  
Neil & Lisa Tichenor, 25  
Nicholas & Whitney Risley, 10  
Pat & Cathy Payne, 10  
Ron & Dana Townsend, 5  
Ronald & Dretha Weddell, 56  
Soap & Sandy Wilson, 54  
Todd & Taunya Eyre, 25  
Troy & Brianna Clark, 10

**Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam**

Patrick & Cynthia Ziller, 55

**Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**

Charles & Mary Ann Wolfram, 54  
Fred & Karen Bolek, 52  
John & Paula Huggins, 25  
Leon & Sherry Volkert, 55  
Stephen & MaryJo Ryan, 52  
Virgil & Joyce Villanueva, 51

**Holy Trinity, Morgantown**

Melvin & Mary Anne Bowles, 55

**Immaculate Conception, Earlington**

Roger & Kathy Ordal, 52

**Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

James & Gwan Bickett, 54

**Immaculate, Owensboro**

George & Louise Weldon, 67  
James & Sharon Reid, 53  
JC & Millie Higdon, 69  
Jim & Kathy Likens, 52  
Joe & Ann Roth, 59  
Jon & Susanne Story, 25

Kenny & Sheila Cecil, 51  
Lester & Helen Schaick, 74  
Tim & Fawn Scheidegger, 25  
Tim & Valeria Vessels, 10

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

Charlie & Linda Kamuf, 55  
Clinton & Marsha Terry, 53  
Greg & Robin Peters, 25  
Jerry & Virginia Harper, 57  
Joseph & Mary Jane Clark, 61  
Robert & Debra Horton, 50  
Scott & Britt Connor, 25  
Seth & Annie Sharp, 5

**Precious Blood, Owensboro**

Brent & Kathleen McFadden, 10  
Gerald & Lucy Goetz, 55  
Justin & Rachel Taylor, 10  
Kevin & Amy Thomas, 10  
Larry & Patricia Murphy, 59  
Robert & Sandra Devine, 40  
Tim & Diann Shock, 50

**Sacred Heart, Russellville**

Dennis & Diane Nieuwsma, 52  
Kerry & Sharlet Beauregard, 60  
Ryan & Sharon Fuller, 55

**Sacred Heart, Waverly**

Donald & Ellen Buckman, 69  
John & Cheryl Buckman, 52

**St. Agnes, Uniontown**

Dane & Nicole Clevidence, 10  
Marcus & Jaci Utle, 10  
Paul & Carolyn Pike, 50

**St. Ann, Morganfield**

Bobby & Mary Jane Watson, 55  
Jerome & Jennifer Duncan, 10  
Mike & Rebecca Greenwell, 55  
Thomas & Vicki Sheffer, 50

**St. Anthony, Axtel**

Charles & Pat Bissinger, 58  
Francis & Sue Henning, 62  
Tom & Sarah Henning, 5

**St. Anthony, Browns Valley**

Benjamin & Danielle Fulkerson, 5  
Donnie & Natalie Embry, 5  
Randall & Deborah Goatee, 54

**St. Anthony, Peonia**

Ervin & Coren Moore, 59  
Milburn & Bernetta Higdon, 53  
Randolph & Judy White, 59

**St. Augustine, Reed**

Steve & Rita Haire, 53

**St. Charles, Bardwell**

Brian & Kathy O'Neill, 25

**St. Columba, Lewisport**

Clyde & Anita Cambron, 55  
Layman & Mary Hawkins, 58

**St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**

Bruce & Sherry Vandermeulen, 50  
Dan & Karen Kelley, 51  
James & Mary Scott, 58  
John & Molliann Larka, 10  
Kenneth & Rita Turner, 54  
Luke & Ashley Nowlin, 10  
Paul & Theresa Newman, 53  
Raymond & Rose Marie Smith, 59

**St. Francis of Assisi**

Bob & Barbara Arms, 53  
Ellis & Gail Settle, 53

**St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**

Brett & Andrea Hoskins, 10  
Clay & Karen Willett, 58  
Gary & Marilyn King, 52  
Jack & Mary Ann Purcell, 65  
James & Betty O'Guinn, 52  
Leslie & Julie Westerman, 10  
Michael & Megan Johnson, 25  
Terry & Hettie Wilson, 60

**St. John the Baptist, Fordsville**

Joe & Eileen Fulkerson, 65  
Junior & Mary Roby, 57

**St. John the Evangelist, Paducah**

Charles & Margaret Ballard, 63  
Josh & Lindsey Wurth, 10  
Mike & Judy Kaufman, 56  
Paul & Alice Roof, 52

**St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish**

James & Mary Lou Wilson, 56

**St. Joseph, Bowling Green**

Brian & Patricia Bour, 57  
Elvin & Zulma Ramirez, 5  
Kenneth & Veronica Rice, 56

