

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

April 2024 ● Volume 51 Issue 4 ● A Publication of the Diocese of Owensboro ● westernkycatholic.com

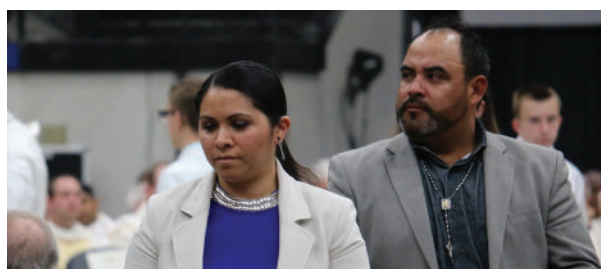


Bishop Medley
breathes into
the Sacred
Chrism during
the Diocese of
Owensboro's
March 26, 2024
Chrism Mass at
the Owensboro
Sportscenter.
Page 26



All Things New

Page 8



Español

Página 28



Twenty-seven years Page 15

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



A child holds a palm during Mass for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion on March 24, 2024, at St. Stephen Cathedral.

Page 20

RILEY GREIF | WKC

5 Priest assignments 2024
Most assignments to be in effect June 11, 2024

15 YOUTH 2000 celebrates 27th year in Owensboro
Annual retreat sees highest numbers since 2020

21 Parish picnics of 2024
The Western Kentucky Catholic's one-stop list for summertime picnic information

Correction: In our March 2024 issue, the story "All women are great women" says Afghanistan's first female fighter pilot, now living in Owensboro" referenced an incorrect name. The name of the individual Ahmad Shah Massoud was incorrectly referenced. The person referenced in the story should have been Mustafa Qahraman.

Submissions

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

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

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

Front page photo by Riley Greif, WKC.

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY  Catholic

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301
Telephone | (270) 683-1545

Email | wkc.editor@pastoral.org

Publisher | Bishop William F. Medley

Editor | Elizabeth Wong Barnstead

Contributors | Riley Greif, Rachel Hall

Layout | Rachel Hall

USPS Publication Number: 25732

Publication Title: THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

ISSN: 2996-8445 (Print edition)

ISSN: 2996-8453 (Online edition)

postage paid at Owensboro, KY 42301.

Published monthly, except June and July, 10 times a year.

Postmaster, send changes to: 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301 phone: 270-683-1545

Member of the Catholic Media Association.



The Western Kentucky Catholic comes to your home as a direct use of your parish assessment dollars: "Those who exercise authority in the Church will take care to ensure that there is responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God" -Pastoral Instruction of the Means of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971.

Opinions expressed in submitted columns and letters to the editor in The Western Kentucky Catholic may be edited for space, a lack of charity or a lack of clarity, and are not endorsed by the publisher or editor. No submissions are guaranteed placement.

Please politely indicate any factual errors in this publication by emailing wkc.editor@pastoral.org. View current and archived issues at westernkycatholic.com/wkc-archives.

To report suspected abuse, call the Kentucky Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331 (Toll Free) or contact your local Commonwealth Attorney. To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church, call Scott Ingram, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) at 270-852- 8380, or Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish) at 270-880-8360. Go to (owensborodiocese.org/safe) for more information. To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by bishops, go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562.

6 Features

10 Nation & World

12 A Matter of Faith

13 Youth

16 Around the Diocese

21 Upcoming Events

24 Archives

25 Anniversaries

26 Worship

28 Español

A Word From Bishop Medley: Unity and Real Presence

Editor's note: The following is a reprint of Bishop Medley's message for the April 2024 Acts 2:42 video for Session 8: Unity. To learn about Acts 2:42 small group opportunities at a parish near you, visit owensborodiocese.org/acts242.

We here in the United States are in the second year of a three-year Eucharistic Revival.

One of the triggers for this process came about when there was a much-publicized poll suggesting that a great majority of American Catholics did not believe in the Church's age-old teaching of the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Certainly very concerning. But as with so many polls I immediately wanted to know more – wanting to look a little longer and a bit deeper. Wanted to ask if those responding to the poll were all looking at the same question, at the same meaning of “Real Presence.”

I will admit that while I share the observation that there is plenty of room for concern – as a priest and pastor I observed something a bit different.

I have observed the prayerfulness of people of all ages attending Mass and particularly the reverence shown as they came forward to receive Holy Communion. I noted the active participation in the actions of the united assembly at this moment and the engagement in private prayer. I observed people of prayer and awe venerating the Blessed Sacrament.

I observed people genuinely encountering Jesus Christ in unity – as one Church.

Subsequent polls and studies have demonstrated that with clearer definitions and understanding of meaning, a much higher percentage of Catholics

affirm a belief that Christ is truly and really present in the Eucharist.

Now all that does the beg the question of why so many Catholics, if they believe in this Real Presence, do not attend Mass on Sunday more regularly?

So today I want to speak a little about the presence of Christ in the Eucharist – in the Mass.

In the Mass there are many ways that we encounter Jesus.

We encounter Jesus in the Holy Scriptures – believing that Jesus is manifest powerfully in the Word of God. We treat that Word with reverence – the lectionary, the book of the Gospels are handled with respect. Readers should be well-trained. The ambo, (the pulpit), is a noble fixture that speaks of the place of the Holy Word. Christ is revealed in the Word every time it is proclaimed.

The altar itself indicates the presence of Christ. It's not just an ordinary table. It is a table created and designated for one purpose. It is an object of deference – superbly illustrated by the gesture of the priest kissing the altar as he approaches it and kissing it again after the blessing and dismissal.

The assembly itself is Christ present. There is a popular definition of the Church – “Here comes everybody.” Jesus said, “Whenever two or more are gathered in my name, I am there.”

The priest, the presider, shows us yet another way to see Christ. Chosen from among the Church, the priest is an “alter Christi” – another Christ. He offers the holy sacrifice on behalf of us all and proclaims the Gospel of the Lord. So, there are multiple manifestations of Christ to be found.

You might wonder why we speak of Christ present

BISHOP MEDLEY'S APRIL 2024 CALENDAR

APRIL 7	10:30 a.m. Confirmation – Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 10	4 p.m. Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky – Zoom Meeting
APRIL 13	4 p.m. Confirmation – St. Ann Parish, Morganfield
APRIL 14	2 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville
APRIL 15	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
APRIL 16	6 p.m. Prayer for Healing and Protection – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
APRIL 17	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary of the Woods Parish, McQuady and St. Anthony the Abbot Parish, Axtel (held in McQuady)
APRIL 20	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm
APRIL 21	8 a.m. Confirmation – St. Denis Parish, Fancy Farm 1:30 p.m. Confirmation – St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield
APRIL 23	10 a.m. Mass and Senior Conversations – St. Mary High School, Paducah 6:30 p.m. Confirmation – Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 24	10 a.m. Staff Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro 6 p.m. Confirmation – Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawesville

Column and calendar continue on page 4

A Word From Bishop continued from page 3

APRIL 25	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. William Parish, Knottsville and St. Lawrence Parish, Philpot (held in Knottsville)
APRIL 27	10:30 a.m. Confirmation – St. Pius X Parish, Calvert City
APRIL 28	11 a.m. Confirmation – Christ the King Parish, Scottsville

in the species of bread and wine as “Real Presence.” Well, we have the Words of Jesus that have been treasured by the Church since the time of the apostles.

In the Mass, the priest prays: “For on the night before he was betrayed, he himself took bread, and giving thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: ‘Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you.’ In a similar way, when supper was

ended, he took the chalice, and, giving thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying: ‘Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.’”

Ok – so we can study theology and read books from all ages about Eucharist and Real Presence. However, it all comes down to faith. It comes down to that command: “Do this in memory of me.”

Often when teaching young people about the sacraments I discuss with them the outward signs of the sacrament. I ask them, what do you see with your eyes on the altar before you come forward for Holy Communion?

They will usually respond, the Eucharist. And I say, no – with your eyes you see bread and wine. It is

with faith that you see the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ.

Big difference. And remember that faith is a gift. And a gift must be accepted.

But why accept this gift – this preposterous gift that asks us to believe something so absurd that bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Christ?

It is sacred tradition from the night of the Last Supper. The everlasting sign that Jesus chose to leave with us. It is a gift accepted by saints and sinners alike, united in Christ, who trust in God’s everlasting love and presence.

Real Presence.



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Christopher French, diocesan seminarian, instituted into Ministry of Lector

BY WKC STAFF

On March 17, 2024, during the closing Mass for the YOUTH 2000 retreat at Brescia University in Owensboro, Bishop William F. Medley instituted seminarian Christopher French into the Ministry of Lector.

This is the next step on French’s ongoing journey of discernment of the diocesan priesthood.

The Diocese of Owensboro currently has three seminarians studying for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Indiana.

Besides French, whose home parish is Holy Spirit in Bowling Green, the seminarians are Conrad Jaconette, whose home parish is St. Joseph in Bowling Green, and who is in third theology; and Hunter Dickens, whose home parish is St. Thomas More in Paducah, and who is in his propaedeutic year – a formation stage to develop a life of prayer, study, fraternity, and appropriate docility to formation.

To learn more about vocations in the Diocese of Owensboro, contact Fr. Daniel Dillard, vocations director, at daniel.dillard@pastoral.org or call (270) 683-1545. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley institutes seminarian Christopher French into the Ministry of Lector on March 17, 2024, during YOUTH 2000 at Brescia University in Owensboro.

Priest assignments 2024 in the Diocese of Owensboro

The Office of the Bishop has announced the pastor assignments for 2024. Please pray for those who will soon begin their transition into a new assignment and for the communities they serve.

- **Fr. Mike Clark** | Pastor, St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah. Effective June 11, 2024.
- **Fr. Jamie Dennis** | Pastor, St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho (formerly serving as Parish Administrator). Effective June 11, 2024.
- **Fr. Steve Hohman** | Pastor, Christ the King Parish in Madisonville. Effective June 11, 2024.
- **Fr. Jojy Joseph** | Pastor, St. Francis Borgia in Sturgis, St. William in Marion, and St. Ambrose in Henshaw. Effective June 11, 2024.
- **Fr. John Paul Mang** | Pastor, St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro. Effective May 15, 2024.
- **Fr. Suneesh Mathew** | Pastor, St. Paul Parish in Leitchfield and St. Elizabeth Parish in Clarkson. Effective June 11, 2024.
- **Fr. Carl McCarthy** | Pastor, Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro. Effective June 11, 2024.
- **Fr. John Okoro** | Pastor, St. Alphonsus Parish in St. Joseph and St.

Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville. Effective June 11, 2024.

- **Fr. Anthoni Ottagan** | Pastor, St. Edward Parish in Fulton, St. Jude Parish in Clinton, and Sacred Heart Parish in Hickman. Effective June 11, 2024.
- **Fr. Stephen Van lal Than** | Pastor, St. Anthony Parish in Peonia, St. Augustine Parish in Grayson Springs, and St. Benedict Parish in Wax. Effective June 11, 2024.
- **Fr. Brad Whistle** | Pastor, St. Paul Parish in Princeton and St. Mark Parish in Eddyville. Effective June 11, 2024.
- **Fr. Brandon Williams** | Pastor, Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro. Effective June 11, 2024.