**St. Joseph, Mayfield**

Richard & Patricia Blackman, 51

**St. Lawrence, Philpot**

Bernard & Kathleen Wright, 66  
Eddie & Marcella Wethington, 58

**St. Leo, Murray**

Alfred & Pat Koehler, 66  
Dan & Jane Blankenship, 52  
John & Marie Clark, 62  
Josh & Dakota Farley, 5

Michael & Kaye Kelly, 53

**St. Mark, Eddyville**

David & Ann Harkins, 58  
Joseph & Patricia Merimee, 58  
Michael & Lynn Jamieson, 52

**St. Martin, Rome**

Joe & Vicki Mills, 40

**St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**

Austin & Carissa James, 10  
David & Sandi Boswell, 55  
Jerry & Linda Ebelhar, 51  
John & Sylvia Morton, 57  
Larry & Ruth Oller, 55

**St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville**

Chris & Karen Onstott, 25  
Christopher & Jenny Clark, 10  
David & Rose Hamilton, 56  
Donnie & Paula Ward, 55  
Martin & Gwen Howard, 53  
Matt & Rebecca Roby, 5  
Shelby & Kay Howard, 57  
Val & Bernadine Payne, 62

**St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove**

James & Patricia Brink, 56

**St. Paul, Leitchfield**

Frank & Catherine Gawarecki, 64  
Jerry & Kathleen Crawford, 52  
Murrell & Ann Sims, 58

**St. Paul, Princeton**

Tommy & Martha Stewart, 59

**St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley**

Ken & Edie McKay, 56  
Robert & Mary Ann Alvey, 53

**St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly**

James & Eva Lyon, 61  
Nathan & Alix Patterson, 5

**St. Pius X, Owensboro**

Danny & Kelly Bartlett, 5  
John & Darlene Hutton, 56  
Tom & Libby Johnson, 58  
Tracy & Cindy Christian, 40

**St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**

Darrell & Rita Whitfill, 50  
Everette & Carolyn Pool, 57

**St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport**

Jacob & Alexandria Popham, 5  
Joe & Marie Haycraft, 57

**St. Sebastian, Calhoun**

Charles & Faye May, 57

Continues on page 24

*Anniversaries continued from page 23*

**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**

Aaron & Hayden Morris, 5  
Michael & Donna Richard, 40

**St. Thomas More, Paducah**

Aaron & Alexandra Haas, 5  
Alan & Bobbi Wilson, 50  
Bill & Marge Wurth, 60  
Dylan & Lauren Sonnek, 5  
Kelly & Barbara Robinson, 65  
Tom & Cindy Butterbaugh, 40

**St. William, Knottsville**

Charles & Patricia Lanham, 51  
Claudie & Erma Millay, 71  
David & Helen Higdon, 50  
Frankie & Priscilla Haynes, 56  
Logan & Cassie Boehman, 5  
Martin & Clara Johnson, 53  
Marvin & Josephine Boling, 59

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Gary & Linda Hall, 50  
Isaiah & Shannon Hagan, 5  
Jason & Erin Ward, 5  
Paul & Liz Digiorgio, 25  
Robert & Mary Helen Ward, 63  
Tommy & Angela Maxwell, 56

**Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

Bob & Laura Waldron, 54  
Thomas & Sandra Hurley, 50 ■

**A note from the WKC:**

Make sure your parish has your wedding anniversary on their list! The WKC recognizes 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, and more than 50th anniversaries being celebrated for the month printed (i.e. this edition shows the milestone anniversaries for October). In order to appear in the WKC's monthly anniversaries, you must be listed by your parish. Please contact your parish directly to make sure your anniversary is on file with them.

– WKC staff



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Couples attend the Sept. 24 Marriage Celebration Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral, which was presided over by Bishop William F. Medley.

## Couples gather for annual marriage celebration Mass at cathedral

BY WKC STAFF

On Sept. 24, 67 married couples gather at St. Stephen Cathedral for the annual Marriage Celebration Mass with Bishop William F. Medley. John and Mary Morris of St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville were the longest-married couple in attendance this year, having been married for 71 years.

Adding up the cumulative number of years married among the couples present, Bishop Medley said it totaled 3,159 years.

The Mass was hosted by the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Marriage and Family Life. This office provides a wide range of Catholic programs and initiatives to help marriages and families thrive throughout western Kentucky. These include marriage preparation, marriage and family

enrichment, counseling services, natural family planning/fertility awareness method instruction, and the Clean Heart Initiative, which is dedicated to helping people break free from pornography.

To connect or learn more, call (270) 683-1545, or visit [owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life](http://owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life). ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC

A couple looks at each other during the Sept. 24 Marriage Celebration Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral.