Other

- **Fr. Babu Kulathumkal** | *Fr. Babu will serve as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army effective May 15, 2024.*
- **Fr. Robert Drury** | *Fr. Robert Drury will be retiring from active ministry effective June 11, 2024.*

Happy anniversary to our priests!

Msgr. Bernard Powers
Ordained 4/30/1952
Retired

Fr. Tony Shonis
Ordained 4/3/1971
Retired

Fr. Shaiju Thomas
Ordained 4/7/1999
Pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Axtel; and St. Mary of the Woods Parish, McQuady

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

Fr. Ramesh Kattermetla
Ordained 4/25/2011
Parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville; and St. John the Baptist, Fordsville



You can earn 6.2% on your gift to The Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky

A 75-year-old donor can receive a guaranteed income for life by contributing to The Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky with a Charitable Gift Annuity! Rates vary based on age of donor.

For example, if you give a \$25,000 Charitable Gift Annuity to the foundation, your benefits include:

- \$1,550 annual income, which you may donate to your parish or diocese for additional tax credit
- generous charitable tax deductions
- over half the income tax free
- potential reduced estate taxes

You can designate the Diocese of Owensboro or your parish as the beneficiary of your generosity.

For more information, call Valeria Vessels at 270-852-8348 or Tom Lilly at 270-683-1545

Sisters helping My Sister's Keeper: Ursulines and Associates make blankets for women's shelter

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

As part of Catholic Sisters Week, several Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and Ursuline Associates spent March 11 and 12 making blankets to donate to an Owensboro emergency shelter for women and children. The volunteers made 15 blankets out of fleece for My Sister's Keeper, which opened in 2022. The goal of the shelter is to offer safety to homeless women and children and help equip them with the skills to achieve self-sufficiency. Two yards of fleece were laid on top of the other, and then the sides were cut in strips an inch wide and three inches deep. The strips were then tied together to make the blankets for My Sister's Keeper. Sr. Amelia Stenger, OSU, organized the blanket project utilizing Ursuline Sisters at the motherhouse and Ursuline Associates Suzanne Reiss and Carol Hill. Catholic Sisters Week is celebrated nationally March 8-14.

"I was reading an article about Catholic Sisters Week and I noticed that many communities were doing service projects as a way of looking outward," Sr. Amelia said. "I read an article about My Sister's Keeper and I felt it would be a good way for our Ursuline Sisters to help others who are having difficulty in their lives. A warm blanket to wrap themselves in when they come to the shelter with nothing seemed to be a way for us to be our sisters' keeper."

Aside from the 15 blankets, there were also five small quilts delivered to the organization in March. ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH Sister Mary Henning, center, joined the blanket-making crew on March 12 that included Sister Catherine Barber, right, Sister Elaine Burke, left, and Sister Marie Joseph Coomes (with her back turned.) In the distance are Associates Suzanne Reiss from Lanesville, Ind., and Carol Hill from Leitchfield, and Sister Susan Mary Mudd (with her back turned). The blankets were being donated to My Sister's Keeper shelter in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH Sr. Sharon Sullivan, standing, the congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters, joins in the blanket making in Maple Hall along with Sr. George Mary Hagan, Sr. Marie Joseph Coomes and Sr. Elaine Burke.

You're invited...



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

WHEN

July 17-21, 2024

WHERE

Indianapolis, Indiana

**Ticket options include
full week, family pass,
day pass, weekend pass,
youth discount,
and more!**

eucharisticcongress.org

People of all faiths invited to pray for protection, healing, of victims of sexual abuse

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In April, an ecumenical prayer service will be held at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro for protection and healing of victims of sexual abuse.

This prayer service is sponsored annually by the Diocese of Owensboro, and it previously consisted of the Catholic Church's tradition of praying vespers, also known as evening prayer, led by Bishop William F. Medley.

This year, however, organizers decided to change the format a bit. The prayer service, which will take place on April 16 from 6-6:45 p.m., will instead utilize the Taizé prayer style.

Taizé prayer – used in different Christian traditions, including Catholic – was formed by the ecumenical, monastic Taizé community in France, whose vows are focused on an apostolate of reconciliation. (Popular Taizé chants include “Jesus, Remember Me,” often sung at liturgies on Good Friday, and “Stay Here,” commonly chanted on Holy Thursday.)

“I hope other Christians will consider joining us for prayer,” said Michael Bogdan, director of the diocese’s Office of Music, who helped coordinate the prayer service. “This is a chance to acknowledge and pray for an end to the abuse that has plagued all of our churches. And an opportunity to come together to ask Christ to bring healing and peace to those who have suffered abuse.”

Terri Congleton is the chair of the Diocesan Review Board, which assists the bishop in reviewing and handling cases of alleged sexual abuse against persons acting in the name of the Catholic Church.

She said that in offering annual prayer opportunities like these, the Church is “recognizing an injury – really, a travesty – and bringing us together in prayer that it won’t separate us as the Body of Christ.”

Congleton, who has served as chair since August 2023, said it is important that “the Church still sees this as part of our history.”

Continuing to pray through, and talk about this issue, “helps not just the victims but also (reminds) the members of the community that these things did happen,” she said. In other words, “not to just close that door and forget. Because the victims won’t forget; they never do.”

Congleton said sexual abuse in the Church is “a very divisive topic” especially when “victims aren’t seen as victims” and are instead viewed as trying to ruin someone’s reputation.

She emphasized that as a Church, “our job is to be that community” for those suffering the lingering effects of abuse, and to seek to lessen the burden or help it feel “not so heavy” for survivors.

“Knowing that their brothers and sisters in Christ love and support them, and don’t want them to feel alone,” she said. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Candles are lit and participants sing together during the Diocese of Owensboro’s April 21, 2022 prayer service for protection and healing from sexual abuse. The service was held at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

JOIN US FOR

An Evening In Italy

BENEFITING
ST. GIANNA CRISIS PREGNANCY HOME

04.20.2024
6:00 PM | LA GALA

COCKTAIL HOUR | APPETIZERS | DINNER
MUSIC BY WKU STRINGS
SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS

TICKETS ON SALE!

presented by
LOCKSHIELD PARTNERS

St. Gianna
CRISIS PREGNANCY HOME

‘All Things New’ – Murray Newman Center rebuild campaign is ‘about the future of the Church’



COURTESY OF URBAN FABRIC

An artist's rendering of the proposed new building for the Newman Center at Murray State University.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fr. Joshua McCarty considers the “All Things New” rebuild project for the Newman Catholic Center in Murray to be about a “mission at stake.”

“The future of the Church is something we need to be pulling toward,” he said, calling the initiative “not just a project” and instead “an invitation to spiritual maturity.”

Fr. McCarty is the pastor of St. Leo Parish, which includes on its campus the Newman Center that ministers to students at nearby Murray State University. The center is served by campus ministers Philomena Hempel and Fr. Thomas Santhosh, as well as by the Murray’s FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionaries.

Newman Centers, which are named for St. John Henry Newman because of his influence on the Catholic intellectual tradition, connect students with Catholic communities on secular campuses. Newman Centers are affiliated with the umbrella Newman Ministry organization.

Fr. McCarty said Murray’s current Newman Center is a 20-year-old double-wide trailer.

The trailer received an addition in 1997 to make space for a small chapel – though with the ministry’s ongoing growth, the chapel has become too small to fit all the students wanting to attend Mass. Right now, Newman Center Masses are relegated to the church at St. Leo’s.

Fr. McCarty said the challenge is that trailers are typically built for single-family residence, but at any given event, Murray’s Newman Center sees anywhere from 50-70 young people attending.

“We are really proud that our trailer has lasted this long,” he said, but explained that “the bathrooms don’t work, the windows are single pane,” and, perhaps most noteworthy, a student recently stepped through the floor – which had been weakened by water damage.

It is for these reasons that the Newman Catholic Center community wants to build a brand-new center from the ground up. In fall 2023, Bishop William F. Medley gave his official approval for the proposed building project and a capital campaign to support it.

The proposed new center will feature a gathering space for 100 students, a chapel to comfortably seat 70 people (currently, the chapel can only fit about 25), a library/reading room for bible studies, and a modern kitchen for community meals.

Another reason for a new building is to offer improved safety during bad weather, which Fr. McCarty said was made abundantly clear during the

devastating tornadoes in December 2021.

That night of Dec. 10, a few students were gathered at the Newman Center trailer, unbeknownst to the parish staff. The record-breaking storms ravaged western Kentucky, and a tornado came as close as 20 miles away.

Thankfully, the students, the Newman Center and the parish were unscathed, but the experience troubled Fr. McCarty when he learned that when the weather crisis happened, “we did not have a safe place to offer our students.”

With their new building, “we intend to have a space that is reasonably safe for our people,” he said, which includes extra reinforcement in the bathrooms “to have an area that is doubly safe.”

The estimated cost of building a new Newman Center is \$1.75 million; a cost which Fr. McCarty emphasized is well worth it.

From a numbers perspective, he said there are currently three men in seminary formation around the U.S., five women religious, and 13 (“and counting”) FOCUS missionaries – all of whom who were formed at Murray’s Newman Center.

That’s in reference to Murray State graduates, but Fr. McCarty said he is impressed with the faith of the students still in school, too.

Last year, he decided to “challenge the students a little” and announced that he would start getting up at 5 a.m. to do his morning prayer in the Newman chapel – and open it to the students. He wasn’t there to chat or hang out, and planned to do his morning prayer quietly on his own.

Continues on page 9

Rebuild continued from page 8

The purpose was just to provide another prayer opportunity, albeit at an unusual time for the average college student.

That first morning, there were 20 students in the chapel by 5:07 a.m. By the end of Fr. McCarty's morning prayer time, "there were people gathered outside the chapel because there were people who wouldn't fit," he said.

He kept up this practice, and continued seeing students quietly appear in the chapel on those early mornings.

Fr. McCarty said it is true that the Newman Center needs a new building, "but it's not about the building."

"It's about the future of the Church; it's about the generation leaving the Church en masse," he said. "It's about the future of vocations and leadership in the Church. The college-aged student is the age that is leaving the Church – or committing to a life of service. It's the fork in the road." ■

Those interested in supporting the All Things New campaign can visit the official webpage at www.catholicracers.org/all-things-new.



COURTESY OF NEWMAN CENTER
A Murray State Newman Center Mass at capacity is seen in this undated photo.



CNS PHOTO/CINDY SCHULTZ VIA THE EVANGELIST (left) Marco Pantoja III, 18, center, sits down for dinner with his family March 7, 2021, at their home in Valatie, N.Y. Marco would sponsor his family when they were baptized as Catholics on April 3, 2021, at the Easter Vigil.

Fifty days of Easter spirit

BY LORENE HANLEY DUQUIN, OSV NEWS

(OSV News) – Most people don't think in terms of Easter spirit. Yet the Easter season is a time that is filled with a spirit of joy and hope.

During the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday, we proclaim and sing the word "alleluia," which means "praise the Lord." We are reminded that Jesus has overcome death. We are given the assurance that our lives have meaning and purpose. And we have the promise of eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

Now that's something to celebrate. But there's even more!

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised his disciples they would never be alone, because he

would send the Holy Spirit to guide them. Then he commissioned his followers to spread his message all over the world and make disciples of all people.

Ten days later, on Pentecost Sunday, the apostles heard a loud noise, and the Holy Spirit descended upon them in tongues of fire. When that happened, they received spiritual gifts that transformed their lives and gave them the power to touch the lives of others. They ran into the streets and began to tell people about Jesus. Each person in the crowd understood them in his or her own language. Thousands became believers that day.

So, Easter spirit is more than just experiencing joy and hope. It's also a special call to share the Easter message with others.

Good news is contagious. Here are ways you can

Continues on page 7

Easter spirit continued from page 9

spread the good news this Easter season:

~ Host a neighborhood gathering on Sunday afternoons. As the weather warms up, send the kids out to play and meet and greet the people who live next door. Ask everyone to bring a dish or beverage to share. What a great way to live out Jesus' command to "love our neighbor."

~ Make Friday night movie night. Pick your favorite streaming service and watch a movie as a family every Friday night through the Easter season. Eat popcorn and movie snacks and talk about the takeaway lessons each person learned from the show.

~ May Day basket. Put together a small basket or box of goodies and deliver it to neighbors, shut-ins, grandparents or a young couple with a new baby. Be sure to stay anonymous ~ leave the basket on the front steps, ring the doorbell and run. Kids can make homemade greeting cards or cookies, or pass on a gently used toy that they've outgrown. Pluck some flowers or herbs from your spring garden, add a prayer card and all of a sudden you can be spreading the good news of Easter joy. ■

Lorene Hanley Duquin is a Catholic author and lecturer who has worked in parishes and on a diocesan level.

National group Awake: More than just kids, 'all God's people deserve to be safe in church'

BY GINA CHRISTIAN, OSV NEWS

(OSV News) ~ The Catholic Church in the U.S. has made "real progress in protecting children today from abuse," but "unfortunately, this is just not true for adults," a leading Catholic survivor advocate told OSV News.

"I think we need to begin by admitting that this is a serious problem, and deciding as a church that all of God's people deserve to be safe in the church, no matter their age," said Sara Larson, executive director of the nonprofit Awake.

Based in Milwaukee, the independent Catholic organization works to support survivors and educate Catholics on the issue of sexual abuse within the church.

Awake recently announced it has embraced a new, nationally focused mission, one that offers "a needed voice in the public conversation about abuse in the Catholic Church," while continuing "the

work that still needs to be done to build a Church that is transparent, accountable, and safe for all," said Larson in the organization's Jan. 23 news release.

Launched as Awake Milwaukee in March 2019 ~ following a wave of clerical abuse scandals the previous year, including that involving the former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick ~ the group's early members initially met in person and at small local events. During online meetings amid COVID-19 restrictions, the organization began to attract a wider audience, especially through its "Courageous Conversations" and "Survivor Circles" series. The group also held two June 2022 sessions contributing to the U.S. stage of the ongoing Synod on Synodality convened by Pope Francis.

Now, the lay-led Awake, funded largely by individual donations, has launched a new website at awakecommunity.org, and looks to expand its array of education, advocacy, prayer and survivor



OSV NEWS PHOTO/PEDRO NUNES, REUTERS
People participate in a candlelight vigil in Lisbon, Portugal, Feb. 22, 2023, in support of the more than 4,800 children who were sexually abused by members of the Portuguese Catholic Church, according to an independent commission in Portugal investigating cases of clergy sexual abuse from the past.

resources, which Larson said are more critical than ever.

"I think that most Catholics would be shocked with the prevalence of abuse of adults in the church today, and unfortunately, there are very few safeguards in place to protect adults from abuse by

Continues on page 11

Awake continued from page 10

religious leaders,” Larson told OSV News. “And when abuse does happen, victims are often blamed, shamed and ignored, while their abusers are left free to continue to harm others.”

Part of the issue is a lack of seeing both the issue of abuse and the steps taken by the church to address it through the eyes of survivors, she said.

“Unless you’re really listening to the survivors who are engaging with these processes today, it’s easy to believe that these systems are working and that the problem is fixed,” Larson said. “I speak to so many abuse survivors who say that their experience reporting to the church was just as traumatic, and sometimes even more traumatic, than the abuse itself.”

Retraumatization has long been a widespread risk for sexual violence survivors who report abuse to medical, psychological and law enforcement professionals. Researchers have broadly called for a “trauma-informed approach” in reporting and treatment, so that survivors can recount their experiences in a supportive environment. Trauma-informed approaches also can help to prevent abuse, since survivors are more likely to report sexual violence if they know the process for doing so will not further wound them.

“No system is perfect,” Larson admitted. “And the reality is that speaking about traumatic events can be very painful and triggering, but ... it can be an empowering process for a survivor to speak the truth, and to be heard and received with compassion.”

Larson said she would “like to see we as a church ... start by really listening, by having an awareness of trauma and how trauma works, and how that might impact someone’s experience and the way they speak about it ~ and to really treat this person not as a liability or a threat, but as a loving child of God.”

“Clear, compassionate systems in place for adults to report abuse by priests and other Catholic leaders” are essential, said Larson.

“These systems have to be facilitated by people with sensitivity to trauma and an understanding of the power dynamics involved in adult abuse,” she said.

Awake has a “desire to be really survivor-centered,” and to “make sure that when people are engaging with abuse survivors, that they’re ready for that and have the training and an approach that’s not going to cause additional harm,” said Larson.

The language of that approach is crucial, she stressed.

“We need to get rid of the demeaning label ‘vulnerable adults,’ and recognize that all people can be vulnerable to abuse at particular times and in particular situations,” said Larson.

Such abuse also inflicts deep spiritual wounds, which is why Awake seeks to accompany survivors struggling with “religious trauma” from abuse within the church, Larson said.

She said she has seen “so many survivors work so hard to disentangle their abuser and the things he or she said or did or the way that spirituality was used ~ disentangle that from their own spiritual life, their own understanding of God and for some their own relationship with the church.”

Larson pointed out that often “the spiritual element of abuse twists those things together in such a way that it can be really, really difficult to see God, to encounter the sacraments, to experience yourself as loved by God without having the abuser’s voice coming through that.”

Some survivors find themselves having to “take a spiritual path outside of the Catholic Church,” she said, while others have “found a way to heal within

the church.”

“Those are individual sacred journeys” of “seeking (one’s) spiritual center after having that abused and manipulated by someone who claimed to represent God,” said Larson.

Remaining “grounded in this belief” that every survivor “matters to God (and) matters to us, and (that) the way we treat them matters” will enable the Catholic Church to better address and prevent abuse, she said, adding, “If we care about each human being as a beloved child of God, we have to choose to make this a priority.” ■

Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.

To learn more about Awake, visit awakecommunity.org.



Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

 *Quilt Club*

We still have Quilt Club tickets!
It's not too late to get your Quilt of the Month Club ticket! **If you enter by May 2**, you will have 11 chances to win a beautiful handmade quilt. Drawings occur on the first Friday of each month.

Only 2,500 tickets will be sold.
Contact Carol Braden-Clarke:
270-229-2009
carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org
Order online: ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-club

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

License No. 0200

Spring and the Eucharist: Signs of hope

BY DCN. JAY W. VANHOOSIER, OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Spring is upon us, with its vibrant blossoms and revitalized landscapes, and it serves as powerful metaphor for renewal and new beginnings. For Catholics, the arrival of spring resonates deeply with the profound symbolism embedded in the Sacrament of the Eucharist – the essence of spiritual rebirth and the promise of eternal life.

Spring is the season of renewal as it marks the end of winter’s dormancy and the awakening of nature. In the Catholic liturgical calendar, this season aligns with Lent and Easter, a period of reflection, penance, and ultimate celebration of the Resurrection. Just as the earth shows forth new life during spring, Catholics are invited to undergo a spiritual rejuvenation through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. The vibrant colors of blooming flowers mirror the hope and joy that permeate the hearts of believers as they anticipate the culmination of Christ’s redemptive sacrifice on Easter Sunday.

The Eucharist is the source of spiritual renewal. It the Sacrament that captures the essence of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and his triumphant Resurrection. The act of receiving the Body and Blood of Christ during Holy Communion is a profoundly transformative experience. In the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, Catholics partake in the mystery of Christ’s redemptive love, symbolizing a spiritual rebirth akin to the renewal witnessed in the natural world during spring.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus declares, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst” (John 6:35

NABRE). This proclamation underscores the profound connection between the Eucharist and the sustenance of the soul. Just as spring brings sustenance to the earth, the Eucharist nourishes the faithful, providing spiritual strength, grace, and the promise of eternal life.

The rich symbolism of nature in spring parallels the spiritual richness found in the Eucharist. The blossoming flowers and flourishing landscapes echo the spiritual blossoming that occurs within individuals through their participation in the Eucharistic celebration. Just as spring signifies a new chapter for the earth, the Eucharist marks a continuous renewal for the Christian, fostering a deeper connection with God and a commitment to living a life reflective of Christ’s teachings.

In the intertwining narratives of spring and the Eucharist, Catholics find a profound and sacred connection between the natural world and their spiritual journey. The newness of spring serves as a poignant reminder of the cyclical nature of life, mirroring the promise of renewal found in the Eucharist. As the earth awakens from its slumber, so too do the hearts of believers find rejuvenation in the Sacrament that encapsulates the very essence of Christ’s redemptive love. Spring, with its bright colors and fragrant blossoms, becomes a living testament to the eternal hope and new life offered through the Eucharist, inviting Catholics to embrace the transformative power of faith and embark on a continual journey of spiritual renewal. ■

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



BOB ROLLER | CNS

In this file photo, daffodils are seen in front of the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D.C., on April 7,

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

PILGRIMAGE TO EMERALD IRELAND

\$4499 FROM NASHVILLE
(Air/land tour price is \$3999 plus \$500 government taxes/airline surcharges)

**11 Days:
August 19 - 29, 2024**

VISITING: WATERFORD ♦ KILLARNEY ♦ CLIFFS OF MOHER
GALWAY ♦ CONNEMARA ♦ KNOCK ♦ SLIGO ♦ DUBLIN

HOSTED BY
**FR. MIKE CLARK, J.C.L.
FR. WILL THOMPSON, J.C.L.**

Tour Features:

- Roundtrip air from Nashville
- \$500 government taxes & airline surcharges
- First class/select hotels based on 2 persons sharing in twin bedded rooms with private bath
- Most Meals
- Services of a professional English-speaking driver/guide
- Comprehensive sightseeing

For More Information, Please Contact
Fr. John Michael Clark, J.C.L.
Tel: (270) 683-8444 (Office)
Email: mike.clark@pastoral.org
will.thompson@pastoral.org

A day of serving at Community Kitchen, featuring the St. Mary basketball team

Editor's note:

The Western Kentucky Catholic recently completed a project with the journalism class at St. Mary High School in Paducah. Journalism teacher Melissa Reed, collaborating with WKC editor Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, assigned articles to five students, who each chose a topic at the school to write about, with the agreement that these articles would be published by the WKC. Please enjoy two of the articles by student writers Jake Morris and Ava Campbell, reprinted below and on the following page; more articles may be found online at westernkycatholic.com.