## OCTOBER 2023 BULLETIN BOARD

### Mass and confession times in the Diocese of Owensboro

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

### St. Henry Christmas Bazaar Oct. 28

St. Henry Parish, 16097 US Hwy. 68 E in Aurora, Ky., will be having an early Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be a variety of vendors and arts & crafts, as well as a silent auction and delicious homemade baked goods. All are welcome to begin their Christmas shopping! Please contact the parish office at (270) 474-8058 for directions and further information.

### Post-abortion healing retreat

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 Nov. 3-5, 2023. Location near Owensboro, KY. Rita: (270) 474-4707 or [retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com](mailto:retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com). Learn more at <http://hopeafterabortionky.com>.

### 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/>.

### A Scout is Reverent

It is time to begin working toward Scout religious emblems. They include for Cub Scouts: Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei and for Boy Scouts: Ad Al-

tare Dei and Pope Pius XII and Light is Life (Eastern Catholic) and for Girl Scouts and others: God is Love, Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary the First Disciple, The Spirit Alive, and Missio. For more information on these, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/scouting/>

### Are you an alum of "Music at Maple Mount"?

The first Greater Owensboro Music Camp — which most everyone eventually called Music at Maple Mount — began in 1975. In June 2024, we will celebrate the 50th year since that first camp by inviting everyone who participated to a reunion weekend. This reunion is part of the celebration year recognizing 150 years since the Ursuline Sisters arrived in what is now known as Maple Mount. The reunion will occur the second weekend of June, but the exact dates are awaiting the input of our camp alumni. Would you prefer a welcome back reception on Friday, June 7, activities on June 8 and a final concert on Sunday afternoon, June 9? Or would you prefer starting on Thursday, June 6, and having the final concert on Saturday night, June 8? The sooner you let us know, the sooner we will set those dates. Please take a few moments to complete the questionnaire and then join us in June 2024 for more Music at Maple Mount! You can find the survey near the bottom of this web page: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/music-at-maple-mount-reunion/> The questionnaire is also our way of catching up with where life has taken you since you were a Music Camper.

### Join Ursuline Sisters for Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have revised their Eucharistic Adoration schedule. They invite the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Motherhouse Chapel in Maple Mount, Ky. (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). Adoration on the second Friday of each month is dedicated to praying for vocations. The Adoration concludes with evening prayer.

### 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. There are two rental options -- a partial rental for up to four hours (\$100) and a full rental which allows use for a full day (\$200). The use of 8-foot tables and chairs is included in the rental fee (user is responsible for setup, or this can be done for you for an additional fee). To reserve Maple Hall, contact the Mount Saint Joseph Finance Office by email: [ap@maple-mount.org](mailto:ap@maple-mount.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/> ■

**ST. JOSEPH & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
177 ANNUAL

## TRIVIA NIGHT

### HALLOWEEN PARTY THEME!

Wear Your Favorite Halloween Costume & Enjoy A Night Of Trivia With Friends!

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**  
Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish Hall  
514 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Owensboro, KY

**Social Hour: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**  
(Cash Bar – Beer, Wine & Soda / Silent Auction thru 7:00 PM)

**Dinner: 6:30 PM – 7:15 PM**  
(27¢ Cooking from 40¢ Chicks or Pick Ups, 2 Sides, Salad & Dessert)

**Trivia: 7:15 PM – 9:30 PM**  
(2 Rounds of Trivia – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place wins \$200 & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place wins \$100)

**\$240 For A Table Of 8 Players / 33 Tables**

Business Sponsorships Available:  
1 Cash Sponsor \$750 (Prizes / tables sponsor applications due online on "Your Business Name" Trivia Score Board)  
2 Silver Sponsors \$500 each – (prizes dinner sponsorship mentions & non-sponsor trivia round)  
14 Trivia Round Sponsors - \$100 each - (prizes & sponsor mentions on 14 trivia rounds & dinner 2 sponsors per round)

**Trivia Prizes & Team Costumes Are Encouraged!**  
Prizes for Best Dressed Team, Table Plus Best Costume & Individual Costume  
Also: Table Decorations & Costumes are welcome!

For Tables or Sponsorships, CONTACT ROS NIKACKON AT 270-660-6158 OR PAST DEL. JESSIE & PAST CHURCH OFFICE to purchase your team table or sponsor in case of our Trivia Night speciality opportunities.

NEED A TABLE? DONORSHIP: CONTACT DELISSA HOUL AT 270-429-0248 to borrow silent auction items such as: ceremonial items, tables, etc. (donations, gift certificates, gift cards, wine, coffee, etc.) (donations, gift cards, etc.) (donations, gift cards, etc.)