COURTESY OF CONRAD LOVE

St. Mary basketball team closes out a huge day serving the community at the local Community Kitchen in Paducah.



COURTESY OF CHASE DENSON

Juniors Luke Sims and Brett Haas; and seniors Landon Durbin, Aidan Hahn, and David DeNeve, making full plates of food for the guests at Community Kitchen.

BY JAKE MORRIS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Every year before the St. Mary High School basketball season begins, the boy's team serves the people at the Community Kitchen in Paducah. This is not only a team bonding experience but also helps strengthen the boys' faith by helping those in need. The team packaged, cooked, and served food to the people who needed it the most. They cleaned tables after people finished eating so the next group could enjoy a meal in a welcoming environment.

The players really enjoyed the opportunity to serve the community.

Senior Landon Durbin stated, "It was a very rewarding experience being able to work with my friends/teammates, and to be able to give back to the community."

Everyone collectively worked hard for five hours to serve the community, and they enjoyed it at the same time.

Senior Aidan Hahn stated, "I learned that Community Kitchen is a welcoming environment that is willing to help everyone. I also learned that Community Kitchen is a place hundreds rely on, and it was a great experience to be able to help people that day."

Community Kitchen is an organization

dedicated to helping anybody in need of assistance, whether it is food or a place to sleep at night. It is very hard to serve a mass amount of people with little to no help. This is why the St. Mary basketball team dedicates a day once a year to help out and show our support to Community Kitchen's goal of helping those in need. This is what God calls people to do as Christians. The players and coaches enjoyed every moment being there and are excited to return next year. ■

Jake Morris is a sophomore at St. Mary High School in Paducah.

Service day at St. Mary High School: A chance to give back

BY AVA CAMPBELL, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Mary High School's service day is a tradition of St. Mary's Catholic Schools Week. A day of service at St. Mary is all about giving back to the Paducah area.

All the locations the high school students visit on this day include the following organizations: Family Service Society, Paducah Cooperative Ministry, nursing homes, St. Mary Elementary School, Starfish Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, and Hope Unlimited. When students attend these locations, they make baskets for the people who need it most. The baskets include necessary items such as, body wash, shampoo, toilet paper, tooth brushes, paper towels, and many other necessities, and organizing

canned food. The student body also helps the elderly. St. Mary students enjoy service day and the positivity their presence brings to the community.

Senior Marina Singler states, "I enjoy making an impact in other people's lives, and it makes me connected with the community." This day impacts not only the community, it impacts St. Mary.

This day of service shares a strong message about positivity and growth. St. Mary students are thankful that they can be a part of a tradition that is so special and beneficial.

Junior Samantha Potter states, "I love spending time with my fellow classmates doing Christ's work by helping those in the Paducah area in need."

Service day at St. Mary is all about giving back to the community. It empowers students to change



COURTESY OF JAKE MORRIS

On Jan. 31, 2024, junior Caroline Crider helps organize clothing items.

and to actively engage in such a small community. Service day teaches the students of St. Mary a lesson. It helps them understand that they are lucky to be part of such an amazing school system. ■

Ava Campbell is a junior at St. Mary High School in Paducah.

Catholic scouts honored at annual diocesan Mass

BY WKC STAFF

On March 3, 2024, St. Anthony Parish in Utica hosted the annual Religious Emblems Awards Ceremony during a Mass celebrating Catholic scouts.

Those who received awards this year were all members of Cub Scout Pack 120, which meets at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro. They were: James Hagan, who received the Light of Christ Award; and Ethan Hagan, Breandan Murphy, Samuel Osborne, Lucas Salvina, and Warson Underwood, all of whom received the Parvuli Dei Award.

Other awards given to Catholic scouts include the Ad Altare Dei Emblem, which is for Scouts, Sea Scouts,

and Venturers who are Catholic and 13-14 years old; and the Pope Pius XII Emblem, which is for Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Venturers who are Catholic and older than 14 years old. The Ad Altare Dei Emblem exists to help scouts grow in their spiritual experience of their relationship to God and the Church. The Pope Pius XII Emblem exists to help scouts explore vocations and ministries in the Church as calls from God. ■

Those who are interested in joining the Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Committee on Scouting, or would like to learn more about religious awards for Catholic scouts, may email scouts@pastoral.org.



COURTESY OF DONNA MURPHY

Members of Cub Scout Pack 120, which meets at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro, take a picture with Bishop William F. Medley after the March 3, 2024 Religious Emblems Award Ceremony for Catholic scouts. It was held at St. Anthony Parish in Utica. Pictured are (right to left) Ethan Hagan, Breandan Murphy, Bishop Medley, and James Hagan.

YOUTH 2000 celebrates 27th year in Owensboro

BY WKC STAFF

The 27th annual YOUTH 2000 drew more than 500 participants (400 of them youth) for the March 15-17, 2024 retreat, which was held at Brescia University in Owensboro.

The retreat, which is centered around Christ in the Eucharist and focuses on bringing teens closer to the Eucharist, is led by the Diocese of Owensboro's Marian Shrine Committee and cosponsored by the diocese's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

YOUTH 2000 features prayer, Mass, Confession, talks, and fellowship with other Catholic youth from around the diocese. This year's retreat saw more than 500 total registrations of youth and adult leaders, which was the highest number seen since 2020. ■

To learn more about the retreat, visit owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000.



COURTESY OF FR. COREY D. BRUNS

A monstrance containing the Holy Eucharist is seen during evening Adoration on March 16, 2024, at YOUTH 2000 held at Brescia University in Owensboro.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Altar servers lead the procession at the end of the closing Mass for YOUTH 2000 on March 17, 2024, at Brescia University in Owensboro.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

A youth receives Holy Communion during the closing Mass for YOUTH 2000 on March 17, 2024, at Brescia University in Owensboro.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Participants hold hands for the Our Father during the closing Mass for YOUTH 2000 on March 17, 2024, at Brescia University in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF SVDP

SVDP-CEO, Richard B. Remp-Morris presents house keys to the Campbell family at their home dedication in Mayfield, Ky., on March 1, 2024. Pictured are (left to right) Adam Campbell, Lyric Campbell, Hope Campbell and Richard B. Remp-Morris.

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The struggle continues for western Kentucky residents that experienced the devastating tornado of December 2021. Many are still without a permanent home. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky continues to support the necessary

St. Vincent de Paul partners with The Hope Initiative to assist tornado rebuilding

recovery work for tornado survivor families. Recently, SVDP-CEO Richard B. Remp-Morris, was asked by The Hope Initiative ministry to take part in a home dedication ceremony along with Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear for tornado survivor families in Mayfield, Ky.

On March 1, 2024, six homes erected by The Hope Initiative were dedicated and presented to each family who will occupy the dwellings. (The Hope Initiative group assists tornado survivors who were renters but who never previously owned a home.) Those homes were furnished with SVDP's House in A Box program. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Disaster Services Corporation (DSC) started this unique program several years ago to provide new furniture and housewares for those affected by natural disasters across the nation.

The Hope Initiative has a goal of building 500 homes

for tornado survivor families. So far, a total of 54 homes have been erected by The Hope Initiative; 52 of those homes have been furnished through the House in A Box program. It is St. Vincent de Paul's hope that we can continue to serve these tornado survivor families. In many cases, the mortgage payment for these newly-built homes is half or less than what the families were paying in rent.

Many ask, "Haven't they finished rebuilding yet?" No, not all of the western Kentucky communities have rebuilt, that is why we need to look through Christ's eyes when we are neighbors helping neighbors. ■

Belinda Abell is the external affairs director for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Inc.

Hancock County March for Life sees more than 100 participants

BY NEENA GAYNOR, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Hancock County Coalition for Life hosted our third annual Hancock County March for Life on March 23, 2024. More than 100 people joined us for this event held at Hancock County High School. The coalition is an ecumenical group that represents 10 churches in the county, and meets monthly at Immaculate Conception Parish in Hawesville. We are a Christ-centered community respecting and defending the sanctity of life from its conception to natural end, striving to convert hearts one at a time. We provide an annual scholarship to graduating seniors and diaper bags full of necessities for mom and baby for mothers in crisis. Typically, this event is held in January, on or near the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, but due to inclement weather this year we had to postpone it. For more information, contact Neena Gaynor, president, at (270) 927-8419. ■



COURTESY OF NEENA GAYNOR

More than 100 people participate in the March 23, 2024 Hancock County March for Life, held at Hancock County High School.



COURTESY OF NEENA GAYNOR

Members of Hancock County Coalition for Life at the March 23, 2024 Hancock County March for Life.

Cursillo weekends continue tradition of ‘Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ’



COURTESY OF CURSILLO

The participants of the Feb. 29-March 3, 2024, men's Cursillo weekend. Fr. Tom Buckman, Dcn. Gayle Rhodes, Paul Haycraft, Marty Schroeder, Tommy Wagner, Kenny Woodward, Gervase Ebert, Scott Elliott, Kelley Wheatley, Bob Cinnamon, Bob Stallings, Dcn. Tim Barnes, Troy Christian, Kelly Christian, Randy Miller, Rick Turner, Chris Woodward, Wes Wheatley, Dcn. John Knight, James Meserve, Josh Ballard, Jeff Andrini, Chance Anthony, Daniel Blandford, Tommy Davidson, Jerry Dickenson, James Jarboe, Adam Lucas, Pat Padgett, Andrew Payne, Michael Rhodes, Paco Ruiz-Tulier, Gary Warren, Isaac Warren



COURTESY OF CURSILLO

The participants of the March 7-10, 2024, women's Cursillo weekend. First row: Kim Haire, Eileen Wickham, Debbie Smeathers, Vicki Kinnard. Second row: Fr. Ken Mikulcik, Christy Allard, Marti Vickers, Alice Giarusso, Mary Hagan, Bettie Stone, Karla Wagner. Last row: Marie Anderson, Lindsey Felton, Marilyn Day, Katherine Woodward, Julie Tiell, Mary Lee, Ada Rhodes, Anna Conn, Teresa Young, Donna Howard, Fr. Terry Devine, Mary Grace Woodward, Kimberly Demarest, Amy Fogle Stiff, Kathy Melton, Tina Wolken, Charlotte Hedges, Michelle Sandheindrich, Rachael Hagman.