**Must Be 21 Years or Older To Attend Event & Play Trivia**  
Prizes go to the St. Joseph & Paul Catholic Church

# My summer 2023 as a camp nurse at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center

BY MARK OLLIGES, SPECIAL TO THE  
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

It may be best to start with my background. I am a registered nurse with 41 years of experience. This includes 15 years as an emergency room nurse, 7.5 years working in cardiology research and the last 20 years at a Veterans Administration Medical Center. I was in a MASH hospital during Desert Storm working in the trauma section of the Hospital.

I retired from the Veterans Administration Hospital in January 2023, but I knew two things: I wanted to keep working as a nurse and energize my Catholic faith. My nephew who lives with me and is a senior in high school had been to a Catholic camp (not Gasper) a few years ago. He returned from camp and told me “I am a changed boy.” The camp had enlivened and deepened his faith. I thought, why not be a camp nurse; even better, why not a Catholic camp?

By the grace of God, I stumbled across Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. Gasper River has operated for 16 years. It provides a spiritually stimulating environment with fun activities at down-to-earth fees. I was fortunate to be offered the position as camp nurse for the summer 2023 season.

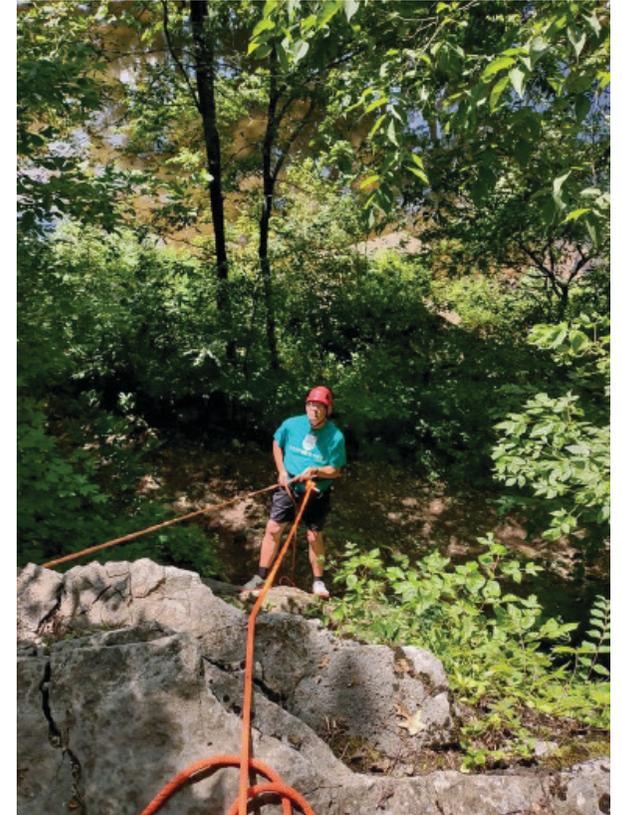
The camps start in June and end in late July. The environment is safe with staff vetted through background checks and training. I was impressed that 80-90% of the campers return each year and many of the counselors are former campers. The

camp integrates Catholic doctrine, bible study, Masses, confession and Eucharistic Adoration into the camp life. Fr. Jason McClure is the chaplain and does a fantastic job of communicating with the campers at their level. (I played the devil’s advocate one day and asked a middle school student if she was getting tired of going to Mass daily. She looked at me seriously and stated, “No, I love the Mass.”)

What did I do as a camp nurse? There were no major injuries. The camp staff are certified and supervise all activities. I am a first aid instructor and I trained the staff before camp started. They have taken great care to make the activities safe for the campers. I had more injuries with youngsters running down and falling – I took care of many skinned knees. Of course, there were some children with fevers, upset stomachs, and headaches. These were easily treated with over-the-counter medications. And yes, there were some youngsters who became homesick, but not as many as you would think. If needed, the child could call home, and I only witnessed a few campers go home.

Gasper River’s campers and staff are a diverse group who truly love Christ and want to help all campers grow in their Catholic faith. Did I inspire my faith at Gasper? I can honestly say I did. Was I rewarded as a nurse? I was choked up on more than one occasion when one of the youngsters gave me a hug and said, “Thank you for taking care of me.”

On a walk to Eucharistic Adoration one evening, camp director Ben Warrell looked over at me and said, “Watch and listen tonight; things are going



COURTESY OF GASPER RIVER  
Mark Olliges, this summer’s camp nurse at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green, assists with a rappelling activity on July 12, 2023.

to happen.” And they did. The Holy Spirit became evident. Can you ask for more than that?