BY ASHLEY HAYCRAFT, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Cursillo community held the 76th men's weekend and 78th women's weekend during the beginning of March at Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center in Bowling Green. There were 13 men and 12 women making the weekend, which is among the largest groups since Covid canceled the weekends in 2020. Many of the women described their experiences with tear-filled eyes, as they talked of finding a community of believers and new friends that are traveling the same path in this life toward Christ. As they shared conversations, prayers, and meals together over the four-day experience, they felt a sense of belonging that they had been missing for years. Some of the men explained they had not realized how much they were lacking in their relationship with Christ and were eager to continue growing with Christ through the Cursillo method.

Cursillo is an international movement that began in Spain with Eduardo Bonnin in the early 20th century and has been steadily growing as those who make the weekends find a foundation for being authentically Christian, which is a love of God and love of neighbor. The Assistant Rector of the men's weekend, Marty Schroeder, commented, "there is really something different (in those who attend the weekends) from Thursday night to Sunday afternoon, I'd call it the Holy Spirit." Marty then explained his experience of being involved in Cursillo for several years now and how it has affected his life: "At each Cursillo weekend, a group of strangers come together, acknowledge each other's worth as human beings, and acknowledge the power of God and love of Jesus which in turn helps him go back into daily life and share Jesus with others." Marty, along with several other men, have mentioned having a newfound courage and strength to talk with others about Jesus and how their relationship with Him

Continues on page 18

Cursillo continued from page 17

has changed their life, after making a weekend and using the Cursillo method. The women's Assistant Rectora, Mary Woodward, commented on the same realization when asked about her experience of the weekend. She believed her relationship with Christ was strong, and then after being involved with Cursillo she recognizes a new drive to share Jesus with others in her life.

Plans and many prayers are already in the works for the 2025 weekends. Mary trusts in the Lord to prepare her to be Rectora of the 79th women's Cursillo, and explained she will be filling the prayer jar she received from her long time Cursillo friend, Tina Wheatly, with her preparation ideas and plans. Mary stated, "God will let me know how He wants this next weekend to play out." Marty is also already contemplating the men's 77th weekend and challenges the group from this year to live out the Cursillo method of "Make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ." ■

Ashley Haycraft is the communications chair for Cursillo in the Diocese of Owensboro. To learn more, visit www.cursillo-owensboro.org.

Quilting Friends return to help support Ursuline Sisters

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

From March 10-13, the Quilting Friends returned to Maple Mount. They are a group of women who either bring quilt tops they are working on, or they use the ample amount of donated fabric on hand to make new quilt tops. The quilt tops will either be hand quilted for the monthly Mount Quilt Club drawings, or machine quilted to use for Quilt Bingo on Sept. 8, 2024. Both events serve to support the mission of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Sr. Amelia Stenger, OSU, coordinated the quilting session again this year, filling Maple Hall with donated fabric for the quilters to choose their own patterns.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, and her sister Sally Fitzgerald, came from Bowling Green, Ky., to participate in Quilting Friends. Their late mother was a longtime quilter at the Mount.

"Elizabeth is the queen of the little pieces," Sr. Amelia said. "She takes all of our scraps and pieces



BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, left, and her sister Sally Fitzgerald of Bowling Green, Ky., work steadily at their sewing machines in Maple Hall during Quilting Friends, which took place March 10-13, 2024.

them together. Sally can take anything and make something out of it."

"You never know how it will come out until you sew it," Elizabeth said. ■

St. Alphonsus dedicates new Mary shrine

BY ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH STAFF

On March 10, 2024, Fr. Anthony Ottagan, pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish in St. Joseph, dedicated a new shrine to Mary on the parish grounds. The statue of Our Lady of Grace was donated by the family of Sr. Vivian Bowles, OSU. The shrine was dedicated in memory of St. Alphonsus School (1913-1988). ■



Returning to our own Galilees

Hispanic/Latino ministers gather for 24 hours to pray, reflect and rest

BY DCN. CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ, OFFICE OF HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY

Every year, Hispanic/Latino ministry staff from around the Diocese of Owensboro gather for a quick 24-hours' time of prayer, reflection, and rest. This includes some of our priests, sisters, deacons, and professional lay ministers. Hispanic ministers normally hold pastoral planning and business meetings once every three months, but this is meant to be a little different. It is a time to reconnect and support one another in this often-challenging ministry. This year's theme was "Regresando a nuestras propias Galileas," (Spanish for "Returning

to our own Galilees"). Meaning, we wanted to take a good look back at our own personal callings to ministry and beginnings when we heard that voice of Jesus calling us to ministry in the Church. Oscar Castellanos, a professor at Marian University in Indianapolis, helped lead us in the reflection during these hours. And just as we hear how Jesus calmed the storms in the Gospel of Matthew 8:23, we were also reminded that it is the Lord who oversees our lives and ministry, and we must simply do our best and trust in Him. This year we were also blessed with Bishop Medley coming to be with us for a couple hours to share at table and reflect on some of the latest consultations on the Synod on Synodality.

I feel blessed to work and share in ministry with this most wonderful team of Hispanic/Latino ministers, including missionaries who have left their places of origin to come and do ministry in this awesome mission Diocese of Owensboro. And as we continue to work towards the implementation of the new national plan for Hispanic/Latino ministry in our country and diocese, I also pray for continuous growth and blessings upon all our shared parishes in the diocese – particularly the 14 with Hispanic/Latino ministry. ■

Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez is the director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro.



COURTESY OF DCN. CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

The participants of the March 2, 2024 Hispanic/Latino ministers retreat smile for a photo with Bishop William F. Medley. The retreat was held at St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, Ky.



COURTESY OF DCN. CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez prays with Bishop William F. Medley during the March 2, 2024 Hispanic/Latino ministers retreat, which was held at St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, Ky.

Palm Sunday at St. Stephen Cathedral

Editor's note: Since the WKC went to press in the middle of Holy Week, stay tuned for photos of the Triduum at St. Stephen Cathedral in our May 2024 issue.

BY WKC STAFF

Bishop William F. Medley presided at the 11 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass on March 24, 2024, at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, which is the mother church for the Diocese of Owensboro. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week in the Catholic Church, which is the holiest of all weeks in the liturgical calendar. ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley sprinkles the faithful – and their palms – with holy water at the beginning of the 11 a.m. Palm Sunday liturgy at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on March 24.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

As is Church tradition, during the reading of the Passion account on Palm Sunday, the faithful at St. Stephen Cathedral kneel when the words are read "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last" on March 24.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley gives the homily during the 11 a.m. Palm Sunday liturgy at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on March 24.

2024 Parish Picnic Schedule in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: Parish picnics and cooking teams are a longstanding tradition in the parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike gather to celebrate with food, games and community during the warmest months of the year. All questions about the individual picnics should be directed to the parishes at the numbers provided with each listing.

- April 28**
Mary Carrico Catholic School Spring Drive-Thru
Street address: 6119 St. Lawrence Rd., Philpot (St. Lawrence picnic grounds)
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: (270) 281-5526
- May 18**
Carmel Home, Owensboro
Street address: 2501 Old Hartford Rd, Owensboro
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: (270) 683-0227
- May 26**
St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Street address: 10534 Main Cross St., Whitesville
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: (270) 233-4196
- June 1**
Precious Blood, Owensboro
Street address: 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro (Enter through Fenmore St.)
Serving 3 p.m. (drive-thru only)
Contact: (270) 684-6888
- June 1**
St. Joseph, Leitchfield
Street address: 204 North Main St., Leitchfield (parish hall)
Serving 4-7 p.m.
Contact: (270) 259-3028
- June 8**
St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady
Street address: 4711 Hwy. 105, McQuady
Serving 4-7 p.m.
Contact: Lori Carman (270) 617-0515
- June 15**
Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
Street address: 4029 Frederica St., Owensboro
Serving 3 p.m. (drive-thru only)
Contact: Phil Haire (270) 314-6616
- June 22**
St. Pius X, Owensboro
Street address: 3418 KY-144, Owensboro
Booths and serving begin at 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Steve Dixon (270) 929-6633
- June 30**
St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
Street address: 7232 Hwy. 56, Owensboro
Serving 3 p.m. (drive-thru only)
Contact: Dan Thomas (270) 929-7130
- July 6**
St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel
Street address: 1654 Hwy. 79 S, Hardinsburg
Serving 4-7 p.m.
Contact: (210) 257-2132
- July 6**
St. Denis, Fancy Farm
Street address: 2758 Hwy. 1748 West, Fancy Farm
Serving 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (lunch); 5-7 p.m. (supper)
Contact: Susan Hayden (270) 642-2491
- July 13**
St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
Street address: 7925 Hwy. 500, KY-56, Owensboro
Serving 4 p.m. (drive-thru only)
Contact: Tiffany Powers (270) 302-6244
- July 20**
St. Charles, Bardwell
Street address: 6922 State Route 408, Bardwell
Serving 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch); 4:30-7 p.m. (supper)
Contact: Susan Hayden (270) 642-2491
- July 20**
St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
Street address: at 81 Church St., Owensboro
Serving 4 p.m.
Contact: (270) 764-1983
- July 27**
St. Paul, Grayson County
Street address: 1821 St. Paul Rd., Leitchfield
Serving 3 p.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 242-7436
- Aug. 3**
Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro
Street address: 602 Sycamore St., Owensboro
Serving noon-2 p.m.
Contact: (270) 926-4741
- Aug. 3**
St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Street address: 20 KY-339, Fancy Farm
Serving 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (picnic begins 10 a.m., ends 10 p.m.)
Contact: Andy Hayden (270) 705-4312
- Aug. 6**
St. Martin, Rome
Street address: 5856 State Route 81, Owensboro
Serving 4 p.m. (drive-thru only)
Contact: (270) 685-0339
- Aug. 10**
St. Ann, Morganfield
Street address: 304 S. Church St., Morganfield
Serving 5 p.m.
Contact: Laura Ervin (270) 997-0223
- Aug. 24**
Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington
Street address: 301 W High St., Irvington
Serving 2-6 p.m. Eastern Time
Contact: Matt Pike (270) 668-3102
- Sept. 7**
Christ the King, Scottsville
Street address: 298 Bluegrass Rd., Scottsville
Serving 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Contact: Valerie Vargo (270) 943-0370 or Modonna Creasy (615) 633-3333
- Sept. 7**
St. Agnes, Uniontown
Street address: 413 5th St., Uniontown
Serving 5 p.m.
Contact: Steven Gough (270) 952-3071 or Travis Hancock (270) 952-2500
- Sept. 7**
St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Street address: 6705 Old US Hwy. 45 South, Paducah
Serving 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.
Contact: (270) 554-3810
- Sept. 15**
Mary Carrico Catholic School Fall Picnic
Street address: 6119 St. Lawrence Rd., Philpot (St Lawrence picnic grounds)
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: (270) 281-5526 (school office)
- Sept. 21**
Blessed Mother, Owensboro
Street address: 601 E. 23rd St., Owensboro (Entering from J.R. Miller Blvd. to 22nd St. into parking lot)
Serving 3 p.m. (drive-thru only)
Contact: (270) 683-8444

Continues on page 20

UPCOMING EVENTS

Picnics continued from page 19

Sept. 21

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson (Honeyfest Meal)

Street address: 306 Clifty Ave., Clarkson

Serving 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Contact: Parish office (270) 242-4414

Sept. 28

Immaculate, Owensboro

Street address: 2516 Christie Pl., Owensboro

Serving 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (pick-up only)

Contact: John Jones (270) 316-2214

Sept. 29

St. Leo, Murray

Street address: 401 N 12th St., Murray

Serving Noon-5 p.m.

Contact: Kevin D'Angelo (270) 293-7061

Sept. 29

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Street address: 10534 Main Cross St., Whitesville

Serving 11 a.m.

Contact: (270) 233-4196

APRIL 2024 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.

Day of Reflection: 'Keeping the Flame Burning'

Archdiocese of Louisville Office of Multicultural Ministry, African American Catholic Ministries, and Diocese of Lexington Commission for African American Catholic Concerns present a Day of Reflection: "Keeping the Flame Burning" on April 13, 2024, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. with Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre and Bishop John Stowe, O.F.M. Location: Catholic Enrichment Center, 3146 West Broadway, Louisville, Ky. Registration Fee: \$40/adults, \$20/students. 12 workshops offered; continental breakfast and lunch provided! Please contact the Owensboro Office of Black Catholic Ministry at (270) 683-1545 or email veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org for further information or to register by April 1.

St. Vincent de Paul open house in Paducah

In honor of our very own Fr. Frank Roof, you are cordially invited to the Open House/Blessing/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and Helpline at 2001 Cairo Rd., Paducah, KY, 42001. Please join us for raffles, door prizes, and light refreshments. Sunday, April 14 from 2-4 p.m. To learn more, call (270) 442-9351.

Trivia Night at Our Lady of Lourdes April 27

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro will be sponsoring its second annual Trivia Night April 27 in the parish hall to benefit the church. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social time and dinner. The dinner will consist of BBQ pork or chicken and burrito with sides of baked beans and coleslaw. After dinner a dessert, made by one

of the parishioners, will be served. Lemonade and tea will be included in the price, but a cash bar of beer and wine will be available as well. At 7p.m. trivia will begin. There will also be a silent auction and a 50/50 pot, as well as door prizes. Tickets are \$25 per person; up to eight people per team. Must be 21 years to enter. All proceeds will go to the church. The funds raised from last year's event were used to purchase new cassocks for the altar servers. Tickets available at parish office from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., (270) 684-5369.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for healing after abortion

If you are suffering from grief or trauma from an abortion, come experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat on May 3-5, 2024 at the Passionist Retreat House in Whitesville, Ky., sponsored by Rachel's Vineyard of Bowling Green. The weekend retreat will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment of our Children to Jesus. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information or registration contact: Rita by phone (270-474-4707) or email (retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com). The cost is \$200 for meals, private room, and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available – no one is ever turned away due to financial need! For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations contact 1-877-HOPE-4-ME or visit the Rachel's Vineyard website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Prepare now for Corpus Christi Sunday on June 2, 2024

"33 Days to Eucharistic Glory" compiled by Matthew Kelly from Dynamic Catholic will help Catholics to prepare for 33 Days for their Eucharistic Consecration on Corpus Christi Sunday, June 2, 2024. This spiritual pilgrimage will: Learn the astonishing history of the Eucharist Dive into the Bible for profound wisdom Meet saints who lived Eucharistic glory Apply practical lessons to your daily life

+

ecumenical

Taizé

prayer

*For protection and healing
of victims of sexual abuse*

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024 | 6:00—6:45 P.M.

ST. STEPHEN CATHEDRAL
610 LOCUST STREET | OWENSBORO

SPONSORED by the DIOCESE of OWENSBORO

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2024 BULLETIN BOARD

Adopt a daily virtue to strengthen your faith Experience daily spiritual communion with God All in an easy-to-follow format that just takes 15 minutes. If you are prayerfully thinking about making this Consecration on June 2, 2024, then your 33 Day Preparation is to start on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. You can buy the book, "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory," at St. Maximillian Kolbe Gifts and Bookstore in Owensboro, or you may order it online from Dynamic Catholic at <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/33-days-to-eucharistic-glory/33EG.html>.

Nominate the 2024 Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year

The Catholic Schools Office and the Principals and Administrators of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (PACCESS) are again asking for nominations for Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year. The winner will be announced at the 2024 Celebration of Catholic Schools event. Anyone, with the exception of an immediate family member, may nominate an educator for the award. All information concerning nominees will be kept confidential, including the name of the person submitting the nomination. The educator must currently be employed in the Diocese of Owensboro and must have taught for a minimum of five years in the Diocesan Schools. The outstanding Catholic School Educator must be a role model as an outstanding human being; have a major influence in the lives of students; show concern with the faith development as well as the physical, mental and emotional development of students; and encourage students to improve their abilities and talents. The deadline for nominations is July 1, 2024. A committee will serve as judges. For the nomination form, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/educator-award/>.

Asian and Pacific Island Catholics invited to pre-event to National Eucharistic Congress

Radiant Faith: The Witness of Asian and Pacific Islander Catholics national encounter will take place July 15-17, 2024 at Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis (formerly IPU). Join us for

a pre-event to the National Eucharistic Congress! The event is led by the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This encounter will also be an important moment to assess collectively what has been done to implement the USCCB statement, "Encountering Christ in Harmony: A Pastoral Response to Our Asian and Pacific Island Brothers and Sisters" (2018), how Asian and Pacific Islander Catholics might better respond to the pastoral and spiritual needs of the Church, and what new initiatives might be undertaken to continue the successful implementation of the pastoral response. To learn more or register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mt7eayt5>.

Sept. 20 Holy Name School Fall Festival

Holy Name School in Henderson will have its annual Fall Festival Sept. 20, 5-10 p.m. and Sept 21 11 a.m.-10 p.m. The festival includes carnival rides, games, food booths, live auction, silent auction, raffle, and a haunted house. For more information contact the school office at (270) 827-3425.

Immaculate Parish seeking parish communications coordinator

Immaculate Parish is seeking a friendly, initiative-taking person for a full-time (35 hours/week) position for Front Office/Communications management for the church office. The Communications Coordinator will be responsible for answering the parish telephone during office hours, greeting and assisting visitors. They will publish the church bulletin, work with staff team to advertise parish events on social media and parish website, and manage parish membership data and records, including Mass Intentions. This position has outside interaction with other Catholic parishes, the local Catholic school system and the Diocese of Owensboro, to communicate and share parish sacramental records and oversee the Immaculate Parish Diocesan Safe Environment program. This team-oriented individual will work with a motivated team of other parish professionals to help accomplish the work of furthering the mission of Immaculate Parish. The ideal candidate will demonstrate the following qualifications: associate degree (A.A.) or equivalent from a two-year college

or technical school; 3 years of relevant experience; excellent organizational skills and ability to meet deadlines; knowledge of Word, Excel, Publisher, Outlook, & social media platform experience; and ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality. To learn more, visit www.immaculateparish.org. To apply, please submit a resume with cover letter to Fr. John Vaughan at john.vaughan@pastoral.org.

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/>.

BLACK CATHOLIC WOMEN...CALLED. BLESSED. AND SENT

5TH NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GATHERING



Friday, July 26 –
Sunday, July 28,
2024

Louisville Marriott East
1903 Embassy Square
Boulevard
Louisville, Kentucky

NB
SC
NATIONAL
BLACK
SISTERS'
CONFERENCE

Sponsored by
National Black Sisters' Conference

For registration information:
veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org
Office of Black Catholic Ministry
Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky

Mount Saint Joseph archives releases year-long video series to celebrate the Mount's 150-year anniversary

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

Throughout this year, Mount Saint Joseph is celebrating its 150th anniversary. As a result, there are several special events and projects planned for the occasion. If you have ever read the tag at the end of these articles, you may have spotted that I am not only the archivist for the Diocese of Owensboro but also for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. This means that I am very much a part of these projects and events. The primary project I would like to cover in this article is for those interested in the history of the Mount and its Ursulines. Each month we are releasing a video that will cover roughly 10 to 15 years of the Mount's history from 1874 through the present. The video series will be released the 15th of each month on the Mount's Facebook page (facebook.com/ursulinesmsj), website (ursulinesmsj.org), and YouTube channel (youtube.com/user/ursulinesistersmsj).

The purpose of the video series is to bring to life the Mount's incredible history utilizing its rich repository of historic holdings. There are tens of thousands of historic photographs as well as hundreds of hours of archived video and audio. Nearly every medium of information retention imaginable is held in the archives at the Mount. Reel to reel, glass slides, VHS, tin types, and countless others, all are held in the archives, each containing history unique to its own era. We will be endeavoring to utilize as many of these as possible for the series.

Coherency is the primary focus of this project. The videos will be short. They will range from roughly 3-4



COURTESY OF MSJ ARCHIVES

A historic photograph of Mount Saint Joseph Academy girls, undated.

minutes. They are rich with history but not bogged down with trivial information. You will be introduced to many key individuals of the Mount such as Fr. Paul Joseph Volk, Mother Augustine Bloemer, Mother Aloysius Willett, Mother Agnes O'Flynn and many others. These individuals are our very own local heroes and saints. If you've ever wanted to know more about the history of local Catholicism or even local history in general, these would be helpful.

The MSJ Ursulines' role as a bedrock for Catholic education in western Kentucky cannot be overstated. Many, if not most, of you reading this, were likely taught by these Ursuline Sisters and I'm sure that many of you have fond memories of an Ursuline who had an incredibly positive effect on your life. We have already had people reach out and ask if we would

be covering certain periods that they hold dear; if you are wondering the same thing, don't worry, the answer is yes.