I plan to return next year as camp nurse, God willing. ■

*Mark Olliges belongs to St. Gregory the Great Parish in Samuels, Ky., in the Archdiocese of Louisville.*

# Congratulations to this year's Sophia Awards recipients

BY WKC STAFF

Every year, the Diocese of Owensboro hosts a special Mass honoring the recipients of the annual Sophia Awards – individuals at least 65 years old, who received the highest number of nominations in their parish for this recognition, and who embrace and lead lives of stewardship by giving of their time, talent and treasure. On Sept. 10, 2023 at St. Stephen Cathedral, the Sophia Awards Mass was celebrated by Bishop William F. Medley. At the conclusion of Mass, the recipients received their award plaques. To learn more, contact Valeria Vessels, director of stewardship and development, at [valeria.vessels@pastoral.org](mailto:valeria.vessels@pastoral.org).



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
The 2023 recipients of the Diocese of Owensboro's Sophia Awards stand with Bishop William F. Medley, following the Sept. 10, 2023 Mass.

**Blessed Mother, Owensboro:**

Mary Margaret Brown

**Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro:**

Cindy Clark

**Christ the King, Madisonville:**

Randy & Kim Hardesty

**Christ the King, Scottsville:**

David Gripp

**Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson:**

Marvin Hancock

**Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam:**

Mary Chinn

**Holy Spirit, Bowling Green:**

John & Lyn Knepler

**Holy Trinity, Morgantown:**

Larry & Mary Martin

**Immaculate, Owensboro:**

Steve & Linda Rocco

**Immaculate Conception, Earlington:**

John & Velma Davis

**Immaculate Conception, Hawesville:**

Clayton & Gloria Gray

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro:**

Mary Ann Kurz

**Precious Blood, Owensboro:**

Vickie Payne

**Resurrection, Dawson Springs:**

Donnie & Rhonda Mills

**Rosary Chapel, Paducah:**

Gilda Kohlheim

**Sacred Heart, Russellville:**

Norm Wheeler & Bernadette Mullen

**St. Agnes, Uniontown:**

Cheryl Berry

**St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph:**

Jackie Freels

**St. Ambrose, Henshaw:**

Ellen Day

**St. Ann, Morganfield:**

Eddie & Mary Jo Steward

**St. Anthony, Peonia:**

Hubert Clemons

**St. Anthony, Browns Valley:**

Greg & Delores Smith

**St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers:**

Joyce Noonan

**St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel:**

Robert & Lisa Henning

**St. Augustine, Grayson Springs:**

Rex & Anna Voorhies

**St. Augustine, Reed:**

Larry & Sherry Schwartz

**St. Benedict, Wax:**

Bonnie Johnston

**St. Charles, Bardwell:**

Leonard & Carla Estrada

**St. Charles Borromeo, Livermore:**

Kevin & Judy Fee

**St. Columba, Lewisport:**

Patricia Wardrip

**St. Denis, Fancy Farm:**

Ray & Sue Potts

**St. Elizabeth, Clarkson:**

Jim & Edna Bratcher

**St. Elizabeth, Curdsville:**

Peggy McCarthy

**St. Francis de Sales, Paducah:**

Susan Tanner

**St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis:**

Charlie & Gloria Mendoza

**St. Francis of Assisi, Guthrie:**

Judy Lennon

**St. Henry, Aurora:**

Casey & Diane Orlovski

**St. Jerome, Fancy Farm:**

John & Jeanine Puckett

**St. John the Baptist, Fordsville:**

Edward Lyons

**St. John the Evangelist, Paducah:**

Annella Waldridge

**St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish:**

Chris Wolfe

**St. Joseph, Bowling Green:**

Joe & Sandy Miller

**St. Joseph, Central City:**

Rick & Gail Davenport

**St. Joseph, Leitchfield:**

Beverly Harrison

**St. Joseph, Mayfield:**

Julia Wooldridge

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro:**

Patricia Hamilton

**St. Lawrence, Philpot:**

J.C. & Sharon Roby

**St. Leo, Murray:**

Roger & Mary Haney

**St. Mark, Eddyville:**

Bob & Jan Chaplin

**St. Martin, Rome:**

Larry & Becky Krampe

**St. Mary, Franklin:**

Casimiro & Yolanda Moratin

**St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho:**

Phil & Cathy Ebelhar

**St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady:**

Rena Hale

**Whitesville:**

Owen (posthumously) & Majella Mills

**St. Michael, Sebree:**

Connie Caldwell

**St. Paul, Princeton:**

Teresa Wurts

Continues on page 28

*Sophia Award continued from page 23*

**St. Paul, Leitchfield:**  
Sharon Cooper

**St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley:**  
Johnny & Paula McFadden

**Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville:**  
Imelda Gorman

**St. Pius X, Calvert City:**  
David & Donna Carr

**St. Pius X, Owensboro:**  
Ed & Linda Calhoun

**St. Romuald, Hardinsburg:**  
Rudy & Kathy Brumfield

**St. Sebastian, Calhoun:**  
Tony & Cindy Searcy

**St. Stephen, Cadiz:**  
Jim & K.G. Ariagno

**St. Stephen Cathedral,  
Owensboro:**  
Mary Helen Nash

**St. Thomas More, Paducah:**  
Kevin & Eileen Segebarth

**St. William, Knottsville:**  
Mike & Marie Payne

**St. William of Vercelli, Marion:**  
Lynn & Kathy Bechler ■

## Do you have a Mount Saint Joseph Academy/Conference and Retreat Center memorial brick?

The 1874 building had to be deconstructed, but 500 bricks were saved. For a suggested donation of \$25, you can still own a memorial brick.

<https://ursulinesmsj.org/mount-brick/>

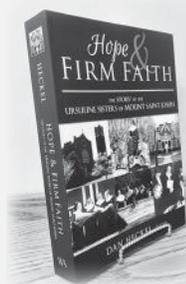


## Have you read the new Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph "Hope & Firm Faith" book?

To get your copy, go to: [ursulinesmsj.org/hope-and-firm-faith-book](https://ursulinesmsj.org/hope-and-firm-faith-book)

Indicate if you would like your book signed by the author.

The cost is \$37.10 which includes sales tax. If you need it shipped, add \$10.



Brick and book proceeds benefit the Ursuline mission and ministries.



**Ursuline Sisters**  
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356  
270-229-4103 · Fax 270-229-4953  
[www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org) · [info.ms@maplemount.org](mailto:info.ms@maplemount.org)

## Pope says his new ecology document is titled 'Laudate Deum'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis said the title of his new letter on the environment will be “Laudate Deum,” (Praise God), a frequent refrain in several psalms, including Psalm 148, which tells the heavens and the angels and the sun and moon to praise the Lord. The new document, expected to be released Oct. 4, is what the pope has described as a follow-up to his 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si’, On Care for Our Common Home.” Pope Francis revealed the title of the new document during a meeting Sept. 21 at the Vatican with rectors of Catholic and public universities from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. He did not have a prepared text for the audience, but instead responded to questions. Vatican News in Spanish

published a summary of his responses late Sept. 25. The new document, he said, is “a look at what has happened” since 2015 and a look at what still “needs to be done.” -Catholic News Service ■



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis arrives for a meeting with the rectors of public and private universities from Latin America and the Caribbean at the Vatican Sept. 21, 2023. Responding to questions, the pope said his new document on the environment would be called “Laudate Deum” (Praise God).

### Correction: Omitted from Disciples Response Fund list

*In the September 2023 issue of The Western Kentucky Catholic, it was discovered that we inadvertently omitted St. Henry Parish in Aurora from the list of 2021-2022 donors to the annual DRF appeal. The WKC regrets this error and has printed these donors' names below.*

#### ST. HENRY, AURORA | \$6,208.00

Alvey Philip & Dianna, Downs Albert & Cathy, Eikenberry Kent & Nadine, Faust Jack & Janice, Gartman Sharon, Geibel David & Stephanie, Hinkebein Charles & Elaine, Hogue Linda, Hogue Wiley, Kaelin Joe & Roxanne, Keifer Milton & Mable, Kowalczyk Mary Alice, Lawler Joseph & Bernadine, Logsdon Rose Marie, Losee Mildred, Mason Sid, Mikulcik David & Stacey, Nord Bob & Kathy, Orłowski Casey & Diane, Osthoff Tom & Patricia, St. Henry Parish, Penrose Michael, Potempa Randy & Peggy, Repovich Carol, Schmehr Bill, Shepard Linda, Thill Ty & Nancy, Vargocko Loretta, Vaughan Kevin & Mary, Vollmer Jim & Sally, Wood John & Elaine ■

# Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

*Se proporcionarán recursos gratuitos a familias y a otras personas el Domingo del Hogar Seguro*

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

La pornografía es un tema que incomoda a la mayoría de los adultos. Este es especialmente el caso cuando se trata de padres hablando con sus hijos. Desafortunadamente, es un tema cada vez más necesario abordar en nuestra era digital. Para ayudar a los padres con este tema, la Oficina de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar de nuestra diócesis, en colaboración con la Oficina de Comunicaciones, desarrolló el sitio web de la Iniciativa Corazón Puro, <https://cleanheartinitiative.org/corazon-puro/>.

Las investigaciones indican que la primera exposición a la pornografía en Internet suele ocurrir durante los años de la escuela primaria. Esto ocurre muchas veces por accidente. Quizás su hijo escribió la palabra equivocada en las redes sociales, su sobrino hizo clic en el video de YouTube equivocado o el amigo de su ahijado le mostró su primera imagen sexualmente explícita en Instagram. Cuando los padres y otros adultos no han creado un ambiente de confianza donde se puede hablar sobre temas incómodos, los niños a menudo ocultan estas experiencias por vergüenza y pena.

La pornografía crea un impedimento para crear relaciones profundas y duraderas con Dios y con los demás. Pero aquí en nuestra diócesis nos apasiona la iglesia doméstica y es nuestro deber y responsabilidad guiar y equipar a los padres y a otras personas para que formen a los niños para que vivan vidas virtuosas y santas, tanto en línea como

fuera de línea. Para brindarles las herramientas que necesitan para superar la pornografía y hacer de su hogar un refugio seguro para niños y adultos, uno libre de pornografía, la Diócesis de Owensboro celebrará su primer Domingo Anual del Hogar Seguro el domingo, 29 de octubre.

Dentro del contexto de la Misa de ese fin de semana, las parroquias de todo Kentucky occidental tendrán la oportunidad de brindar enseñanza y recursos que apoyarán y protegerán a las personas, los matrimonios y las familias para hacer que todos los hogares sean más seguros. El Domingo del Hogar Seguro y la Iniciativa Corazón Puro están inspirados en la declaración formal de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos “Crea en mí un corazón puro: Una respuesta pastoral a la pornografía”, que explica que “el uso de pornografía por cualquier persona en el hogar priva al hogar de su papel como refugio seguro y tiene efectos negativos en toda la vida de una familia y entre generaciones”.

Los animo a que aprovechen estos recursos y les pido que sean intencionales al tomar las medidas sugeridas para garantizar su seguridad, la de sus seres queridos y nuestra comunidad local. El libro se proporcionará en muchas parroquias y también hay un código QR para que los padres descarguen una copia digital del libro en inglés.

No es necesario luchar contra la pornografía a solas. Tengo la esperanza de que los recursos que se les brindarán el Domingo del Hogar Seguro y a través de la Iniciativa Corazón Puro alienten y enseñen

## CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY OCTUBRE DE 2023

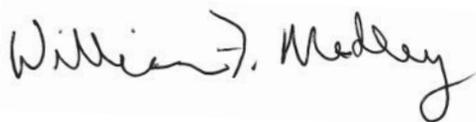
<b>1 DE OCTUBRE</b>	6 p.m.   Misa y cena con estudiantes – Ministerio Católico de Newman House, Universidad Estatal de Murray
<b>4 DE OCTUBRE</b>	6:30 p.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia San Francisco de Asís, Guthrie
<b>5 DE OCTUBRE</b>	9 a.m.   Desayuno con los Sacerdotes Mayores – Madisonville
<b>8 DE OCTUBRE</b>	10:30 a.m.   Instalación del Párroco – Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson
<b>9-24 DE OCTUBRE</b>	Peregrinación a Nigeria
<b>25 DE OCTUBRE</b>	10 a.m.   Reunión del personal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
<b>26-27 DE OCTUBRE</b>	Reunión de la Junta Directiva de Brescia – Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro
<b>28 DE OCTUBRE</b>	9 a.m.   Misa Provida – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
<b>29 DE OCTUBRE</b>	4 p.m.   Vísperas y Hora Santa por el décimo aniversario de la Adoración Perpetua – Parroquia Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville
<b>30 DE OCTUBRE</b>	10 a.m.   Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro

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a todas las personas y familias que enfrentan los efectos de la pornografía que existe apoyo amable. Vale la pena luchar contra la pornografía por la integridad y la pureza para ustedes, sus cónyuges, sus hijos y el futuro de todos en nuestra diócesis.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos,



Obispo William F. Medley  
Diócesis de Owensboro

## Parroquias con misa en Español



# El Nombre Que Importa

Durante un hermoso fin de semana de verano en agosto, 25 jóvenes y líderes de toda la diócesis y la región episcopal se reunieron en el Centro de Retiro Gasper River para retirarse del mundo y pasar tiempo reflexionando sobre los nombres que nos describen. Como nos recordó Gabriella Escalante, Coordinadora de Pastoral Juvenil del Instituto Pastoral del Sureste (SEPI), nos identificamos con muchos nombres. Nos describimos por lo que hacemos, quiénes somos en relación a nuestra familia, nuestros pasatiempos, las áreas de la vida en las que triunfamos o tal vez nos definimos por nuestros fracasos. A medida que avanzábamos de una sesión a otra, comenzamos a dejar los otros nombres que nos ponemos y centrarnos en uno, “Amado” o “Amada”. Este fue el nombre que Dios nos puso primero y el que más importó, el que reemplazó al resto. Como jóvenes adultos hispanos en la Diócesis de Owensboro, hay muchos nombres que nos ponen personas que no nos conocen. Como jóvenes en un mundo que quiere definirse, en lugar de descubrir la persona para la que Dios nos creó, somos tentados a encontrar pertenencia en lugares fuera de la Iglesia donde somos afirmados. Este fin de semana brindó la oportunidad de encontrar pertenencia a Cristo, a Su Cuerpo, donde somos amados y vistos. Con la ayuda del equipo de Gasper River, esta comunidad de jóvenes dio actos de fe y puso a prueba los límites de la confianza a través de tirolesas y escaleras gigantes. Entre saltos, los participantes y líderes lograron comunicarse entre idiomas y culturas. Cada vez más, se utilizan nombres para separar, pero cuando mantenemos el nombre de “Amado” o “Amada” por encima de todo, el idioma y la cultura se convierten



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA OFICINA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO/LATINO

Los jóvenes en el Retiro Juvenil Diocesano en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper participan en una actividad en la Cabaña Boone. El retiro se realizó en agosto de 2023.

en una herramienta para comunicarnos y no en una barrera para separarnos. La complejidad del nombre “hispano” en el contexto de los Estados Unidos deja a muchos con más preguntas que respuestas sobre cómo llegarle a los jóvenes hispanos. Sin embargo, nuestro esfuerzo diocesano por entrar en esa complejidad ha dado frutos en las relaciones y el liderazgo que estamos viendo con nuestros jóvenes. Si desea unirse al esfuerzo de ayudar a llegar a los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes hispanos en nuestra diócesis, comuníquese conmigo, Susana Solorza, coordinadora diocesana de la Pastoral Juvenil a [susana.solorza@pastoral.org](mailto:susana.solorza@pastoral.org) o al (270) 683 -1545.

-Susana Solorza, Coordinadora Pastoral Juvenil para la Diócesis de Owensboro.

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FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA OFICINA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO/LATINO  
Los jóvenes adultos asistentes al Retiro Juvenil Diocesano de este agosto, que se llevó a cabo en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA OFICINA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO/LATINO

Los participantes del Retiro Juvenil Diocesano en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper participan en una actividad. El retiro se realizó en agosto de 2023.

**CLEAN HEART INITIATIVES**

**INICIATIVA CORAZÓN PURO**

Taller y formación para padres de familia respecto al actual reto, problemática y uso responsable de la tecnología

**DOMINGO 29 DE OCTUBRE**

**SALÓN PARROQUIAL STS. JOSÉ Y PABLO**

609 EAST 4TH ST  
OWENSBORO KY 42303

**3:45-6:00 PM ¡LOS ESPERAMOS!**

**MAYORES INFORMES: (270) 880-8018**

**DR. CRISTOBAL GUTIERREZ**  
Director del Ministerio Hispano  
Oficina de Owensboro

**SUSANA SOLORZA**  
Coordinadora de la Pastoral Juvenil  
Pastoral de Owensboro

**Guarda la Fecha**

**PREPARACIÓN PRE-MATRIMONIAL**

**DÍA DE FORMACIÓN PRE-CANA**  
organizado por la Diócesis de Owensboro  
Oficina del Ministerio Hispano

**sábado 28 DE OCTUBRE**

de 8:30 de la mañana hasta las 4:30 de la tarde

**THE BALLARD CONVENTION CENTER**  
605 E ARCH ST, MADISONVILLE, KY 42431

**MAYORES INFORMES E INSCRIPCIONES**

**DR. CRISTOBAL GUTIERREZ**  
DIRECTOR DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO  
(270) 880-8018

**DANNY MAY**  
DIRECTOR OFICINA DE VIDA FAMILIA  
(270) 683-1545

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE, RUEGA POR ELLOS

**PLANEANDO UNA BODA CATÓLICA**

[portumatrimonio.org/bodas](http://portumatrimonio.org/bodas)

**POR TU MATRIMONIO**



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A tractor is seen in a field in Daviess County, Ky., in this 2017 file photo.

## Farm bill key to food security in US and abroad, Catholic activists say

BY KATE SCANLON, OSV NEWS

WASHINGTON (OSV News) - The 2023 Farm Bill should prioritize food security measures both in the United States and abroad, Catholic activists said. Originally part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, the first farm bill granted economic relief to farmers during the Great Depression, sought to set fair food prices for both farmers and consumers, maintain an adequate food supply and protect natural resources. Nearly a century later, the measure has grown to a package of legislation, passed about once every five years since the 1930s, to fund and set policy for nutritional, agricultural and forestry initiatives. The previous 2018 Farm Bill is set to expire this year. At a Sept. 21 virtual panel

hosted by Catholic Rural Life, speakers argued lawmakers should prioritize the legislation and its nutritional and environmental components. Ricardo Simmonds, environmental policy adviser at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said, "It's obvious (the) importance that farmers have, even small farms, in protecting the environment and also improving their communities. So this is really important legislation." Lawmakers have indicated the nation's largest farm spending package will likely be considered for renewal in December, three months after the previously passed farm bill expires Sept. 30. ■

*Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.*