The story of the Ursulines at Mount Saint Joseph is truly an incredible one. At 150 years old, it is one of the oldest continuously-running institutions in the area. They have built schools, educated countless and brought thousands to Christ. Their contribution to the world is truly astounding. However, if you ask them, they will likely respond, it's not too bad for a bunch of farm girls in little St. Joseph, Kentucky. ■

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

April Wedding Anniversaries

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

Please send any anniversary updates or corrections to Sara Lewis, Office of Marriage & Family Life, at sara.lewis@pastoral.org.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Bobby & Patricia Rafferty, 61
Charlie & Angela Dawson, 25
Danny & Patty Merimee, 56
Darrell & Sharon Payne, 52
Louis & Mary Aull, 63
Robert & Pat Risch, 57
Thomas & Frances Murray, 10
Tony & Carolyn Clark, 55

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Frank & Gloria Adams, 59

Christ the King, Madisonville

John & Diane Clark, 55
William & Rebecca Markham, 58

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Bill & Kim Starks, 40
Carl & Reba Grossman, 51
Chris & Jessica Duncan, 25
Clifford & Helen Romain, 55
David & Bonnie Bartley, 53
Dick & Sheila Beaven, 52
Jack & Lisa Buckman, 40
Jack & Reiko Adams, 53
Paul & Julia Hopper, 50
Ronald & Brenda Sauer, 57
Tom & Peg Lewis, 56

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Tim & Mary Stenberg, 50

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Daniel & Maria O'Connor, 40
Everett & Mary Leasor, 58
James & Helen Bailey, 68
James & Kathy Adams, 56
Michael & Darlene Fuqua, 53
Neh Reh & Htwa Meh, 5
Vincence "Dae" Reh & Victoria "Htay" Meh, 5

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

John & Velma Davis, 56

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Clayton & Gloria Gray, 62
John & Marlene Wheatley, 51

Immaculate, Owensboro

Charles & Mary Lois Payne, 63
David & Mary Jane Strehl, 55
Don & Mary Weaver, 60

James & Jackie Edge, 25
James & Mary Basham, 52
Rex & Peggy Robinson, 60
Todd & Pat Stelmach, 55

Our Lady of Lourdes,

Owensboro

Andy & Elizabeth Fiorella, 10
Bill & Deborah Glenn, 54
Brad & Beverly Hamilton, 64
Gregory & Deborah Arnold, 54
Jeff & Mary Beth Libs, 40
Jerry & Donna McDaniel, 40
Tony & Eileen Mattingly, 52

Precious Blood, Owensboro

John & Melissa Leonard, 5
Michael & Ashley Berry, 25
Michael & Brenda Swift, 56
Phil & Lori Roberts, 25
Philip & Brenda Phelps, 55

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Mike & Barbara Davis, 55

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Benny & Rita French, 70
Bill & Charlene Hite, 55
Dickie & Cheryl Berry, 52
Harold & Diane Lynn, 53
Lark & Sharon Buckman, 54
Larry & Vickie Rhodes, 56
Pete & Laura Hagan, 50

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Bruce & Sheila Blandford, 53
Donald & Ginny Peters, 62

St. Ann, Morganfield

Mike & Cathy Greenwell, 55
Roger & Cindy Wells, 51
Ronald & Ellen Mattingly, 58
Virginia Mills, 54

St. Anthony, Axtel

Pat & Wilma Lenhart, 60

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Joseph & Sharon Wink, 55
Mike & Donna Koger, 54

St. Anthony, Peonia

Tom & Bonnie Osbourne, 55

St. Augustine, Reed

Hershel & Barbara Smith, 55

Tony & Christa Hundley, 50

St. Charles, Livermore

John & Marsha Logsdon, 56
Ron & Patty Humphrey, 52

St. Columba, Lewisport

Charles & Lisa Zoglmann, 40
Thomas & Linda Hamilton, 25

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Lester & Betty Gibson, 52

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Billy & Bridget Ebelhar, 5

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Roger & Irene Price, 56

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

David & Andrea Berschied, 52
James & Velda Carbonel, 60
Larry & LaDonna Roberts, 54
Philip & Marilyn Wright, 52

St. Francis of Assisi

Albert & Joanne Fagnoli, 60

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Joe & Debbie Higdon, 40
Joseph E & Joyce Toon, 55
Randall & Olif Perkins, 25
Robert & Marilyn Thompson, 52
William & Patti Dossett, 52

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Arvil & Ruth McKendree, 50

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Robert & Dolores Rudzinski, 58

St. Joseph, Central City

Dom & Cherish Meister, 5
Robert & Karen Caskey, 55
Grant & Brenda Phillips, 58

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Joe & Evelyn Jolley, 60
Mario & Amalia Medina, 57
Tony & Lindsay Luciano, 58

St. Jude, Clinton

David & Anita Burton, 54

St. Leo, Murray

Douglas & Vicky Lambert, 58
Ed & Marilyn Wolf, 61
Justin & Amanda Nash, 10

St. Martin, Rome

Richard & Anita Dixon, 61

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Gerald & Betty Bartley, 61
Paul & Pam Scherm, 40

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Jonathan & Angelene Rhodes, 5
Michael & Kathy Turner, 50
Ray & Patty Hamilton, 58
Robert & Norma Ward, 56
Roger & Brenda Hagan, 55
Tommy & Joyce Higdon, 59
Wayne & Doris Rhodes, 54

St. Mary, Franklin

Bryan & Robin Clark, 25
Tom & Regina Cozzy, 72

St. Michael, Sebree

Tommy & Pamela McCarty, 53

St. Paul, Princeton

Herman & Beth Berton, 63

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

Billy Steve & Connie Peak, 54
Fred & Phyllis Crowdus, 54
Kevin & Kim Mills, 25

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Jim & Rose Drury, 65
Josh & Brittany Grief

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Bernard & Elsie Galloway, 60
Charles & Lois Hoskins, 60
Gabriele Nga Reh & Cecilia Su Meh, 5
Law Reh & Tue Meh, 5
Neh Reh & Say Mo Reh, 5
Plae Reh & Nye Meh, 5
Tony & Suzann Millay, 40

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Carl & Thelma Jarboe, 63
Jerry & Pat Sturgeon, 56
Jimmy & Dorothy Payne, 54
John & Helen O'Reilly, 65
Larry & Martha Severs, 52

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Tommy & Barbara Smith, 55

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Lance & Stacy Green, 40

Continues on page 24

Anniversaries continued from page 25

- Ralph & Judy Ward, 63
 Tommy & Brenda England, 62
St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
 Charles & Mary Ann Medley, 54
 Charlie & Molly Harris, 25
 Jim & Donna Duffy, 40
 Mark & Martha Sims, 50
 Ronald & Phyllis Calvert, 51
 Troy & Sarah Mills, 5
St. Stephen, Cadiz
 John & Paula Hall, 59
 Kenneth & Barbara Powers, 59
 Paul & Dawn Cunningham, 64
 Robert & Alyce Chmielewski, 61
St. Thomas More, Paducah
 Andrew & Daniela Azar, 5
 Caleb & Beth McCoy, 10
 David & Whitney Riley, 10
 Jim & Mary Bumpous, 60
 Louis & Dianna Durbin, 53
 Steve & Earline Wurth, 60
 Zachary & Malorie Bohannon, 10
St. William, Knottsville
 Bruce & Sandy Whitehouse, 54
 Paul & Theresa Crowe, 62
 Robert & Clara Brown, 59
 Roger & Mary Ann Adams, 61
 Ronnie & Rebecca Howard, 52
 Tony & Mary Helen Rhodes, 63
St. William, Marion
 Jack & Debbye Mason, 56
Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
 Darrell & Lois Hood, 64
 David & Mary Patton, 58
 Jim & Sharon Embry, 52
 Joe & Beverly Maxwell, 52
 John & Esther Blandford, 54
 Joseph & Brenda Bean, 52
 Paul & Joyce Lambert, 60
 Russell & Sheila Roby, 50
 Stephen & Diane Lindsey, 51
Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
 Bill & Harriette Hancock, 69
 Clifford & Carol Simpson, 63
 John & Ae Park, 25
 Kevin & Julia Felton, 50

Editor's note:

Due to circumstances outside our control, the following anniversary was accidentally excluded from last month's list: Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro Michael & Debby Ward, who celebrated 40 years of marriage in March 2024.

Chrism Mass 2024: Ready for mission



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Owensboro takes place on March 26, 2024, inside the Owensboro Sportscenter. Chrism Mass is traditionally held at the Sportscenter to have space for all the faithful who gathered from around western Kentucky.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In his homily during the March 26, 2024 Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Owensboro, held at the Owensboro Sportscenter, Bishop William F. Medley explained that “Chrism Mass reminds us that every one of us is anointed for mission.”

“The Church readies us for mission this night,” said the bishop.

During Chrism Mass, the priests renew their commitment to priestly service, the bishop blesses the Oil of the Sick and Oil of Catechumens, and

consecrates the Sacred Chrism. The oils are distributed to parish representatives at the end of Mass, for use in their communities throughout the year.

“The Oil of Catechumens reminds us that the Church’s mission is for conversion,” said Bishop Medley, “in all areas of society and culture.”

He said the Oil of the Sick is used to “bring healing and always the lavish mercy of Christ,” he said.

And the Sacred Chrism - which is used during ordinations, the consecration of a new church, and in baptisms and confirmations - indicates an “ontological change,” which means that the identity of those or that being anointed is changed forever. ■

Continues on page 27

WORSHIP

Chrim Mass continued from page 26



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Members of the Congolese choir from Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green sing the Kyrie in Swahili during the Diocese of Owensboro's March 26, 2024 Chrism Mass, held at the Owensboro Sportscenter.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Layson Brooks, a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro, proclaims the first reading during the Diocese of Owensboro's March 26, 2024 Chrism Mass.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling (center) holds the Eucharist during the Diocese of Owensboro's March 26, 2024, Chrism Mass.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley hands oils to parish representatives during March 26, 2024 Chrism Mass.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

During the Diocese of Owensboro's March 26 Chrism Mass, Bishop Medley incenses the altar and the gifts as Dcn. TJ Dennison looks on.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Unidad y Presencia Real

Aquí en los Estados Unidos estamos en el segundo año de un Avivamiento Eucarístico de tres años.

Una de las cosas que provocó este proceso fue cuando hubo una encuesta muy publicitada que sugería que una gran mayoría de católicos estadounidenses no creían en la antigua enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre la Presencia Real de Cristo en la Sagrada Eucaristía.

Ciertamente es muy preocupante. Pero como ocurre con tantas encuestas, inmediatamente quise saber más, quería mirar un poco más de cerca y más profundamente. Quería preguntar si todos los que respondieron a la encuesta estaban considerando la misma pregunta, si entendían el mismo significado de “Presencia Real”.

Reconozco que, si bien comparto la observación de que hay bastante para estar preocupados, como sacerdote y párroco observé algo un poco distinto.

He observado la oración de personas de todas las edades que asistían a Misa y particularmente la reverencia mostrada cuando se acercaban para recibir la Sagrada Comunión. Noté la participación activa en las acciones de la asamblea unida en este momento y cómo se concentraban en la oración privada. Observé personas de oración y santo temor venerando el Santísimo Sacramento.

Observé a personas teniendo un encuentro verdadero con Jesucristo en unidad, como una Iglesia.

Encuestas y estudios posteriores han demostrado que con definiciones más claras y una comprensión del significado, un porcentaje mucho mayor de católicos afirma creer que Cristo está verdadera y realmente presente en la Eucaristía.

Ahora bien, todo esto plantea la pregunta ¿por qué tantos católicos, si creen en esta Presencia Real, no

asisten a la Misa los domingos con mayor regularidad?

Por eso hoy quiero hablar un poco sobre la presencia de Cristo en la Eucaristía – en la Misa.

En la Misa hay muchas maneras en que encontramos a Jesús.

Encontramos a Jesús en las Sagradas Escrituras, creyendo que Jesús se manifiesta poderosamente en la Palabra de Dios. Tratamos esa Palabra con reverencia: el leccionario y el libro de los Evangelios se tratan con respeto. Los lectores deben estar bien preparados. El ambón, (el púlpito), es un elemento noble que habla del lugar de la Santa Palabra. Cristo se revela en la Palabra cada vez que es proclamada.

El altar mismo indica la presencia de Cristo. No es sólo una mesa cualquiera. Es una mesa creada y designada con un propósito. Es un objeto de deferencia, magníficamente ilustrado por el gesto del sacerdote que besa el altar cuando se acerca y lo vuelve a besar después de la bendición y la despedida.

La asamblea misma es Cristo presente. Existe una definición popular de la Iglesia: “Aquí vienen todos”. Jesús dijo: “Siempre que dos o más se reúnan en mi nombre, allí estaré”.

El sacerdote, el que preside, nos muestra otra manera más de ver a Cristo. Elegido entre la Iglesia, el sacerdote es un “alter Christi”, otro Cristo. Ofrece el santo sacrificio en nombre de todos nosotros y proclama el Evangelio del Señor. Entonces, se pueden encontrar múltiples manifestaciones de Cristo.

Quizás se pregunten por qué hablamos de Cristo presente en las especies de pan y vino como “Presencia Real”. Bueno, tenemos las Palabras de Jesús que han sido atesoradas por la Iglesia desde la época de los apóstoles.

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ABRIL DE 2024

7 DE ABRIL	10:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Preciosa Sangre, Owensboro
10 DE ABRIL	4 p.m. Fundación Católica de Kentucky Occidental – Reunión por Zoom
13 DE ABRIL	4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa Ana, Morganfield
14 DE ABRIL	2 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville
15 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
16 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Oración para la Sanación y Protección – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
17 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María del Bosque, McQuady y Parroquia San Antonio Abad, Axtel (celebrada en McQuady)
20 DE ABRIL	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Jerónimo, Fancy Farm
21 DE ABRIL	8 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Dionisio, Fancy Farm 1:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San José, Mayfield
23 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Misa escolar y conversaciones con los “Seniors” – Escuela Preparatoria Santa María, Paducah 6:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santísima Madre, Owensboro

Continúa en la página 29

Continuado de la página 28

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ABRIL DE 2024	
24 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Reunión del personal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro 6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, Hawesville
25 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Guillermo, Knottsville y Parroquia San Lorenzo, Philpot (celebrada en Knottsville)
27 DE ABRIL	10:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pío X, Calvert City
28 DE ABRIL	11 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Cristo Rey, Scottsville

En la Misa, el sacerdote reza: “Porque él mismo, la noche en que iba a ser entregado, tomó pan, y dando gracias te bendijo, lo partió y lo dio a sus discípulos, diciendo: ‘Tomen y coman todos de él, porque esto es mi cuerpo, que será entregado por ustedes’. Del mismo modo, acabada la cena, tomó el cáliz, dando gracias te bendijo, y lo pasó a sus discípulos, diciendo: ‘Tomen y beban todos de él, porque éste es el cáliz de mi sangre, sangre de la alianza nueva y eterna, que será derramada por ustedes y por muchos para el perdón de los pecados. Hagan esto en conmemoración mía”.

Bueno pues, podemos estudiar teología y leer libros de todas las edades sobre la Eucaristía y la Presencia Real. Sin embargo, todo se reduce a la fe. Todo se reduce a ese mandato: “Hagan esto en conmemoración mía”.

Muchas veces, cuando enseño a los adolescentes acerca de los sacramentos, hablo con ellos sobre los signos externos del sacramento. Les pregunto,

¿qué ven con sus ojos en el altar antes de acercarse para recibir la Sagrada Comunión?

Generalmente responderán, la Eucaristía. Y yo digo que no, con sus ojos ven el pan y el vino. Es con la fe que se ve la Eucaristía, el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo.

Hay una gran diferencia. Y recuerden que la fe es un don. Y un don debe ser aceptado.

Pero ¿por qué aceptar este don, este don absurdo que nos pide que creamos en algo tan absurdo que el pan y el vino se convierten en el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo?

Es tradición sagrada desde la noche de la Última Cena. Es el signo eterno que Jesús eligió dejar con nosotros. Es un don aceptado tanto por los santos como por los pecadores, unidos en Cristo, que confían en el amor y la presencia eternos de Dios.

Presencia Real.

William F. Medley

Misa Crismal de 2024: Listos para la misión

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

En su homilía durante la Misa Crismal el 26 de marzo de 2024 para la Diócesis de Owensboro, celebrada en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter], el Obispo William F. Medley explicó que “la Misa Crismal nos recuerda que cada uno de nosotros estamos ungidos para la misión”.

“La Iglesia nos prepara para la misión esta noche”, dijo el obispo.

Durante la Misa Crismal, los sacerdotes renuevan su compromiso con el servicio sacerdotal, y el obispo bendice el Óleo de los Enfermos y el Óleo de los Catecúmenos, y consagra el Santo Crisma. Los óleos se distribuyen a los representantes parroquiales al final de la Misa, para su uso en sus comunidades durante todo el año. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El Obispo William F. Medley saluda a los fieles que llevan el pan y el vino durante la Presentación de las Ofrendas.

Misa Crismal de 2024 continúa en la última página

Regresando a nuestras propias Galileas; Ministros hispanos/latinos se reúnen durante 24 horas para orar, reflexionar y descansar

POR EL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ,
DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO/LATINO

Cada año, el personal del ministerio hispano/latino de toda la Diócesis de Owensboro se reúne para un breve momento de oración, reflexión y descanso de 24 horas. Esto incluye a algunos de nuestros sacerdotes, hermanas, diáconos y ministros laicos profesionales. Los ministros hispanos normalmente celebran reuniones trimestrales de planificación pastoral, pero este retiro pretende ser un poco diferente. Es un momento para reconectarnos y apoyarnos unos a otros en este ministerio a menudo desafiante. El tema de este año fue “Regresando a nuestras propias Galileas”. Es decir, queríamos traer

a la mente nuestros llamados personales al ministerio y nuestros comienzos cuando escuchamos esa voz de Jesús llamándonos al ministerio en la Iglesia. Oscar Castellanos, profesor de la Universidad Mariana de Indianápolis, nos ayudó a guiarnos en la reflexión durante estas horas. Y así como escuchamos cómo Jesús calmó las tormentas en el Evangelio de Mateo 8, 23, también recordamos que es el Señor quien dirige nuestras vidas y ministerios, y que simplemente debemos hacer lo mejor que podamos y confiar en Él. Este año también tuvimos la suerte de que el Obispo Medley viniera a estar con nosotros durante un par de horas para compartir en la mesa y reflexionar sobre algunas de las últimas consultas sobre el Sínodo sobre la Sinodalidad.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ
El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez ora con el Obispo William F. Medley durante el retiro de ministros hispanos/latinos del 2 de marzo de 2024, que se llevó a cabo en el Monasterio de San José en Whitesville, Kentucky.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Los participantes del retiro de ministros hispanos/latinos del 2 de marzo de 2024 sonríen para una foto con el Obispo William F. Medley. El retiro se llevó a cabo en el Monasterio de San José en Whitesville, Kentucky.

Me siento bendecido de trabajar y compartir el ministerio con este maravilloso equipo de ministros hispanos/latinos, incluyendo misioneros que han dejado sus lugares de origen para venir y servir en esta maravillosa diócesis de misión, la Diócesis de Owensboro. Y mientras continuamos trabajando hacia la implementación del nuevo Plan Pastoral Nacional para el Ministerio Hispano/Latino en nuestro país y diócesis, también oro por un crecimiento continuo y bendiciones para todas nuestras parroquias compartidas en la diócesis, particularmente las 14 que tienen ministerio hispano/latino. ■

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez es el director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

El retiro *YOUTH 2000* atrae a más de 500 jóvenes

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El #27 del retiro anual de *YOUTH 2000* atrajo a más de 500 participantes desde el 15 al 17 de marzo de 2024, que se llevó a cabo en la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro.

El retiro, que se centra en Cristo en la Eucaristía y se enfoca en acercar a los adolescentes a la Eucaristía, está dirigido por el Comité del Santuario Mariano de la Diócesis de Owensboro y copatrocinado por la Oficina de Ministerio con Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos de la diócesis.

El retiro *YOUTH 2000* incluye oración, Misa, confesión, pláticas y convivio con otros adolescentes y jóvenes católicos de toda la diócesis. Para el retiro de este año se registraron más de 500 inscripciones, la cifra más alta registrada desde antes de la pandemia del COVID-19. ■

Para obtener más información sobre el retiro, visiten owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000.



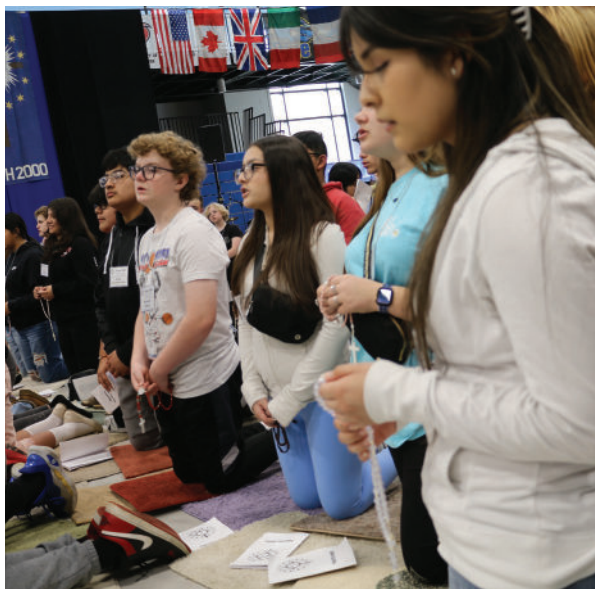
RACHEL HALL | WKC

Los participantes se toman de la mano para rezar el Padre Nuestro durante la Misa de clausura del retiro *YOUTH 2000* el 17 de marzo de 2024 en la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. COREY D. BRUNS

Se ve una custodia que contiene la Sagrada Eucaristía durante la Adoración vespertina del 16 de marzo de 2024, en el retiro *YOUTH 2000* celebrada en la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Los participantes del retiro *JUVENTUD 2000* rezan el rosario el 17 de marzo de 2024 en la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro.

Quinceañera Retreat

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF COMMUNITY, PRAYER AND FUN.
MAY 4 | 9 AM

GASPER RIVER RETREAT CENTER
2695 JACKSON BRIDGE RD, BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101

There will be workshops for quinceañeras, chambelanes, and parents.
Use the QR code for more details and to register





For more information: Susana Solorza (270)577-6907

Continuado de la página 29



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Un hombre y una mujer, que sirven como representantes de su parroquia, llevan los óleos a sus asientos después de recibirlos del Obispo Medley.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Heidi Reyes de Caridades Católicas proclama la segunda lectura en español durante la Misa Crismal el 26 de marzo de 2024 en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter].



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Los miembros del coro, de comunidades latinas de la diócesis, cantan el salmo responsorial durante la Misa Crismal el 26 de marzo de 2024 en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter].