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Synodal Church

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A woman folds her hands in prayer during the March 30, 2024 Easter Vigil in the Holy Night at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. [Page 26](#)

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Front page main photo by Riley Greif | WKC

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.

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A Word From Bishop Medley

Rooted in faith, God's promise seen in 300+ descendants of one Kentucky couple

"I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and grains of sand on the seashore." - Genesis 22:17

Mary Edith Raley and Francis Leonard "Zig" Hayden were married on May 27, 1924 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Chicago, Kentucky. (The name of Chicago was later changed to St. Francis in the 1930s.) Of this marriage they were blessed with 13 children, two of whom died as infants. The 11 children who reached adulthood all married and gave Edith and Zig 51 grandchildren. Those 51 grandchildren gave them 108 great-grandchildren. Those 108 great-grandchildren have so far produced 122 great-great grandchildren. There are 11 great-great-great grandchildren.

My grandmother was raised as an only child as her only two younger siblings died as small children. She always recalled the aloneness with no other children around and said that she wanted a large family.

At this point these numbers are changing frequently. But there are now well more than 300 descendants of one couple over 100 years. The promise made to Abraham and Sarah recorded in the Book of Genesis may not seem like just literary exaggeration.

In 1974, there was a celebration of the golden jubilee of this marriage. At that time there were fewer than 75 descendants - the 13 children, 50 of the 51 grandchildren, and perhaps eight of the great-grandchildren. Less than 100 of the descendants had been born by 1974.

This Memorial Day weekend, the Hayden family descendants will gather for a reunion. Edith and Zig died in 1982 and 1983, respectively. More than two-thirds of the descendants never knew them. They may well know some stories, however. Perhaps they will hear other stories when they gather. Some stories may be happy and funny, and others may recount sorrows and sadness.

Edith and Zig Hayden are my grandparents. I am the sixth of the 51 grandchildren. I suppose



COURTESY OF BISHOP MEDLEY
Mary Edith Raley and Francis Leonard "Zig" Hayden are seen in these photos. They are the grandparents of Bishop William F. Medley.

BISHOP MEDLEY'S MAY 2024 CALENDAR	
MAY 1	6 p.m. Confirmation – Sts. Joseph and Paul, Owensboro
MAY 2	9 a.m. School Mass – Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus
MAY 5	10 a.m. Confirmation and 150th Anniversary of Parish – St. Paul, Princeton 2:30 p.m. Confirmation – St. Edward, Fulton
MAY 6	6 p.m. PCL Appreciation Dinner – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
MAY 8	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Alphonsus, Owensboro
MAY 9	9 a.m. Province Meeting of Hispanic Ministry Leaders – McRaith Catholic Center
MAY 10	7 p.m. Owensboro Catholic High Graduation – Owensboro Sportscenter
MAY 11	10 a.m. Brescia University Graduation – Riverpark Center, Owensboro 4 p.m. Confirmation – St. Joseph, Leitchfield
MAY 12	9:30 a.m. Confirmation – St. Elizabeth, Curdsville
MAY 15	8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Leo, Murray
MAY 17	7 p.m. Graduation – Trinity High School, Whitesville
MAY 18	7 p.m. Graduation – St. Mary High School, Paducah

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MAY 19	11 a.m. Confirmation – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MAY 20	1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
MAY 21-23	Bishops of the Province Meeting – Louisville
MAY 25	5 p.m. Confirmation – Holy Trinity, Morgantown
MAY 29-30	Presbyteral Overnight Gathering – Paris Landing State Park
MAY 29	5:30 p.m. Confirmation – Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville
MAY 31	5 p.m. Karenni American Catholic Association Opening Ceremony – Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

that means that I am the 19th of the more than 300 descendants. My earliest memories are that seven of my aunts and uncles were still teenagers and young adults living “at home.” (I remember spending the night there often, but I don’t remember where I slept. There could not have been spare beds. Can you imagine getting up to prepare breakfast for such a family every morning?)

It seems like I was always going to weddings when I was young. There was no separation between generations. My older brother – the first grandchild – was but 16 months younger than my youngest aunt. There were great-grandchildren coming along before all the grandchildren were born, and that story continues.

I suppose when we gather, I will meet some of these of the younger generations for the very first time.

As with the descendants of Abraham and Sarah, we are rooted in faith. Faith in a God that provides against all odds. Trust in a God who will continue to bless us and those who will follow us.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Priest assignments update

Fr. Ramesh Kattermetla | Parochial Vicar, Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro. Effective June 11, 2024.

Eight Ursuline Sisters celebrating jubilees of religious profession in 2024

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

Eight Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph who have served a combined 500 years in service to God’s people are celebrating jubilees of religious profession in 2024. One is from Daviess County, five are from smaller cities in the Archdiocese of Louisville, and two are from Louisville. Their jubilees take place during a special year – the 150th anniversary of the Ursuline Sisters arrival at Maple Mount. There will be a special jubilee celebration during Community Days at the Motherhouse in July. To read more about this year’s jubilarians and their ministries, please visit the Ursuline Sisters’ webpage: ursulinesmsj.org/category/jubilarians.

- Sr. Susan Mary Mudd, OSU, a native of Lebanon (Marion County), is celebrating 70 years.
- Sr. Mary Matthias Ward, OSU, a native of Clementsville (Casey County), is celebrating 70 years.
- Sr. Mary Timothy Bland, OSU, a native of Greenbrier (Marion County), is celebrating 60 years.
- Sr. Joyce Marie Cecil, OSU, a native of New Hope (Nelson County), is celebrating 60 years.
- Sr. Karla Marie Kaelin, OSU, a native of Louisville, is celebrating 60 years.
- Sr. Joan Marie Riedley, OSU, a native of Louisville, is celebrating 60 years.
- Sr. Laurita Spalding, OSU, a native of Springfield (Washington County), is celebrating 60 years.
- Sr. Melissa Tipmore, OSU, a native of Owensboro, is celebrating 60 years. ■

Happy anniversary to our priests!

In May we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fr. Carl McCarthy | Ordained 5/27/1995

Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Madisonville

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Center, Bowling Green; vicar for clergy

Fr. Daniel Dillard | Ordained 5/30/2009
Parochial vicar of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro; chaplain at Owensboro Catholic High School; and director of vocations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fr. Jamie Dennis | Ordained 5/28/2016

Parochial vicar of Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than | Ordained 5/23/2020
Parochial vicar of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson

In June we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In July we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

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

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

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

‘The greatest value was in the listening,’ says Bishop Medley on publication of diocese’s interim synod report



RACHEL HALL | WKC

The faithful of the Diocese of Owensboro attend Chrism Mass during Holy Week on March 26, 2024, held in the Owensboro Sportscenter in order to provide adequate space for the crowd.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On April 2, 2024, the Diocese of Owensboro’s Synthesis of Synodal Listening in the Interim Phase was submitted to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Made available to the public on the diocesan website, the report represented a summary of what Bishop William F. Medley

heard in the five listening sessions held in the diocese during Lent. The sessions were held with the following groups: priests of the diocese, parish catechetical leaders and youth ministers, parish council representatives, Hispanic/Latino ministry leaders, and staff of the McRaith Catholic Center, which is the pastoral center for the diocese.

The next step in the ongoing Synod on Synodality process will be for this report to be combined with reports from all other dioceses in the United States,

in the compilation of a national report.

Bishop Medley told The Western Kentucky Catholic that he was “very pleased” with the synthesis report.

“I believe that in a genuine spirit of synodality the report relates what I heard in multiple listening sessions,” he told the WKC. “As with the Church anywhere, what I heard reflects a range of opinions and thoughts. I felt it important to reflect that diversity.”

The sessions were held to address questions put forth by the Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops during this interim phase. The initial questions focused on the Church’s structures and organizations – be they global, national, parish-level, and more – and how these have encouraged or hindered the Church’s mission. Other questions pertained to the Church’s leadership – whether global, local, clergy, or laity – and how it has encouraged or hindered the Church’s mission.

According to the published text, a total of 153 people participated in the sessions, which according to the published synthesis text were “engaged, participative, and expressed gratitude for once again having the opportunity to participate in the synodal process.”

The text stated that among aspects working well, “Several participants expressed their love for the beauty of the liturgical rites and for the universal nature of the church – both of which make us one.”

Feedback in the report also positively cited

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OSV NEWS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., speaks during a conversation about the Synod on Synodality in Rome at a Nov. 14, 2023, session of the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. Also pictured are Father Michael J.K. Fuller, USCCB general secretary; Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, USCCB president; and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, USCCB vice president.

local initiatives like Grace Marriage (a marriage enrichment program), Acts 2:42 (a small group faith-sharing program), a leadership formation program for lay leaders in the church sponsored by Brescia University in Owensboro, the diocesan youth camp, YOUTH 2000 (a Eucharist-based weekend retreat experience for teens), and the Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference held every other year.

The report listed several areas of frustration among listening session participants – such as, mentioned at each of the five sessions, a frustration about a lack of clarity among Church leadership, especially of Pope Francis.

and to empower lay people to use their gifts in ministry and live out their baptismal call.”

A quote was included from an unnamed pastor in this part of the report, stating, “Authoritarian pastors/priests have hindered the Church’s mission in some places.”

Other areas of focus included the dwindling number of women religious in the diocese, the need for more well-trained lay ministers, the exodus of youth and young adults from parish life and even the Catholic Church in general, the need for more well-trained lay advocates to accompany people through the annulment process, and the request for more

“One of the frequently asked questions during our listening sessions was whether or not we would make public the report submitted to the USCCB,” Bishop Medley told the WKC. “The answer, of course, was yes. How could one be truly synodal if our report was not to be transparent?”

Another concern among participants, as detailed in the text of the report, was the diocese’s “lack of priestly vocations. There simply are not enough priests to meet the need. How do we help young men hear and respond to the call to priesthood? How do we empower families to cultivate vocations?” asked the report.

That section also included feedback from participants who wished for priests who are “healthy physically, emotionally, and spiritually and who display joy in their ministry,” and who are willing to “relinquish control

faith formation for adults.

The text stated, “As noted above, many participants expressed strong feelings about Catholic teaching and a desire for more clarity from Church leaders. They want to know what the Church teaches on difficult and sensitive issues – especially LGBT issues.”

The report included in its closing summary that “As with the previous rounds of listening done last year, there was nothing particularly surprising in what we heard. However, the greatest value was in the listening itself and in providing a forum for people to speak.”

In his interview with the WKC, Bishop Medley said he is grateful to all who participated in the diocese’s synodal sessions over the past few years – in parishes, deaneries, and small groups.

“Joined with such conversations around the world, the General Synod will truly reflect the thoughts of the People of God,” he said. ■

Scan the QR code here to read the full Synthesis of Synodal Listening in the Interim Phase – In the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky



Ecumenical prayer service held to support survivors, healing

BY WKC STAFF

On April 16, 2024, St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro hosted an ecumenical Taizé prayer service 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. New to this year, organizers chose to utilize the Taizé prayer style in order to foster a more ecumenical atmosphere.

Fr. David Carletta of Trinity Episcopal Church in Owensboro proclaimed the Easter Gospel and read the Closing Prayer by Brother Roger of Taizé. Musicians ministering at the service included instrumentalists from local Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian, as well as Catholic, churches. The homily was given by Bishop William F. Medley.

Information about virtual support groups for victims/survivors of abuse can be accessed at owensborodiocese.org/support-group. Information about the Catholic Church's commitment to safeguarding the vulnerable can be accessed at owensborodiocese.org/safe. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC
Musicians are seen during an April 16, 2024 ecumenical Taizé prayer service at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro for protection and healing of victims of sexual abuse.

**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**



RACHEL HALL | WKC
Janice Hendricks, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Owensboro, extinguishes a candle at the end of an April 16, 2024 ecumenical Taizé prayer service for protection and healing of victims of sexual abuse.



RACHEL HALL | WKC
Blue candles adorn the sanctuary of St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro as Bishop William F. Medley speaks at the ambo, during an April 16, 2024 ecumenical Taizé prayer service for protection and healing of victims of sexual abuse.

Eucharistic Pilgrims coming soon: Nationwide pilgrimage set to visit Diocese of Owensboro this summer

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Charlie McCollough laughs when he thinks about how his freshman self would have responded if he was told he would graduate from college and embark on a months-long walking pilgrimage across the southern United States.

“I would never have believed you if you told me that’s what I was going to do,” he said in a phone interview with *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

McCollough is one of the Perpetual Pilgrims tasked with walking the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage this summer, along with other Catholic young adults and some Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. They will accompany Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament from city to city, encountering all they meet with the love of Christ.

The pilgrimage will consist in four routes: Marian Route (northern region), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route (eastern region), St. Juan Diego Route (southern region) and St. Junipero Serra Route (western region). All routes will converge at the July 17-21, 2024 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

The St. Juan Diego Route will pass through the Diocese of Owensboro on June 30-July 3, and will visit St. Mary Parish in Franklin, Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville, and several parishes in the Bowling Green Deanery, as well as the Fathers of Mercy. The faithful are invited to participate in the many opportunities for Adoration, prayer, Mass, confession, processions, and food and fellowship.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL
Shayla Elm is one of the Perpetual Pilgrims going on the St. Juan Diego Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which passes through the Diocese of Owensboro from June 30-July 3, 2024.

McCollough, one of the pilgrims on the St. Juan Diego Route, looks forward to visiting western Kentucky and helping others foster a relationship with Christ.

“I was raised Catholic and received all my sacraments,” but he didn’t have that personal relationship with Jesus, said the Texas A&M senior.

“There was a moment my freshman year at Mass,” said McCollough. A friend who lived down the hall in his dorm had consistently been encouraging McCollough to go with him to Mass. He eventually agreed to do so.

At that Mass, McCollough recalls, “when I received the Eucharist, there was this moment that I came to understand that Jesus Christ was pursing



COURTESY OF NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL
Charlie McCollough is one of the Perpetual Pilgrims going on the St. Juan Diego Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which passes through the Diocese of Owensboro from June 30-July 3, 2024.

me, and loving me, and caring for me, and I was unaware of it until now.”

“It was my moment to realize that every moment leading to this one was a small step” to this encounter with Christ, he said. After that, he began “learning what life with Christ looks like.”

He believes this is what led to him “saying yes to a once-in-a-lifetime experience” of walking the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

Shayla Elm, another Perpetual Pilgrim who will pass through the Diocese of Owensboro via the St. Juan Diego Route, shared similar sentiments.

“I’m very excited to see the ways the Lord will transform the hearts of the people we encounter,” she said.

Continues on page 10

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Elm serves as the community engagement manager for the Catholic non-profit Christ in the City in Denver, Colorado, in which she connects with volunteers and families to serve the homeless in Denver's community.

She was raised Catholic, and it was during her junior year at her Catholic high school that she took a class on morality – and came to understand the “why,” not just the “how,” of the Church's teachings.

Elm recalls thinking “Oh, there are reasons why we do what we do!”

“That started my deeper devotion to Christ and our faith,” she added. Then, one Lent, she and her basketball team decided to attend daily Mass together.

“Attending Mass on the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, I remember realizing for the first time at that Mass, thinking ‘This is the Lord I just received!’ It launched me into a life of faith,” she said.

In college at University of Mary in North Dakota, Elm started making time to spend with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration and to attend Mass as often as she could.

Today, Elm said her devotion has continued to grow as she serves the homeless population in Denver, especially as her team focuses their lives around Jesus in the Eucharist.

As she prepares to go on the pilgrimage this summer – which includes a personal initiative of visiting Denver's many Adoration chapels – Elm said her prayer is to view everyone they encounter as God views them.

“My hope and prayer is that we will meet everyone as the Lord would,” she said.

She and McCollough said that they are eager to journey through the South, which is home to the Bible Belt; that is, many non-Catholic Christians.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

With Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, with the Perpetual Pilgrims who will walk the St. Juan Diego Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

McCollough said that being born and raised in Texas, he regularly encounters fellow Christians who are not Catholic, and said it is normal to talk about the faith with them.

“We can agree that the love of Christ changes everything,” he said.

Elm said the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage team is preparing informational and catechetical materials to hand out to bystanders who are curious about the pilgrimage.

She and McCollough encouraged the faithful of the Diocese of Owensboro to attend some or all of pilgrimage's journey through western Kentucky.

“We read in the scriptures of Jesus Christ passing through towns,” said McCollough, likening the pilgrimage to this experience. “We invite the faithful to pray for us, to pray for the pilgrimage, and if they're able to, to join us and be with us” while passing through the area.

Elm said they are “really excited” to come through the Diocese of Owensboro.

But at the end of the day, “it's not about what the pilgrims are doing – it's about the Lord, that anyone who comes has an encounter with the Lord,” she said. ■

The pilgrimage is coming to western Kentucky!

For details about the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage team's visit to the Diocese of Owensboro, scan here:



‘God calls, and I will answer’

Sebree pastor reflects on 25 years of his vocation

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fr. José Carmelo Jiménez, the pastor of St. Michael Parish in Sebree – and who this past April celebrated 25 years as a priest – can recall a specific incident in his early priesthood that shaped how he views his vocation.

While serving as a young priest within the Diocese of San Cristóbal de Las Casas in Chiapas, Mexico, Fr. Jiménez traveled to rural areas to administer the sacraments in 82 different communities, each of which had their own small chapel but no resident priest. (As a priest of the Archdiocese of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, they often provide ministry to the smaller nearby diocese.)

“It was a dangerous social, political and economic situation at that moment,” said Fr. Jiménez, adding that it was a difficult setting to be a priest.

He and the people he traveled with were ambushed and even shot at several times while journeying to the various chapels – some communities being far enough from the paved road that driving was impossible. Multiple government checkpoints scattered throughout the region also made the travels tense.

One day, while stopping at one of the checkpoints, a military captain said he wanted Fr. Jiménez to celebrate a wedding for himself and his girlfriend who was flying in that day. They lacked the proper paperwork for a valid Catholic marriage to take place, so Fr. Jiménez said no and walked on.

After a day in the community celebrating Mass, hearing confessions and administering baptisms, Fr. Jiménez passed back through the checkpoint – only to be stopped by soldiers who said he was going to the military base with them.

He tried to escape but was forcibly taken to the base, where the captain was waiting with a table with a crucifix on it. Once again, the captain demanded that the young priest celebrate the wedding.

“I said no,” said Fr. Jiménez. He was then beaten until he passed out – three different times. Each time he came to, he repeated his refusal to do the wedding, which would not be legitimate in God’s eyes.

Meanwhile, his bishop had received word of the situation and was calling different officials. Eventually a helicopter came to the base and rescued him, and he never had to celebrate the wedding.

“The way I am as a priest was formed and impacted by those early years,” he said.

Despite this tumultuous beginning, Fr. Jiménez felt the call to do mission work. After about two years of serving in Chiapas, he told his bishop that he would like to go to Africa to serve as a missionary priest.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Fr. José Carmelo Jiménez speaks during a Hispanic Eucharistic Revival Day at Brescia University in Owensboro on Dec. 3, 2022.

Instead, his bishop asked him to serve in the United States.

Fr. Jiménez was skeptical: “They have everything. They need nothing,” he said.

But, in obedience to his bishop, he agreed to go and arrived in the Diocese of Owensboro on April 28, 2006. He quickly began ministering to the Latino population in western Kentucky, and learned that while their needs were different from that of his home diocese, they were just as significant.

Over the years, he has served the Latino population in areas like Hopkinsville, Elkton, Guthrie, Russellville, Bowling Green, Owensboro, Henderson and today, Sebree and Madisonville. He has witnessed people travel from far away to attend

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Mass in the familiar Spanish language, and has himself traveled around to celebrate Mass in people's homes when a Catholic church is not nearby.

As Latino communities grow across western Kentucky, Fr. Jiménez's bishop in Chiapas has continued the agreement with previous Bishop John J. McRaith and now Bishop William F. Medley that Fr. Jiménez remains and ministers to the people of the Bluegrass State.

To date, Fr. Jiménez has spent nearly 18 years in the Diocese of Owensboro out of his 25 total years of priesthood.

He appreciates his parishioners in Sebree, who, whether white, Guatemalan, Mexican, Honduran, Nicaraguan, or another heritage, refer to themselves as one community.

"There is something beautiful in the community," he said, explaining that "English speakers, Spanish speakers, say 'We are one community, different languages.'"

He enjoys the bilingual Triduum liturgies with his parishioners, who respond to the reading of the Passion in their own languages: "To have the community respond like that - I love that," because "they feel it's their home."

Fr. Jiménez has helped people find medical care when a language barrier or lack of documentation makes it difficult, he has comforted parishioners when a parent in their home country dies and they are unable to go to the funeral, and "we help a lot with immigration," he said. "I cry with the people because they suffer a lot."

"I'm not an immigration lawyer, but I have learned a lot," he said. "I rejoice with the people who after 20 or 25 years get their papers."

He has also seen the flourishing of the community of Guatemalan parishioners who speak Acateco, an



COURTESY OF DCN. CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

Fr. José Carmelo Jiménez, along with Bishop William F. Medley and representatives from the Diocese of Owensboro, attend the V Encuentro gathering in Texas in 2017.

indigenous Mayan language. To date, about 60% of his parishioners speak Acateco.

Since there is no official Mass translation in Acateco, Fr. Jiménez celebrates a liturgy in Spanish with portions in Acateco, such as the Gospel, the Our Father, and the homily, which is given by Acateco-speaking Dcn. Baltazar Rafael.

This Mass is livestreamed and followed by many Acateco-speaking Catholics across the country. To Fr. Jiménez's knowledge, his church is the only one in the United States to utilize the Acateco language.

Sometimes Fr. Jiménez reflects on his original dream of being a missionary priest in Africa, but "I love the Owensboro diocese, and serving here."

His continued obedience to "wherever God calls me to go" is inspired by a conversation with his mother shortly after he became a priest.

His mother had been diagnosed with a brain tumor the February before he was ordained. After



COURTESY OF FR. JOSÉ CARMELO JIMÉNEZ

Fr. José Carmelo Jiménez greets a family while volunteering with Catholic Charities on the border of Mexico and Laredo, Texas, in 2019.

his ordination, Fr. Jiménez would use his day off to visit her at home. But each time he visited, his mother would tell him about a friend or neighbor in need of a blessing or other spiritual assistance.

Fr. Jiménez protested this, telling his mother that he was there just to see her. Then, his mother told him a story about the day he was ordained.

"That day I said to the bishop, 'God gave me a son, and I raised him until now; now I give him to the Church,'" his mother told him.

Fr. Jiménez understood, and has carried those words in his heart to this day.

"I want to continually serve with love and dedicate my life to the people and to God," he said. "My whole priesthood, every day is different. God calls me, and I will answer, 'I am here.'"

Years ago, he said, he had a lot of goals.

"But those were 'my' goals," he said. "Now, wherever God takes me, I will go." ■

Live the mission – abundant life in Christ!



COURTESY OF ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
An Acts 2:42 Small Group at St. Lawrence Parish in Philpot is seen in a parishioner's home

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Eucharistic Revival is in full swing in our diocese! We hope you will join us for one of the four days of pilgrimage between June 30 and July 3 as we participate in the processions from the four directions of our country, which culminate at the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in mid-July. The third year of the revival has the focus of “Going Out on Mission” and begins after the Eucharistic Congress.

This mission is not new, yet it is an effort of our U.S. bishops to focus together and recognize that we all have an important role to play. Listen to the words of Pope Benedict: “We cannot keep to ourselves the love we celebrate in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. By its very nature, it asks to be communicated to everyone... The Eucharist is not only the source and summit of the life of the Church; it is also

the source and summit of her mission: An authentically Eucharistic Church is a missionary Church” (Sacramentum Caritatis, 84).

This message is for all the Church; for each of us to recognize that we have a mission and that we live it out in all the places we go when we leave Mass on Sunday morning: our homes, workplace, the world. Listen to the words of Pope Francis: “Today more than ever, our human family, wounded by so many situations of injustice, so many divisions and wars, is in need of

the Good News of peace and salvation in Christ. I take this opportunity to reiterate that everyone has the right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the duty to announce it without excluding anyone, not as one who imposes a new obligation, but as one who shares a joy, signals a beautiful horizon, offers a desirable banquet” (Evangelii Gaudium, 14).

Our Acts 2:42 Small Groups are participating in their final gatherings this month and reflecting on our mission. One of the questions is “Have you ever considered yourself a missionary?” Most often we think that is for people going to foreign countries to tell others about Jesus. But really, it is our mission as baptized Catholics in every area of our lives.

Due to the success of our Acts 2:42 Small Groups, with over 125 groups in 54 parishes, we are inviting groups to continue and new parishes to get involved. Bishop Medley will be offering a video reflection for the first and last session, and this time other pastoral leaders around the diocese will also be

offering reflections based on each session’s theme. Watch for promotion materials in your parish and join a group to grow with others from your parish.

Our theme for our Acts groups this year will be “On Mission as a Eucharistic People.” As we each experience Christ in our lives, are transformed by his love, we find abundant life and it overflows to others. Join a small group today!

Peace,
Jeff ■

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

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Coming Fall 2024





St. Joseph the Worker: A call for fair wages and working conditions

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

The feast of St. Joseph the Worker, optionally celebrated on May 1 in the United States, holds significant importance. It is a day dedicated to honoring the dignity of labor and the crucial role of workers in society. Rooted in the life and example of St. Joseph, this feast underscores the intrinsic value of work and the responsibilities of employers towards their employees. It also serves as a poignant reminder of the need for fair wages and just working conditions in accordance with Catholic social teaching.

St. Joseph, known for his integrity, humility, and hard work, epitomizes the virtues of labor and provides a model for workers and employers alike. As a carpenter by trade, he toiled diligently to provide for the Holy Family, embodying the dignity and sanctity of work. His labor was not merely a means of sustenance but an expression of love and devotion to his family and his faith. St. Joseph teaches us that work, when approached with reverence and integrity, becomes a pathway to holiness.

The feast of St. Joseph the Worker also calls attention to the plight of workers throughout history and in contemporary society. It reminds us of the injustices faced by many workers, including exploitation, low wages, unsafe working conditions, and lack of job security. In light of these challenges, the Catholic Church advocates for social and economic justice, emphasizing the principles of solidarity, subsidiarity, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.

Central to Catholic social teaching is the principle of the dignity of work and the rights of workers. According to this principle, work is not merely a commodity, but a reflection of human dignity and a means of participation in God's creative activity. Therefore, employers have a moral obligation to ensure that workers are treated with dignity and respect, and that they receive fair wages and benefits commensurate with the value of their labor.

Fair wages are essential for the well-being of workers and their families. A just wage enables workers to provide for their basic needs, support their families, and participate fully in the life of the community. It recognizes the inherent dignity of labor and affirms the worth of the worker as a human person created in the image and likeness of God. Additionally, fair wages contribute to social stability and economic development by reducing poverty and inequality.

Catholic social teaching also emphasizes the importance of providing safe and healthy working conditions for employees. Employers have a moral responsibility to ensure that workplaces are free from hazards and that workers are protected from harm. This includes providing proper training, equipment, and support to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of workers. Moreover, employers should promote a culture of respect and solidarity in the workplace, where employees are valued and treated with dignity.

As the Church honors St. Joseph the Worker, let us heed the call to promote fair wages and working conditions in our community and society. Let us emulate the example of St. Joseph, who labored



COURTESY OF SAINT MEINRAD ARCHABBEY
The statue of St. Joseph and the child Jesus is seen at the St. Joseph Shrine at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, Indiana.

tirelessly for the well-being of his family and lived out his faith through his work. May we strive to build a world where all workers are respected, valued, and able to live with dignity and fulfillment. ■

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.

Sister best known for ministry to migrants shares her artwork that tells their stories



OSV NEWS PHOTO/SIMONE ORENDAIN

Sister Norma Pimentel, a Missionary of Jesus, gives a talk in Chicago April 15, 2024, showcasing her artwork of immigrants who sought shelter at her organization's humanitarian respite center after being released from detention at the U.S.-Mexico border. Her work was on display nationally for the first time at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

BY SIMONE ORENDAIN, OSV NEWS

CHICAGO (OSV News) – A religious sister best known for helping more than 100,000 migrants and asylum-seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border in southern Texas was in Chicago April 15 to share her artwork nationally for the first time and reiterate a message of love.

Sister Norma Pimentel, a Missionary of Jesus, stood at a podium at Holy Name Cathedral, positioned between copies of five oil and pastel paintings whose subjects were women and children who sought shelter after being released from detention centers at the border.

“That little kid is holding that backpack,” she told a priest in the audience who asked about a specific painting. It depicted a girl in pink and

lavender with her mouth slightly open, eyes looking to one side while holding a colorful heavy looking bag. “She’s so happy because that backpack is filled with a lot of goodies and stuff, socks, hygiene items, toys, candies... But at the same time she’s sort of not knowing what to do.”

Sister Norma, head of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in the Diocese of Brownsville, told the audience of more than 200 that by the time children arrive at her organization’s humanitarian respite center “they’ve gone through so much.”

Sister Norma, a fine arts major before completing advanced degrees in theology and psychology, said, “The only reason we’re here is because... we want to encounter Jesus in our lives.

“He very clearly told us that we will find him in them: those innocent, fragile people that come to the border in the United States and are simply asking for an opportunity for life. That’s all.”

The sister recalled her early years as a novice after being arrested for supporting efforts to close down a local congressman’s office. He voted for U.S. funding of a war in a Latin American country that left people fleeing to the U.S. border. She said the experience made her realize her true calling.

“A God that loves us is one that challenges us to stand up and to tend his people,” Sister Norma told the crowd, adding people should “not hold back with the love God gives us when we encounter him.”

“That love is there to share and to care for others, especially those that most need us,” said the daughter of Mexican immigrants.

Sister Norma, 70, answered audience questions

ranging from what to do about Chicago’s burgeoning refugee population to addressing fear of immigrants. She advised that everyone should “be yourself” and listen because “God will tell you what to do. This is his work,” she said. “I tell people to be present to them. Listen to them. Know their story and you will know what they need.”

She recounted stories of how she dissuaded people from being fearful of immigrants. That they were not to be feared, but that in fact some refugees themselves showed compassion and gave consolation to children who became separated from parents, she described.

Sister Norma’s speaking engagement was the first of an annual series at the cathedral called the Bishop Kevin Birmingham Lecture. The Chicago auxiliary bishop, whose duties included being Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich’s representative to the Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, died unexpectedly in October at age 51. His family attended the lecture.

Bishop Birmingham’s youngest brother, Brandon Birmingham, delivered inaugural remarks. He told OSV News in an interview beforehand that Sister Norma was “extremely talented.”

“But the message (behind the art) of the immigrant experience, it’s very (much) what Kevin was all about, tending to God’s people,” said Brandon, a public school art teacher. “That was the motto on his coat of arms.”

It also was the title of the talk and a phrase that Sister Norma used multiple times.

Sister Norma said she was “very happy” to be

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Artist sister continued from page 15



OSV NEWS PHOTO/SIMONE ORENDAIN

Copies of Sister Norma Pimentel's art depicting immigrants who sought shelter at her organization's humanitarian respite center are on display nationally for the first time at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago April 15, 2024. Sister Pimentel, a Missionary of Jesus and head of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, is known for aiding migrants at the Southern border.

able to highlight, on a national scale, her work of giving humanitarian aid to immigrants combined with her artwork.

After the talk she shared with OSV News that this was the first time her art was being seen nationally and even with a busy schedule she makes time for painting.

"Shhhh, it's a secret, OK," she laughed. "(It takes) not very long, just a couple of days."

Using photos that the immigrants allowed her to take, she said, "I start one day and the only thing I do is the eyes and the expression because that's the most important part and then once I do that, the next day I finish the rest and the third day I just touch up whatever I need to touch up and that's it. It's done."

She told OSV News after receiving the Chicago invitation from the Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, she was invited to San Diego and then "another place."

"I hope that my art can bring us to an awareness of the immigrants as a people that are here to gift us with their presence more than to hurt us," she said. ■

Simone Orendain writes for OSV News from Chicago.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

A man makes the sign of the cross before receiving Holy Communion at Mass on Palm Sunday at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on March 24, 2024.

BY BERT GHEZZI, OSV NEWS

(OSV News) – I used to make the sign of the cross casually as a nice gesture for beginning and ending my prayers. More than a decade ago, probably nudged by the Holy Spirit, I began to take it more seriously.

Why Catholics make the sign of the cross

I began to sign myself more frequently with faith and reverence. I did not think much about it, but after a year I noticed that I seemed to be doing measurably better in my Christian life. I was praying with more passion, resisting my bad inclinations somewhat more effectively and relating to others more kindly.

When I asked myself what had produced these positive results, I decided the only thing I was doing differently was praying the Sign of the Cross more fervently. Pretty good, I thought, for just signing myself reverently, and I realized that the Sign of the Cross is not merely a pious gesture. It is a powerful prayer. So I studied about it in Scripture, the church fathers and saints, and Catholic teaching.

In my study, I discovered six perspectives on the Sign of the Cross that revealed why making it opens

us to life-transforming graces. I share them here, confident that once you grasp them, you will make the gesture with more faith and experience its great blessings.

- Mini-creed

The Sign of the Cross is a profession of faith in God as he revealed himself. It serves as an abbreviated form of the Apostles' Creed. Touching our forehead, breast and shoulders, we declare our belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are announcing our faith in what God has done -- the creation of all things, the redemption of humanity from sin and death, and the establishment of the church, which offers new life to all. When we sign ourselves we are making ourselves aware of God's presence and opening ourselves to his action in our lives.

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Sign of the cross continued from page 16

That would be enough, wouldn't it? But there is much, much more.

- Renewal of baptism

First-century Christians began making the sign of the cross as a reminder and renewal of what happened to them when they were baptized. It still works the same way for us. When we sign ourselves we are declaring that in baptism we died sacramentally with Christ on the cross and rose to a new life with him (see Rom 6:3-4 and Gal 2:20). We are asking the Lord to renew in us those baptismal graces. We are also acknowledging that baptism joined us to the body of Christ and equipped us for our role of collaborating with the Lord in his work of rescuing all people from sin and death.

- Mark of discipleship

At baptism the Lord claimed us as his own by marking us with the Sign of the Cross. Now, when we sign ourselves, we are affirming our loyalty to him. By tracing the cross on our bodies, we are denying that we belong to ourselves and declaring that we belong to him alone (see Lk 9:23). The church fathers used the same word for the Sign of the Cross that the ancient world employed to indicate ownership. The same word named a shepherd's brand on his sheep, a general's tattoo on his soldiers, a householder's mark on his servants and the Lord's mark on his disciples. So signing ourselves recognizes that we are Christ's sheep and can count on his care; his soldiers, commissioned to work with him in advancing his kingdom on earth; and his servants, dedicated to doing whatever he tells us.

- Acceptance of suffering

Jesus promised us that suffering would be a normal part of a disciple's life (see Lk 9:23). So, when we mark our bodies with the sign, we are embracing whatever pain comes as a consequence of

our faith in Christ. Making the sign is our "taking up the cross and following" him (Lk 9:23). But at the same time it comforts us with the realization that Jesus, who endured the crucifixion for us, now joins us in our suffering and supports us. Signing ourselves also announces another significant truth:

With St. Paul, we are celebrating that

our afflictions as members of the body of Christ contribute to the Lord's saving work of perfecting the Church in holiness (see Col 1:24).

- Move against the devil

When the devil sent Jesus to the cross, he mistakenly believed he had won a great victory. Instead, the Lord surprised him with an ignominious defeat (see 1 Cor 2:8). From the first Easter morning through the present, the sign of the cross makes the devil cower and flee. So on one level, making the sign is a defensive move, declaring our inviolability to the devil's influence. But more importantly, the sign is also an offensive weapon, helping us reclaim with Christ all that Satan lost at the cross. It announces our cooperation with him in the indomitable advance of the kingdom of God against the kingdom of darkness.

- Victory over the flesh

In the New Testament, the word flesh sums up



CNS PHOTO/LOLA GOMEZ

Pope Francis makes the sign of the cross as he begins his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 25, 2023.

all the evil inclinations of our old nature that persist in us even after we die with Christ in baptism (see Gal 5:16-22). Making the sign of the cross expresses our decision to crucify these desires of the flesh and to live by the Spirit. Like tossing off a dirty shirt or blouse, making the sign indicates our stripping ourselves of our evil inclinations and clothing ourselves with the behaviors of Christ (see Col 3:5-15).

The church fathers taught that the Sign of the Cross diffused the force of powerful temptations such as anger and lust. So no matter how strongly we are tempted, we can use the Sign of the Cross to activate our freedom in Christ and conquer even our besetting sins. ■

Bert Ghezzi is the author of numerous books, including "The Sign of the Cross: Recovering the Power of the Ancient Prayer" (Word on Fire, 2021).

April 8, 2024: Solemnity and totality

BY FR. RICHARD MEREDITH, SPECIAL TO
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord in 2024 was observed Monday, April 8. The feast day normally is celebrated March 25, which centuries ago was taken to be both the day of the Lord's conception in the womb of the Blessed Virgin (the Annunciation) and the calendar day of the first Good Friday, the day of the Lord's death on the cross. For some time March 25 was also considered by Christians to be the first day of their religious year. This view contributed to the European Christians of the 4th century observing December 25 as the day of the Lord's birth from the Blessed Mother in Bethlehem.

Whenever March 25 lands in Holy Week or during the Octave of Easter, the solemnity is transferred to the Monday following the Second Sunday of Easter. Such was the case in 2024. For many of us in North America, a wonderfully beautiful, and for many a rare, astronomical event also occurred this year on the Solemnity of the Annunciation and was observed (depending on local weather) in the western regions of the Diocese of Owensboro – a total eclipse of the sun. Our diocese last experienced a total eclipse of the sun in August of 2017. It is rare indeed for a geographic region to have this event to occur twice within the span of seven years.

While I have heard that some found mystic, mag-



COURTESY OF WILLIAM P. MEREDITH II
An image of the solar eclipse approaching totality at 2:02 p.m.

ical, or ominous significance to the eclipse, I gave thought to the conjunction of the solemnity and eclipse this year. Since with the Lord there are neither accidents nor coincidences, it was not vain for me to look at the solemnity through the lens of the eclipse or to look at the eclipse through the lens of the Annunciation.

At his conception in the womb of the Virgin as she consented to God's word, the Divine Son "emptied" himself of glory, concealed his majesty, and humbly took the form of a slave. In the lowly darkness of the human womb, the Almighty Word took flesh as a one-celled human embryo, and gestated there for nine months, conceived and formed, as Psalm 139 says, "in the depths of the earth." He would lie again in those depths, although differently, with his death and burial some thirty years later. The eclipse of his divine glory, with the exception of a few brief glimpses, lasted his whole earthly lifetime. The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord celebrates the beginning of that total eclipse or self-emptying (Philippians 2) of the Son of God with



COURTESY OF WILLIAM P. MEREDITH II
An image of the total solar eclipse in Paducah, Ky., at 2:22 p.m.

his Incarnation.

Given – the particular sizes of the sun and of the moon and their relative distances from each other and from the earth; the orbits of the moon about the earth with its perigees and apogees and of earth and moon together around the sun and their varying perihelion and aphelion; their rotational tilts and other movements; and given our particular presence at this time in their very long history—we have from time to time the experience of the moon blocking the orb of the sun and its light almost perfectly. It is nearly an astronomical miracle that a total solar eclipse occurs at all, but it does indeed and is quite a spectacle. The moon is so tiny, almost a pebble in size, compared to the girth and circumference of the sun, that the two must be precisely spaced at a very great distance for its smallness to occlude the vast brilliance of the solar disc. But what wonder, it does! God so formed and placed human nature in relation to himself in just the right manner of being, so that the Divine Word might assume a complete human nature, occluding or cloaking the divine glory without diminishing it. At the same time and

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Totality continued from page 18

with the proper relational distance neither was the human nature compromised or distorted, but rather it was perfected. As the Thomists say, grace builds upon nature and does not deform it, and that human nature has or is an obediencial potency for God, a capax Dei. It was of this great mystery of our faith that Pope St. Leo the Great wrote in his Tome to the Council meeting at Chalcedon in 451. All these wonders of nature and of grace come from the hand of our beneficent Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

At Mass on the morning of the Annunciation and of the total solar eclipse, I wore a vestment given me by the Latino Catholics of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville. It had the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the front. Remarkably, the Virgin Mother, pregnant with the Word Incarnate, is eclipsing the sun, but she is radiant with her own created light as she occludes the sun. I had not planned this, but found it upon vesting, to add another quiet touch to the wonders of the day. Praise God! ■

Schools take part in solar eclipse viewing

BY WKC STAFF

Monday, April 8, 2024, experienced a total solar eclipse that was visible in many regions of the Diocese of Owensboro. Here are highlights shared by our local schools. ■



COURTESY OF TYLER ORSBURN

Holy Name of Jesus students Anna Forbes and Keane Lovell roleplay the sun and moon for Scott Taylor, associate professor of communications at the Henderson Community College in Henderson, Ky., at the Preston Art Center March 12, 2024. The students were preparing for the April 8 eclipse that would pass over their community.



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL

Children at Holy Name of Jesus Parish's childcare program watch the total solar eclipse with special viewing masks on April 8, 2024. The childcare staff also provided special "Eclipse Survival Kits" with themed treats like Milky Ways, Moon Pies, Sun Chips, Starbursts, and Capri Suns.



COURTESY OF TYLER ORSBURN

A solar eclipse model is seen March 11, 2024, at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson, Ky. Sixth graders there were preparing for the April 8 eclipse that would pass over their community.



COURTESY OF SARAH MILLS

First graders Mae Mills and Kylin Grothouse sit on the lawn April 8, 2024 at Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville in anticipation of the eclipse. Their school's watch party included sunglasses and Sunkist.

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YOUTH

Schools view eclipse continued from page 19



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Louie Hall views the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024 near St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Stanley. The area experienced 99.99% totality.



COURTESY OF JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL

Second-graders wear eclipse glasses and spell out "Eclipse Day 2024" at John Paul II School in Morganfield – one of the regions in the path of totality on April 8, 2024.



COURTESY OF JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL

Zemma, a John Paul II School pre-K student, wears protective eclipse-viewing glasses on April 8, 2024, the day of the total solar eclipse. Morganfield was within the path of totality.



COURTESY OF JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL

Children do a set of activities learning about the total solar eclipse at John Paul II School in Morganfield – one of the regions in the path of totality on April 8, 2024.



COURTESY OF JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL

Middle schoolers at John Paul II School in Morganfield – one of the regions in the path of totality – learn about the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 – Diocesan Schools

As an annual tradition for our May issue, The Western Kentucky Catholic requests from the high schools and parishes within the Diocese of Owensboro, the names of graduating high school seniors. Inquiries about these names may be directed to the corresponding schools or parishes. Please note: This information reflects what the WKC received by its press deadline and may not represent the status of final grades.

Owensboro Catholic High School, Owensboro

Kenlee Ackerman
Mallary Bailey
Elijah Blair
Olivia Blondin
Andrew Brauer
Elle Brey
Courtney Brickner
Treson Byrne
John Calhoun
William Carrico
Monica Castlen
Delaney Cooper
Adam Danzer
Ethan Daugherty
Cameron Devine
James Dunn
Logan Early
Mason Estes

Kate Evans
Meredith Fischer
Houston Flynn
Olivia Ford
Luke Frey
Kaiser Frick
Samuel Fulkerson
Giana Fusco
Jessenia Garcia
Noah Girten
Evan Glahn
Kaden Goetz
Daniela Guido
Kailey Hamilton
Spencer Harris
Elizabeth Hatchett
Hope Hawes
Elizabeth Hayden
Emma Haynes
Christina Head
Annie Helwig
Lucia Hernando

Andres
Andrew Hester
Joseph Hopgood
RayAnne Howard
Benjamin Hyland
Alyson Isbill
Benjamin Johnson
Hailee Johnson
Ruth Jones
Anna Krampe
Jenna Krampe
Justina Leing
Carson Lewis
Julia Marshall
Brody Martin
Bethany McCarthy
Jenna McCarty
Olivia McPherson
Maci Merritt
Molly Meyer
Brandon Moore
Henry Moore

Kennedy Murphy
Nolan Murphy
Gabrielle O'Bryan
Conleigh Osborne
Leonard Padgett
Kolbyrne Parker
Abigail Payne
William Pride
Brady Prusz
Lawrence Reh
Isabelle Reisz
Noah Rhinerson
Blair Riney
Todd Riter
Ava Roberts
Spencer Roberts
Peyton Rowan
Laura Rudy
Ayden Simon
Mitchell Sims II
Emily Smith
John Steele

Wesley Stelmach
Leah Thompson
Karsen Tipmore
Reagan Toler
Jahaira Ward
Lindsey Warren
William Wedding
Holly Wilkerson
Braiden Willard
Kirsten Williams
Taylor Winstead
Isabella Wood
Virginia Young

St. Mary High School, Paducah

Antonio Carrillo
David DeNeve
Zachary Dunn
Landon Durbin
William Faughn

Aidan Hrdlicka
Joseph Humm
Jenna Krueger
Guadalupe Molina
Julian Myers
Edward O'Neill
Jacob Rainey
David Record
Rex Roof
Gianna Roth
Marina Singler
Jackson Willett
Luke Wilson
Kyler Yazigi
Anthony Zakutney

Trinity High School, Whitesville

Steven Bickett
Isiah Boarman
Riley Brown

Kylie Hatfield
Aaron Howard
Georgia Howard
Jacob Howard
Trevor Howard
Nolan Huff
Dalton Millay
Christian Miller
Jonathan Miller
Hannah Nash
JohnPaul Payne
Ella Reed
Isaac Reed
Daniel Reynolds
Lucas Rhodes
EJ Stauffer
Evie Turner
Sienaca Valdez
Declan Williams
Aaron Wright

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 – Non-Diocesan Schools

Editor's note: These include students from public schools, homeschool, private non-Catholic schools and Catholic schools outside the Diocese of Owensboro.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Dawson Cravens
Mary Dolinger
Conner Johnson
Kiley Kemper
Mary Ann Lyons
Abbie Millay
Owen Towery
Christ the King, Madisonville
Carrie Beth Crouch

Kuper Chapman
Owen Fulkerson
Alex Gonzalez
Omar Hernandez
Carter Logsdon
Noelia Merced
Grace Riddle
Malakai Orcutt
Christ the King, Scottsville
Shelby Huges
Donavin Slone

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Isaac Goldsberry
Dylan Abbott
Reagan Abbott
Thomas Berger
Samuel Clark
Bryce Cleavenger
Davis Cummins
Madison Duncan
Ella Forbes
Elizabeth Gavin
Preston Goldsberry

Ethan Greenwell-Luce
Landon Hurtte
Samuel Long
Ashton Lynam
Mina Morran
Henry Porter
Jason Ridore
Chloe Sheffer
Maxwell Thompson
Kassandra Toribio
Madison Vindhurst
Emmi Wolfe
Abbigail Long

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Miles Harvey
Gracie Yeric
Khai Khual
Houng Ha
Mang Kap Thang
Lauren Elizabeth Kessler
Niang Lam Nuam
Ana Deih
Mang Sian Sang
Matthew Joseph

Hartman Klein
Benjamin Christian
Hartman Klein
Reid Michael Buser

Immaculate, Owensboro

Ella Alvey
Paris Hoeheimer
Kinsley Norris
Samantha Rhodes
Olivia Clary
Parker James
Natalie Padgett

Continues on page 22

YOUTH

Graduates continued from page 21

Alexandria Swift
Abbey Garvin
Torrie Mattingly
Braxton Payne
Matilda Wethington

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville
Emmalynn Higdon

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
Charles Allen Bowllds
Emmi Michelle Connor
Parker Fiorella
Gage Hagan
Briley Elizabeth Jerome
Briana Gail Lawrence
James Paul Libs
Emily Lopez-Carrillo
Lucas Taylor Martin
Afina Winters

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
Olivia Clary
Jenna Dant
Mason Green
David Murphy
Lucas Murphy

St. Ann, Morganfield
Annie Beaven
Lillian Goodloe
Rachel Greenwell
Abby Jones
Kaden Kanipe

St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel
Cadence Louise Galloway
Kaydence Charm Monnin
Korean Brett Hinton
Lee Austin Miller
Lilah Ann Drane

St. Charles, Bardwell
Drew Henderson
Anna Russelburg
Joshua Willett
Joseph Wilson

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Lucy Thompson
Natalie Winfield

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson
Wyatt Clemons
Hayden Bradley

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Nicholas Cope
Blaise Gill
Gabrielle Lopez
Thomas Newton
Gavin Shore
Ty Swoope
Isabelle Washburn
George Williams
Robert Williams

St. Henry, Aurora
Xander Slover

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Hayden Alexander
Morgan Alexander
Allie Buckman
Tommy Ellegood
Alec Jenkins
Jalen Hobbs
Justin Hobbs
Kelsey Mantle
Molly Miller
Gage Munsell
Jenci Redden
Brady Sasseen
Abby Smithson
Dylan Thompson
Whitney Toon
Chase Webster

St. Joseph, Central City

Benjamin Gregory Perkins
Dylan Andrew Baugh

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Alexis Chino
Chloe Collard
Aidan Lee
Corbin Logsdon
John Smith

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Alex Ajanel-Calel
Cesas Alanis
Esbeidy Arellano
Alex Baten
Andre Cervantes
Raeanna Davis
Jairo Duran
Erik Duron
Diego Fabian
Hannah Freeman
Adrianna Garcia
Kevin Garcia
Montserrat Garcia
Savannah Garcia
Luis Gonzalez
Marco Ibarra
Calderon Arlette Martinez
Christopher Monroy
Diego Montes
Luis Romero
Christopher Ulloa

Sts. Joseph and Paul, Owensboro

Raymond Adams
Luke Hagedorn
Yaisy Hernandez
Molly Ladnier
Cameron Martin
Hallie Miles
Tyler Strobel
Brayden Wells
Alfonso Hernandez
Arthur Zapata

St. Martin, Rome
Daniel Scott Gray

St. Mary, Franklin

Yaritza Castro
Angel Cruz
Ariel Molina Jr.
David Valencia

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Macie Rayann Aguilar
Paige Joan Crabtree
Kaden Lydia Helen Grant
Ella Kate House

Nolan Creed Howe
Brayden Lee Kaelin
Nolan Michael Kurz
Landyn Wayne Mills
Toby Dean Morris
Jackson Phillip Payne
Ella Paige Reed
Hunter Thomas Szemethy
Brian Keith Winchell
Carly Graham Wright

St. Michael, Sebree
Andres Francisco López

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Alexandria Diaz
Chloe Frasca
Arinzechuknu Chukwuemeka
Liberty Manzone
Natalie Morgan

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Rebecca DePoyster
Molly Geary
Brayden Kingrey

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Kaleb Barnard
Davon Paris

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Robert Matthew Ball
Johnny Yaw Har
Preston Hartz
Pau Lwe Say Htoo
Elizabeth Johnson
Kayla Jones
Dakota Melton
Paw Eh Say
Re Ne Soon
George Beh Reh
Luke Oo Reh
CoraAnne Roberts

Sofia Sorely
St. Sebastian, Calhoun
Marion Cooper
Whit Searcy

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

John Michael Copeland
Ashton Leigh
Michael Lovett
Dustin Payne
Addison Puckett
Sofia Sorley
Tristan Walker
Luke Wellman
Olivia Yanez

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Ellie Chapman
Jesus Chavez
Nathan Covich
Angel Dominguez

Sanchez
Clara Elliott
Garret Greenwell
Austin Hunter
Kodi Kinsey
Banks LaFont
Cristina Machaen
Estrella Machaen
James Medlin
Azerette Mendoza
Riley Peters
Isabel Roof
Danielle Schoot
Issac Turner

St. William, Knottsville

Lilli Hodskins
Tinley Hall
Keleigh Payne
Jackson Turner ■

International Exhibition
MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST
ACROSS THE WORLD
Devised and planned by Carlo Acutis
Celebrating the Year of Eucharistic Revival

**Saint Stephen Cathedral
Community Center
610 Locust Street
Owensboro, KY 42301**

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024
9:30 am - 7:00 pm
Confession available 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024
9:30 am - 5:00 pm

For more information, visit
ststephencathedral.org



Parish dates for summer 2024 Vacation Bible School

COMPILED BY OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Below are parish-submitted Vacation Bible School schedules for summer 2024, as of the WKC's press deadline. Scan the QR code or visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/2024715> for more information, including VBS themes and age requirements.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Location: Parish hall
 Dates: July 15-18
 Times: 9 a.m.-12 noon
 Cost: \$10/child, \$25 flat rate for family of 3 or more
 Contact: Christina Barnard at blessedmamayouth@gmail.com

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Location: TBA
 Dates: June 17-20
 Times: TBA
 Cost: TBA
 Contact: Parish office at (270) 826-2096

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Location: TBA
 Dates: July 22-26
 Times: 5:30-8 p.m.
 Cost: Free
 Contact: Gail Critchelov at (270) 274-3414

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Location: Parish hall
 Dates: June 10-14
 Times: 9 a.m.- 12 noon
 Cost: \$30/child (Discount for multiple, and scholarships available)
 Contact: Allison Steen-Baker at allison@holyspiritcatholic.org

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Location: Parish hall
 Dates: July 16-18
 Times: 5:30-8 p.m.
 Cost: Free
 Contact: April Dickens at (270) 684-6888

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Location: TBA
 Dates: June 2-6
 Times: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 Cost: TBA
 Contact: Kelly Groves at groves.kw@gmail.com

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Location: TBA
 Dates: June 24-28
 Times: 9 a.m.-12 noon
 Cost: Free
 Contact: Paetra Deskins at paetra@stjosephbg.org

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Location: School building
 Dates: July 11-14
 Times: 8:30-11:40 a.m.
 Cost: \$20/parishioner, \$40/non-parishioner
 Contact: Lorie Brown at loeb68@msn.com

Sts. Joseph and Paul, Owensboro

Location: Parish hall
 Dates: June 17-20
 Times: 5-8 p.m.
 Cost: TBA
 Contact: Parish office at (270) 683-5641

St. Leo, Murray

Location: TBA
 Dates: June 24-28
 Times: 5-8 p.m.
 Cost: Free
 Contact: Debbie D'Angelo at debbie@stleoky.org

St. Martin, Rome

Location: Parish hall

Dates: July 8-11
 Times: 6-8:20 p.m.
 Cost: Free/donations accepted at \$10/child or \$20/family
 Contact: www.stmartinrome.org/contact_us

St. Mary, Franklin

Location: TBA
 Dates: July 8-12
 Times: 5:30-7 p.m.
 Cost: Free
 Contact: Hannah Clark at heclark892@yahoo.com

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Location: Parish hall
 Dates: July 29-Aug 1
 Times: 6 p.m.-8:15 p.m.
 Cost: Free
 Contact: Clare Bivins at dre@stmarymagd.org

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Location: Horn Community Center
 Dates: June 24-28
 Times: 9 a.m.-12 noon
 Cost: Free
 Contact: Johnny Sherfick at johnny.sherfick@stmarywoods.com

St. Michael, Sebree

Location: Parish hall
 Dates: June 17-19
 Times: 5-7 p.m.
 Cost: TBA
 Contact: Kattia Angulo at katjun75@yahoo.com

St. Paul/St. Elizabeth, Leitchfield

Location: St. Paul
 Dates: July 15-18

Times: 9 a.m.-12 noon
 Cost: Free
 Contact: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/2024715>

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Location: Parish hall
 Dates: July 22-25
 Times: 4-7 p.m.
 Cost: Free
 Contact: Kimly Hoang at khoang@stpiustenthparish.org

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Location: Community Center (undercroft)
 Dates: June 10-14
 Times: 9 a.m. -12 noon
 Cost: \$25/child with reduced cost for more than one child
 Contact: Cheryl Powell at cpowell@sscobo.org

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Location: TBA
 Dates: June 17-20
 Times: 9-11:30 a.m.
 Cost: \$50/first child and \$25 each additional
 Contact: Ann Morrow at ann@stmore.org

St. William/Lawrence, Knottsville

Location: Knottsville Gym
 Dates: July 8-12
 Times: 6-8 p.m.
 Cost: \$5/child
 Contact: Lauren Johnson at mrs.laurenjohnson@gmail.com ■

VBS Schedules



Scan for more information!

Wonder of creation: Eclipse enjoyed across western Kentucky

BY WKC STAFF

Viewing the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse brought out childlike joy in all.

Gatherings took place in many regions of the Diocese of Owensboro, whether they were in 100% totality or just very close, which provided an opportunity to be awed by the stunning creation of God's hands. ■



RILEY GRIEF | WKC

Staff of the Diocese of Owensboro's McRaith Catholic Center, including with Bishop William F. Medley take a late lunch to go to the riverfront in downtown Owensboro to watch the solar eclipse April 8, 2024.



COURTESY OF RACHEL WHELAN

Brescia University student Carrington Nyikadzino looks into one of the two telescopes available to students, faculty, and staff to watch the progression of the eclipse on April 8, 2024.



COURTESY OF ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah hosts a staff/family/friends eclipse-watching party on April 8, 2024, during the total solar eclipse.



COURTESY OF RACHEL WHELAN

Brescia University students Josephine Gesser and Nicholas Miller look through binoculars that had special-made covering to get a bigger view of the eclipse on April 8, 2024.



COURTESY OF RACHEL WHELAN

Students, faculty, and staff gather in the Brescia University Quad to witness the total solar eclipse. There were games, music, food, and more to celebrate the experience on April 8, 2024.

Blanket delivery

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

After sewing colorful blankets for My Sister's Keeper, an emergency shelter for women and children in Owensboro, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph delivered them on March 22, 2024. The blankets were made by several Ursuline Sisters and Associates as a service project during Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14). All of the blankets will be given to women served by the shelter when they move out.

"A lot of these women have nothing. We want them to have something of their own when they leave here," Welsh said. ■

To learn more about My Sister's Keeper, visit mysisterskeeper270.org or call (270) 925-3032.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
Angel Welsh, right, executive director of My Sister's Keeper, an emergency shelter for women and children in Owensboro, smiles as she looks over colorful blankets delivered by Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Amelia Stenger on March 22, 2024.

St. Vincent de Paul opens new help center in McCracken County

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul – McCracken County had a perfect day for their open house, dedication, and blessing of the new St. Vincent de Paul Help Center. In her remarks, SVDP – Western District president Suzanne Warren thanked those who had given their time and talent to convert the building into a usable space for SVDP's needs. She gave special thanks to Fr. Frank Roof who generously donated the funds to purchase the building. She further noted he is also donating the funds to pave the parking lot next month. This generosity led to a special dedication the building to recognize Fr. Frank Roof in a special way.

Warren said, "Fr. Roof has a special love for those who struggle to meet their daily needs. You will often find him here at our help center loading food into boxes or bags for the neighbors we serve, talking to them about their situations and offering words of encouragement and prayer."

The SVDP Help Center is a busy place, seeing on average 30 or more individuals on their open days from Paducah and McCracken County. The help center operates with more than 50 volunteers who help sort, move, price, and pick up donations (and they could use even more). These volunteers come from the area's four Catholic parishes and other faith communities. Not only are food needs provided to neighbors in need but also at times financial assistance with rent, utility bills, medical



COURTESY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
Suzanne Warren is the president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Western District.

bills, and other essential daily needs.

Moving the help center into a new building from the SVDP Budget Store allows the budget store to expand its offerings of gently used furniture, clothing, housewares, and other unique items. Funds from the SVDP Budget Store are used to supplement financial donations to help local neighbors in need.

SVDP Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Inc. president, Nancy Harris said, "We're truly humbled and honored by the expansion of services in Paducah-McCracken County as well as, our dedicated Vincentians throughout our 32-county service area. We invite you to partner with us by donating to any of our seven thrift stores or parish-based conferences." ■

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

Sacred Triduum at the cathedral: *A spiritual journey in pictures*

BY WKC STAFF

This March, Bishop William F. Medley presided at the celebrations of the Sacred Triduum at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, the mother church for the Diocese of Owensboro. The Triduum is the shortest liturgical season in the Church's calendar and is spread over Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The Easter season will continue until Pentecost Sunday on May 19, 2024. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC
A cross adorned with a red cloth is seen outside St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on March 29, 2024.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Bishop Medley places the Blessed Sacrament in the Altar of Repose in the undercroft of St. Stephen Cathedral in the evening of Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024.



RACHEL HALL | WKC
The faithful kneel during the Good Friday service at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on March 29, 2024.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Parishioners of St. Stephen Cathedral process around the block with Bishop Medley carrying the Blessed Sacrament, in the evening of Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Mikaela Adrey and her daughter, baby Thérèse Adrey, have their feet washed by Bishop Medley during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024.



RACHEL HALL | WKC
Servers kneel and Bishop Medley and the clergy lie prostrate at the beginning of the Good Friday service at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on March 29, 2024.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop Medley baptizes Hassan Ben Lamine during the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on March 30, 2024.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Breanna Reid chants the Exultet during the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on March 30, 2024.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Jaxyn Rundall smiles as he stands with others entering the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on March 30, 2024.

Blue pinwheels for prevention

BY WKC STAFF

During the month of April, parishes and schools are encouraged to display blue pinwheels in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Throughout this month, initiatives work to increase awareness, educate children and families, and expand policy makers' understanding of child abuse prevention. ■



COURTESY OF APRIL DICKENS

Lorlei Dickens helps her mother, bookkeeper April Dickens, put out the blue child abuse awareness pinwheels at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF ST. WILLIAM PARISH

St. William of Vercelli Parish in Marion displays blue pinwheels with a message on their church sign: "April is Child Abuse Prevention. Support happy childhoods."

One hundred years young

BY WKC STAFF



COURTESY OF VANESSA CALVIN

Clara Gilles with a Mayor's Award of Distinction on the outstanding achievement of her 100th birthday on April 17, 2024, signed by Mayor Tom Watson.

On April 17, 2024, Clara Marie Gilles, a parishioner of Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro, turned 100 years young. In celebration of this milestone, Gilles' family hosted a celebration at Fern Terra, where she resides, on the 17th with a bluegrass band and a cake. A later celebration was held on April 21 - which was also the birthday of Gilles' late husband, James Gilles, who died in 1997.

She was born in Rome, Ky., and grew up attending St. Martin in Rome and St. Mary Magdalene grade school in Sorgho. Gilles attended business school in Evansville and worked in a factory making shells for the LST (Landing Ship Tank) during World War II.

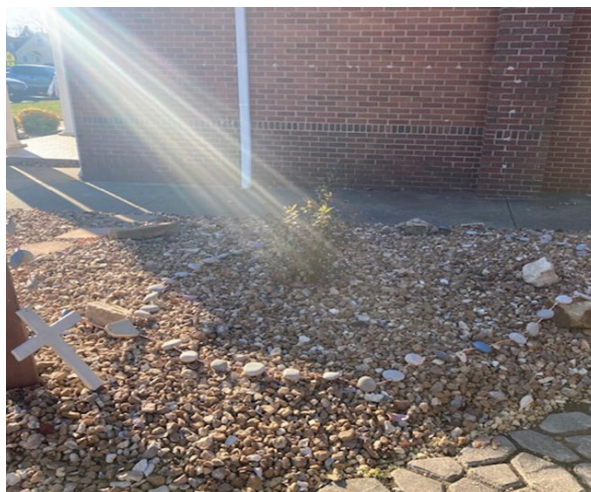
She married her husband, the love of her life, in 1944 at St. Mary Magdalene Parish. Gilles worked for a while at Fleishman's Distillery until her children started needing her at home. She and her husband raised four children (Martha, Patty, Joyce, and Jimmy), and to date have 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Her granddaughter, Vanessa Calvin, shared that Gilles "loves to watch University of Kentucky basketball, the news, and visiting with family. She can often be seen wearing her favorite color blue as she always wants to look presentable with her hair done and lipstick on." ■

Transformed and blessed prayer garden at Blessed Mother Parish

BY PATTY WOERTER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Transformed and blessed! The prayer garden at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro needed some much-needed attention. With the vision of parish maintenance mechanic Jeff Payne and his team of volunteers, the garden experienced a complete transformation. A new statue of Mary was added and that inspired Jeff to create a permanent rosary constructed of stones. Once installed, it looked like Mary approved and blessed his work as rays of light shown down upon the center of the newly-installed rosary. ■



COURTESY OF BLESSED MOTHER PARISH

After the prayer garden at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro was refreshed and completed, a sunbeam shone through the area.



COURTESY OF BLESSED MOTHER PARISH

The spruced-up prayer garden at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro is seen in a recent photo. The renewal project was led by maintenance mechanic Jeff Payne.

Blessing the farms from above



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHEL

(Left to right) Pilot Chris Conkright, parishioner Danny Ebelhar, and administrative assistant Lavidia Mischel accompanied Fr. Jamie Dennis, the pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, on his April 12, 2024 flight above the area to pray for safety and prosperity for this season's crops.

BY LAVIDA MISCHEL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Joining pilot Chris Conkright, Fr. Jamie Dennis (pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho), administrative assistant Lavidia Mischel, and St. Mary Magdalene parishioner Danny Ebelhar took to the Sorgho sky on Friday, April 12, 2024.

Fr. Dennis, with the Blessed Sacrament in hand, prayed and blessed nearby farms and neighborhoods, praying for safety and prosperity for this season. The 20-minute flight included the Knott Farm, Ebelhar Farm, Stephen Farm & Nursery, as well as nearby neighborhoods. ■



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHEL

Fr. Jamie Dennis waves his hat toward pilot Chris Conkright on April 12, 2024 before climbing aboard and blessing the local farms and neighborhoods from



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHEL

An ariel view of the Sorgho area is seen during the April 12, 2024 flight blessing by Fr. Jamie Dennis, who prayed for this season's safety and prosperity for local farmers.

I am the vine. You are the branches.
— John 15:5

In 2019, the Ursuline Sisters' Kindness Card Campaign was launched to spread a little more kindness to people who may need to be uplifted. Since the launch, cards have been sent to people of all ages, living alone, grieving, incarcerated, or struggling with health issues, and to others "just because" the sender cares about them. The annual Kindness Campaign is about to begin for the sixth year. For a \$50 contribution, the Ursuline Sisters will send one custom card a month for a year to a person of your choice with words of encouragement and inspiration.

Sign up by May 15 (late signups will be accepted).

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

ursulinesmsj.org/kindness-campaign



Via Crucis: Annual tradition brings Good Friday reflection into the community

BY WKC STAFF

Every Good Friday, several communities throughout the Diocese of Owensboro put on a living depiction of Jesus's way of the cross. With prayers and songs, Via Crucis, as it is called, processes through city streets to reflect on the 14 Stations of the Cross, which are portrayed by parishioner actors.

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro holds

Continues on page 31



COURTESY OF TAYLOR MAURO GARCIA RIOS

Actors portraying the women of Jerusalem participate in the March 29, 2024 Via Crucis (a live Stations of the Cross experience), held downtown annually by parishioners of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish.



COURTESY OF TAYLOR MAURO GARCIA RIOS

The March 29, 2024 Via Crucis (a live Stations of the Cross experience), held downtown annually by parishioners of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, depicts Christ falling while carrying the cross.



COURTESY OF TAYLOR MAURO GARCIA RIOS

A woman portrays St. Veronica during the March 29, 2024 Via Crucis (a live Stations of the Cross experience), held downtown annually by parishioners of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish.



COURTESY OF FULGENCIO GARCIA

Taylor Mauro Garcia Rios serves as a photographer as his father, Fulgencio Garcia, portrays one of the soldiers during the March 29, 2024 Via Crucis (a live Stations of the Cross experience), held downtown annually by parishioners of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish.

Via Crucis continued from page 30



COURTESY OF FR. COREY D. BRUNS
The crucifixion is portrayed during the Via Crucis (live Stations of the Cross) at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green on Good Friday, March 29, 2024.



COURTESY OF FR. COREY D. BRUNS
The faithful of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green depict the crowd during the parish's March 29, 2024 Via Crucis (a live Stations of the Cross experience), held at 5:30 p.m.



COURTESY OF FR. COREY D. BRUNS
A man playing Simon of Cyrene carries the cross for Jesus during Via Crucis (live Stations of the Cross) at St. Joseph

their annual Via Crucis at 3 p.m. The bilingual prayer experience starts outside the parish and processes to Brescia University's center courtyard quad area.

St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green holds their Via Crucis at 5:30 p.m. Prayed entirely in Spanish, the procession walks around the parish property, down the street, and concludes outside the parish hall.

Via Crucis is attended by parishioners and non-parishioners alike, as it is open to anyone who would like to pray along. The Via Crucis tradition is celebrated throughout the world in different countries, including Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. ■

Husband of Miss Kentucky 2018 sworn in as U.S. citizen

BY WKC STAFF

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro recently helped the husband of Miss Kentucky 2018 obtain his United States citizenship. Adam Wilkinson, originally from England and who today works as an elementary school teacher at Kentucky Day School in Louisville, was sworn in on April 18, 2024. His wife, Katie Bouchard Wilkinson (Miss Kentucky 2018 and an

Owensboro native) was there, along with their toddler son, Ollie. His wife's parents – who are parishioners of St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro – and his wife's grandparents were also in attendance that day.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities, said their office is always taking on naturalization cases both from clients they assisted in prior process, “like Adam whom we accompanied through a marriage-based visa and adjustment to permanent residence... or those who have had their green card for the requisite number of years to apply for naturalization.”

Those who would like to learn more can call Vicky Montalvo at (270) 852-8367 to get the process started or see if they are eligible to do so. ■



COURTESY OF SUSAN MONTALVO-GESSER
Adam, Katie, and Ollie Wilkinson on April 18, 2024, the day Adam Wilkinson was sworn in as a U.S. citizen, assisted by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

The story behind the oldest painting at Mount Saint Joseph



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES
Photograph of "The Institution of the Blessed Sacrament" held by the Mount Saint Joseph archives.

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

A question archivists can often be asked is, "What is the oldest thing you have in the archives?" This is a natural question. Archives are for old stuff. So, logic follows that there should be some pretty old things in them. Well, we have plenty of old things at both the diocesan archives, as well as the archives at Mount Saint Joseph. One of these interesting "oldest" items we will be looking at today is reported to be the oldest painting at the Mount, "The Institution of the Blessed Sacrament."

The provenance of the piece is over a century

long and two continents wide. According to archived records, the painting is on a tabernacle door and found its way to America in the hands of an order of French nuns. They intended on getting the piece restored before returning home. However, they were called back on short notice and left the piece behind.

The building that the nuns vacated was shortly after inhabited by some Ursuline sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. The French nuns left several things, including another work of art. Ursuline sister, Sr. Etheldreda, realized the significance of the works and brought them back to the Mount with her. In about 1912, five or six years after the painting made it to the Mount, it was restored. The appraisal at the time was very high. This is one of two origin stories of the painting. It is noted that this one is the most likely.

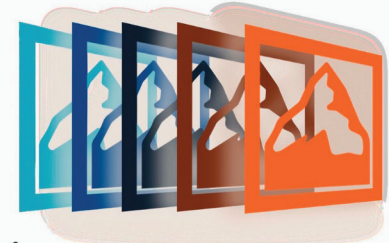
It is perhaps said too often but photographs do not do this work justice. We have all seen the painting of the Last Supper. It is full of action, busy politicking, cluttered with people, individual stories and movement. Meanwhile, Christ is depicted sitting at the center of the table near despondent, in a room full of friends with no comfort.

This piece is a very different light on the same event. Christ is the solitary focus. He sits alone. His eyes are pools gazing towards heaven. They are not sad or fearful but receptive, trusting, like a child listening to his father or a lamb following his shepherd. The light reflects the gold in his hair. Another gold feature catches the light. There is an inscription on the collar of his tunic, Ego Sum, "I am." This statement is one that is rife with biblical significance and could keep theologians talking for

days. Though I am no theologian, I imagine the phrase, in this context, is a statement of the entirety of the piece: "I am" the "Institution of the Blessed Sacrament" He is the sacrifice; absolutely beautiful.

Though art is moving for many, history has a beauty all its own. These stories give pieces life in a way brushstrokes never could. Thanks to the MSJ Ursulines, who have always had a love for preserving history, we can now enjoy this beautiful piece of art and reflect on the beauty of its appearance, message, and history. ■

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.



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Ray & Judy Taylor, 55

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Ralph & Jeanne Hines, 58
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Christ the King, Scottsville

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Wayne & Mary-Anne Powers, 40

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Hawesville

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Brandon & Jennifer Haycraft, 5

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Travis & Hanna Bailey, 10

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

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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.

MAY 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.

Brescia's annual spring concert May 2

The band and choir at Brescia University in Owensboro will have its annual concert for spring on Thursday, May 2, at 7 p.m. in Taylor Lecture Hall on campus. Free and open to the public. For more info, contact brett.ballard@brescia.edu.

St. Paul 150th anniversary on Sunday, May 5

Join St. Paul Parish in Princeton, starting with the 10 a.m. Mass, for their 150th anniversary. Bishop Medley will administer the sacrament of Confirmation upon 13 children in conjunction with the anniversary Mass. Lunch will follow in the parish center with the parish providing ham, chicken, and barbeque. Please bring your favorite side dish, casserole, or dessert to share with family and friends. A cake will be provided to honor the students that were confirmed. There will be inflatables set up outside for the kids. A slideshow will be shown and a written history will be available in the parish center. You may dress in "period clothes" from the past 150 years. Please save the date and make plans to attend the 150th anniversary. To learn more, contact Ken Negray at (270) 559-9624 or krnegray@yahoo.com.

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.

View some of Father Paul Volk's artifacts at Maple Mount in May

To celebrate the birthday of the priest who invited them to Daviess County 150 years ago – Father Paul Joseph Volk – the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph will be displaying his personal items throughout May in the gathering space of the Motherhouse Chapel, Maple Mount. Visitors can stop in to see them beginning May 6. Father Volk (May 16, 1841 – Nov. 2, 1919) was born in Germany. Ordained in 1865, he studied to become a missionary to the U.S. He was appointed pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in 1870, and in 1874 he brought the Ursuline Sisters to Daviess County to open Mount Saint Joseph Academy. He collected donations and acted as architect, contractor, and laborer in erecting the building. The place became known as "Maple Mount" because of the maple trees he planted. Traveling on foot and on horseback, he tended to the needs of the faithful, building many churches in Kentucky and elsewhere. In his late 40s, he answered the call to serve in South America, including Ecuador and Panama. He always wanted to help the poorest missions. You can find photos from the Ursulines' 150th anniversary events, videos, and upcoming events here: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/150-years/>

Women of the Church forum planned for May 31 - June 2

Women of the Church, a Catholic leadership forum, will host a regional gathering for women with the theme "Eucharistic Living." It will be held May 31-June 2, 2024, at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey

Guest House, St. Meinrad, IN. The weekend's schedule will include presentations, liturgical celebrations, opportunity for reflection, as well as space to bring your experiences into conversations with others. For the complete schedule and to register, go to www.womenofthechurch.org. Deadline to register is May 13. The fee is \$275, which includes room and meals, or \$110 for commuters. Guest speakers will be Dr. Kimberly Baker, Agnes Kovacs, and Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB. Baker, a co-founder of Women of the Church and associate professor of patristics at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, will speak on "Living as the Body of Christ." Kovacs, also a co-founder of Women of the Church and director of continuing formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, will speak on "The Paschal Mystery as Lived Faith in Daily Life." Wilberding, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, will speak on "The Grace of Gratitude."

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 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>.

Ursuline Associates and Sisters Day is June 22
Ursuline Associates will gather for their annual

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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MAY 2024 BULLETIN BOARD

Associates and Sisters Day on Saturday, June 22 on the campus of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, Ky. There will be a panel of Ursuline Sisters and Associates discussing how the two groups can continue serving together in sharing the charism of Saint Angela Merici. The theme for the day will be the Ursulines' 150th anniversary motto: "Cultivating the Vine Saint Angela Entrusted to Us." The program will take place from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and will include prayer, trivia and recognition of Associates celebrating anniversaries as well as remembrances of those who died in the past year. There will also be a ceremony to welcome new Associates. If you are an Associate or have an interest in becoming an Associate, you are welcome to attend. The suggested donation for lunch is \$10. Ursuline Associates are lay men and women who wish to be affiliated with the mission and spirit of the Ursuline community and want to carry gospel living into their own daily lives. To register or for more information, contact Doreen Abbott, coordinator of Ursuline Partnerships, at 270-229-2006 or email associates.msjs@maplemount.org. You can also visit: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/associates/>

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 IPUI). 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.

Ursuline Sisters add Eucharistic Adoration on the first Sunday

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have added the first Sunday of the month to their Eucharistic Adoration schedule. They invite the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on the first Sunday from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. at the Motherhouse Chapel, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky. (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). The Ursuline Sisters will continue to have Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The public is also welcome to attend on Fridays.

Adoration on the second Friday of each month is dedicated to praying for vocations. The Adoration concludes with evening prayer. To see Adoration and Mass times for the Ursuline Sisters, visit <https://ursulinesmsj.org/mass-prayer-times/>

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/>. You are also invited to visit <https://www.awakecommunity.org/>, a community of abuse survivors, concerned Catholics, and allies responding to the wounds of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.

As we honor the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the First Saturday of her month of May,



The Poor Clare Nuns of the
Monastery of Our Lady of Mercy
Belleville, Illinois

Invite you to join them for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
enfolding the Solemn Profession of their

Sister María de Guadalupe
of Jesus Crucified

daughter of the late Eleazar Velazquez and Elodia Moreno
and stepdaughter of Vidal Diaz

to be celebrated in the monastery chapel on

Saturday, May 4, 2024
at 9:00 a.m. CDT

Most Rev. Michael G. McGovern, Bishop of Belleville,
will be the main celebrant.

The Liturgy of the Word and Profession Ceremony will be in Spanish and
English. Following the Profession Mass and a brief time of thanksgiving,
visitors may greet the bride in the parlor.

More information at www.poorclares-belleville.info

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 29**
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. 14**
St. Joseph, Central City
Street address: 109 S. 3rd St, Central City
Serving 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 754-1164
- Sept. 14**
St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Street address: 394 N. Hwy 259, Hardinsburg
Serving 4 p.m.
Contact: (270) 756-2356

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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 the church parking lot)

Serving 3 p.m. (drive-thru only)

Contact: (270) 683-8444

Sept. 21

Christ the King, Madisonville
Street address: 1600 Kingsway Dr., Madisonville

Serving 4-8 p.m.

Contact: Erin Clark (270) 821-8271

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

'The Journey' helps young adults step away from life's chaos, and into God's creation



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

The group that attended the April 12-14, 2024 The Journey Hike Retreat, which was held on the North Trail at Land Between the Lakes.

BY WKC STAFF

Eight young adults attended the April 12-14, 2024 The Journey Hike Retreat, which was held on the North Trail at Land Between the Lakes.

Inspired by the Latin phrase attributed to St. Augustine, "Solvitur Ambulando" ("in walking, it is solved"), the hike retreat provided space and time



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

Fr. Gary Clark, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, celebrates Mass during the April 12-14, 2024 The Journey Hike Retreat, which was held on the North Trail at Land Between the Lakes.

for young adults to be available to the loving call and presence of God. This was the third retreat of its kind led by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

The hike included intentional space for reflection, prayer, fellowship, and Mass celebrated



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

Natalie Rhinerson cooks over the campfire while MaryJo Payne looks on, during the April 12-14, 2024 The Journey Hike Retreat, which was held on the North Trail at Land Between the Lakes.

by Fr. Gary Clark, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah.

Future hike retreat dates are Oct. 18-20, 2024, and March 28-30, 2025. Registration for October will open later this summer. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/journey-retreat. ■

National Eucharistic Congress promises ‘profound impact’ for families, says family life director

BY NATALIE HOEFER, OSV NEWS

INDIANAPOLIS (OSV News) – Catholics will come to Indianapolis in the tens of thousands for the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21 – some as individuals, some as couples, some as groups.

And some will come as families.

“The church is a family of families,” said Gabriela Ross, director of the Indianapolis Archdiocese’s Office of Marriage and Family Life. “It just makes sense for them to be here for the congress!”

Ross serves on the NEC planning team for the congress’s family track.

“We’ve tried to think of everything to make attending the National Eucharistic Congress as easy as possible for families,” she said, including offering free admission for children ages 12 and younger traveling with their family.

Ross spoke with *The Criterion*, Indianapolis’ archdiocesan newspaper, about the experience families can look forward to at the congress – and how families can prepare and be involved, whether or not they attend.

Families coming together to spend time focusing on the Eucharist is important, said Ross.

“The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith,” she said. “And marriage as a sacrament is an icon of God’s love.

“The vocation of marriage is to baptize and evangelize the family. If marriages are going to succeed in that vocation and mission, then they need the Eucharist as the source of their love, because the Eucharist transforms and purifies the family.”

The NEC website notes the same, stating, that “fostering a love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist within our homes will have a profound impact on how we love others outside of our homes. ... Eucharistic revival happens at the grassroots level, and the domestic church is an essential part of this movement.”

This message will be shared during the morning “Cultivate” family impact sessions during the congress. Speakers include *Voluntas Dei* Father Leo Patalinghug, founder of the *Plating Grace* international food and faith movement and host of EWTN’s “Savoring Our Faith” show; John Paul II Healing Center founder Bob Schuchts; and Damon and Melanie Owens, founders of the online *Joyful Ever After* marriage ministry.

Ennie and Cana Hickman, founders of the *Del Rey Collective* ministry, will serve as emcees, and popular Catholic musician Steve Angrisano will provide music at each session.

“It’s wonderful for Catholic families to encourage and support each other in their witness,” said Ross. “The family track has taken the time to anticipate a lot of those family needs – nursing, a sensory-friendly room, a family quiet room, volunteers at all entrances and exits, like a



OSV NEWS PHOTO/MIKE KROKOS, THE CRITERION
A participant prays during the closing Mass of the National Catholic Youth Conference at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis Nov 18, 2023. The National Eucharistic Congress will be held July 17-21, 2024, in downtown Indianapolis.

checkpoint in case little ones try to wander off.”

While the morning sessions are ticketed and have a capacity limit, all attendees are welcome to enjoy afternoon breakout talks and experiences.

“There are other family workshops beyond the talks,” Ross adds, including a “Catholic home experience that has Eucharistic adoration and activities for the whole family every day,” and an area offering “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.”

Families also can enjoy some sightseeing in the afternoons. The Indiana Convention Center and neighboring Lucas Oil Stadium – the two NEC venues – are within walking distance of several museums, the canal walk, Monument Circle and more.

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Families at Euchristic Congress continued from page 41

Whether planning on attending the congress or not, there are ways for families to be involved and focused on the Eucharist ahead of time, said Ross.

The National Eucharistic Revival website offers resources in English and Spanish for families and children of different ages at eucharisticrevival.org/revival-resources. Options include videos and activities on eucharistic saints, the Mass, small group discussions and more.

Local opportunities can help families on the Eucharist, too.

“Join in a Corpus Christi procession, and invite other families to join you,” Ross suggested. The feast is celebrated June 2 this year.

Families also might participate in one of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage events from May 17-July 16, as eucharistic processions from the northern, eastern, southern and western areas of the United States make stops for adoration in parishes throughout the U.S. before converging in Indianapolis for the congress. Information on the four routes and parish stops can be found at eucharisticpilgrimage.org.

The most important action families can take is to pray, said Ross.

“Pray the Sisters of Life’s Eucharistic family prayer,” she said, which can be found at tinyurl.com/SOLFamilyPrayerCard. “Pray as a family in adoration. Talk with your parish about offering a family adoration experience.”

Ross invited families to include the National Eucharistic Congress among their intentions.

“Pray for the success of the congress, for those in attendance, for those planning the event,” she said. “And pray for renewal, that our country will experience renewed love for the Eucharist.”

Ross encouraged families throughout the country

to come to the National Eucharistic Congress.

“This is such a unique moment in the life of the church,” she said. “It really is an incredible opportunity for families that will have a ripple effect. But it takes families to come to create those ripple effects when they go back to their communities and take their lived experience and witness to the faith.”

Ross acknowledges that planning any family trip can have its challenges.

“But in this case, everything is planned out for you – all you have to do is come!” ■

Natalie Hoefler is a staff writer at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

For links to register for the National Eucharistic Congress, go to eucharisticcongress.org.



YOU ARE INVITED
Eucharistic Revival
Retreat Afternoon
JULY 3RD 2024 1-4:30p.m.
at Holy Spirit Catholic Church
in Bowling Green, Ky.
concluding with Mass at 5p.m. with Bishop Medley
and the Perpetual Pilgrims of the
National Eucharistic Revival

 
 Learn more

with Sr. Cheryl Clemons, OSU,
 a longtime retreat leader and
 faith formation guide.



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Sunday, September 8
1-4 p.m.
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 (Gym/Auditorium)
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Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Arrraigados en la fe, la promesa de Dios se nota en más de 300 descendientes de una pareja de Kentucky

“Multiplicaré tu descendencia como las estrellas del cielo y como la arena que está a la orilla del mar”.

- Génesis 22, 17

Mary Edith Raley y Francis Leonard “Zig” Hayden se casaron el 27 de mayo de 1924 en la Iglesia San Francisco de Asís en Chicago, Kentucky. (El nombre de Chicago se cambió más tarde a San Francisco en la década de 1930). De este matrimonio fueron bendecidos con 13 hijos, dos de los cuales murieron cuando eran bebés. Los 11 hijos que llegaron a la edad adulta se casaron y dieron a Edith y Zig 51 nietos. Esos 51 nietos les dieron 108 bisnietos. Esos 108 bisnietos han producido hasta ahora 122 tataranietos. Hay 11 cuadrinietos.

Mi abuela fue criada como hija única ya que sus dos únicos hermanos menores murieron cuando eran niños pequeños. Ella siempre recordaba la soledad sin otros niños cerca y decía que quería una familia numerosa.

Hoy en día estos números cambian con frecuencia. Pero ahora hay más de 300 descendientes de una pareja a lo largo de 100 años. La promesa hecha a Abraham y Sara registrada en el Libro del Génesis puede no parecer simplemente una exageración literaria.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL OBISPO MEDLEY
Mary Edith Raley y Francis Leonard “Zig” Hayden están en estas fo-

En 1974 se celebraron las bodas de oro de este matrimonio. En aquel tiempo había menos de 75 descendientes: los 13 hijos, 50 de los 51 nietos y quizás ocho de los bisnietos. En 1974, menos de 100 de sus descendientes habían nacido.

Este fin de semana del Día de los Caídos, los descendientes de la familia Hayden se reunirán. Edith y Zig murieron en 1982 y 1983, respectivamente. Más de dos tercios de los descendientes nunca los conocieron. Sin embargo, es posible que conozcan algunas historias. Quizás escuchen otras historias cuando se reúnan. Algunas historias pueden ser alegres y divertidas, y otras pueden relatar

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MAYO DE 2024

1 DE MAYO	6 p.m. Confirmación – Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro
2 DE MAYO	9 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Católica de Owensboro, Campus de K-3
5 DE MAYO	10 a.m. Confirmación y 150 Aniversario de la parroquia – San Pablo, Princeton 2:30 p.m. Confirmación – San Eduardo, Fulton
6 DE MAYO	6 p.m. Cena de agradecimiento de Líderes Catequéticos Parroquiales, Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
8 DE MAYO	6 p.m. Confirmación – San Alfonso, Owensboro
9 DE MAYO	9 a.m. Reunión Provincial de Líderes del Ministerio Hispano – Centro Católico McRaith
10 DE MAYO	7 p.m. Graduación de la Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro – Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter]
11 DE MAYO	10 a.m. Graduación de la Universidad de Brescia – Centro Riverpark, Owensboro 4 p.m. Confirmación – San José, Leitchfield
12 DE MAYO	9:30 a.m. Confirmación – Santa Isabel, Curdsville

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15 DE MAYO	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith 6 p.m. Confirmación – San León, Murray
17 DE MAYO	7 p.m. Graduación – Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad, Whitesville
18 DE MAYO	7 p.m. Graduación – Escuela Preparatoria Santa María, Paducah
19 DE MAYO	11 a.m. Confirmación – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
20 DE MAYO	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
21-23 DE MAYO	Reunión de Obispos de la Provincia – Louisville
25 DE MAYO	5 p.m. Confirmación – Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown
29-30 DE MAYO	Reunión presbiteral de dos días – Parque Estatal Paris Landing
29 DE MAYO	5:30 p.m. Confirmación – San Pedro y San Pablo, Hopkinsville
31 DE MAYO	5 p.m. Ceremonia de apertura de la Asociación Católica de Karenni Americanos – Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green

Parroquias con misa en Español



penas y tristezas.

Edith y Zig Hayden son mis abuelos. Soy el sexto de los 51 nietos. Supongo que eso significa que soy el número 19 de los más de 300 descendientes. Mis primeros recuerdos son que siete de mis tías y tíos todavía eran adolescentes y jóvenes adultos que vivían “en casa”. (Recuerdo pasar la noche allí a menudo, pero no recuerdo dónde dormí. No podría haber camas libres. ¿Te imaginas levantarte cada mañana a preparar el desayuno para una familia así?)

Parece que siempre iba a bodas cuando era joven. No hubo separación entre generaciones. Mi hermano mayor, el primer nieto, era sólo 16 meses menor que mi tía menor. Hubo bisnietos antes de que nacieran todos los nietos, y esa historia continúa.

Supongo que cuando nos reunamos conoceré a algunos de estos miembros de las generaciones más jóvenes por primera vez.

Al igual que los descendientes de Abraham y Sara, estamos arraigados en la fe. La fe en un Dios que provee contra todo pronóstico. Confianza en un Dios que nos seguirá bendiciendo a nosotros y a los que nos seguirán.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro



Mientras honramos el Inmaculado Corazón de María el primer sábado de su mes de mayo,



Las Hermanas Pobres de Santa Clara (“Clarisas”) Monasterio de Nuestra Señora de la Misericordia, Belleville, Illinois

Los invitamos a unirse a ellas para el Santo Sacrificio de la Misa envolviendo la Profesión Solemne de su

Hermana María de Guadalupe de Jesús Crucificado

hija de los difuntos Eleazar Velázquez y Elodia Moreno e hijastra de Vidal Díaz

que se celebrará en la capilla del monasterio el

Sábado, 4 de mayo de 2024
a las 9:00 am CDT

Monseñor Michael G. McGovern, Obispo de Belleville, será el celebrante principal.

La Liturgia de la Palabra y la ceremonia de profesión en español e inglés. Después de la Misa de profesión y un breve momento de acción de gracias, los visitantes pueden saludar a la novia en el salón.

Más información en www.poorclares-belleville.info

‘Dios llama y yo responderé’

El párroco de Sebree reflexiona sobre los 25 años de su vocación



RILEY GREIF | WKC

El P. José Carmelo Jiménez habla durante un evento para hispanos del Avivamiento Eucarístico en la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro el 3 de diciembre de 2022.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El P. José Carmelo Jiménez es párroco de la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree, y en abril celebró sus 25 años como sacerdote. Él recuerda un incidente específico en sus inicios como sacerdocio que moldeó la forma en que percibe su vocación.

Mientras se desempeñaba como joven sacerdote en la Diócesis de San Cristóbal de Las Casas en Chiapas, México, el P. Jiménez viajó a zonas rurales para administrar los sacramentos en 82 comunidades diferentes, cada una de las cuales tenía su propia pequeña capilla, pero ningún sacerdote residente. (Como sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de Tuxtla Gutiérrez, con frecuencia ayudó a atender la

diócesis cercana más pequeña).

“En ese momento había una situación social, política y económica peligrosa”, dijo el P. Jiménez, añadiendo que era un ambiente difícil para ser sacerdote.

Él y las personas con las que viajaba fueron emboscados e incluso les dispararon varias veces mientras se dirigían a las distintas capillas. Algunas comunidades estaban tan lejos de la carretera pavimentada que era imposible llegar en carro. Los múltiples puestos de control gubernamentales repartidos por toda la región también hicieron que los viajes fueran tensos.

Un día, mientras se detenía en uno de los puestos de control, un capitán militar le dijo que quería que el P. Jiménez celebrara una boda para él y su novia que llegaba en avión ese día. Carecían de la documentación adecuada para que se celebrara un matrimonio católico válido, por lo que el P. Jiménez dijo que no y siguió caminando.

Después de un día en la comunidad celebrando Misa, escuchando confesiones y administrando bautismos, el P. Jiménez volvió a pasar por el puesto de control. Fue detenido por soldados que dijeron que se iba a ir con ellos a la base militar.

Intentó escapar, pero fue llevado a la fuerza a la base, donde el capitán lo esperaba con una mesa con un crucifijo encima. Una vez más, el capitán exigió que el joven sacerdote celebrara la boda.

“Dije que no”, respondió el P. Jiménez. Entonces lo golpearon hasta que se desmayó, tres veces seguidas. Cada vez que volvía en sí, repetía su negativa de celebrar la boda, que no sería legítima a los ojos de Dios.

Mientras tanto, su obispo había recibido noticia de la situación y estaba llamando a diferentes funcionarios. Finalmente, un helicóptero llegó a la base y lo rescató, y nunca tuvo que celebrar la boda.

“Mi manera de ser sacerdote se formó y fue impactada por esos primeros años”, comentó.

A pesar de este tumultuoso comienzo, el P. Jiménez sintió el llamado a hacer trabajo misionero. Después de unos dos años de servir en Chiapas, le dijo a su obispo que le gustaría ir a África para servir como sacerdote misionero.

En cambio, su obispo le pidió que sirviera en los Estados Unidos.

El P. Jiménez se mostró escéptico: “Tienen de todo. No necesitan nada”, replicó.

Pero, en obediencia a su obispo, accedió a ir y llegó a la Diócesis de Owensboro el 28 de abril de 2006. Rápidamente comenzó a ejercer el ministerio con la población latina en Kentucky occidental y aprendió que, si bien sus necesidades eran diferentes a las de su diócesis local, eran igualmente importantes.

A lo largo de los años, ha atendido a la población latina en áreas como Hopkinsville, Elkton, Guthrie, Russellville, Bowling Green, Owensboro, Henderson y, hoy en día, Sebree y Madisonville. Ha sido testigo de cómo personas viajan desde muy lejos para asistir a la Misa en el familiar idioma español, y él mismo

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ha viajado para celebrar Misa en los hogares de las personas cuando no hay una iglesia católica cercana.

A medida que las comunidades latinas crecen en el Kentucky occidental, el obispo del P. Jiménez en Chiapas ha continuado el acuerdo con el anterior Obispo Juan J. Mcraith y ahora con el Obispo William F. Medley de que el P. Jiménez permanezca y atienda al pueblo en el estado de Kentucky.

Hasta la fecha, el P. Jiménez ha pasado casi 18 años en la Diócesis de Owensboro de sus 25 años totales de sacerdocio.

Él aprecia a sus feligreses en Sebree, quienes, ya sean blancos, guatemaltecos, mexicanos, hondureños, nicaragüenses o de otros orígenes, se refieren a sí mismos como una sola comunidad.

“Hay algo hermoso en la comunidad”, dijo, explicando que “los angloparlantes y los hispanohablantes dicen ‘somos una comunidad, diferentes idiomas’”.

Disfruta de las liturgias bilingües del Triduo con sus feligreses, quienes responden a la lectura de la Pasión en sus propios idiomas: “Que la comunidad



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

El P. José Carmelo Jiménez, junto con el Obispo William F. Medley y representantes de la Diócesis de Owensboro, asisten al V Encuentro en Texas en 2017.

responda así, me encanta”, porque “sienten que es su casa”.

El P. Jiménez ha ayudado a las personas a encontrar atención médica cuando la barrera del idioma o la falta de documentación lo dificultan, ha consolado a los feligreses cuando un padre en su país de origen muere y no pueden ir al funeral, y “ayudamos mucho con la inmigración”, afirmó. “Lloro con la gente porque sufre mucho”.

“No soy un abogado de inmigración, pero he aprendido mucho”, dijo. “Me alegro con la gente que después de 20 o 25 años consigue sus papeles”.

También ha visto el florecimiento de la comunidad de feligreses guatemaltecos que hablan acateco, una lengua indígena maya. A la fecha, alrededor del 60% de sus feligreses hablan acateco.

Como no existe una traducción oficial de la Misa en acateco, el P. Jiménez celebra una liturgia en español con porciones en acateco, como el Evangelio, el Padre Nuestro y la homilía, dada por el Diácono Baltazar Rafael.

Esta Misa es transmitida en vivo y seguida por muchos católicos de habla acateco en todo el país. Según el conocimiento del P. Jiménez, su iglesia es la única en los Estados Unidos que utiliza el idioma acateco.

A veces el P. Jiménez reflexiona sobre su sueño original de ser sacerdote misionero en África, pero “me encanta la Diócesis de Owensboro y servir aquí”.

Su continua obediencia a “donde Dios me llame a ir” está inspirada en una conversación con su madre poco después de convertirse en sacerdote.

A su madre le habían diagnosticado un tumor cerebral en febrero antes de que él fuera ordenado sacerdote. Después de su ordenación, el P. Jiménez aprovecharía su día libre para visitarla en su casa.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JOSÉ CARMELO JIMÉNEZ
El P. José Carmelo Jiménez saluda a una familia mientras trabaja como voluntario en Caridades Católicas en la frontera de México y Laredo, Texas, en 2019.

Pero cada vez que la visitaba, su madre le hablaba de un amigo o vecino que necesitaba una bendición u otra ayuda espiritual.

El P. Jiménez protestó y le dijo a su madre que estaba allí sólo para verla a ella. Entonces, su madre le contó una historia sobre el día en que fue ordenado.

“Ese día le dije al obispo: ‘Dios me dio un hijo, y lo he criado hasta ahora; ahora lo entrego a la Iglesia’”, le dijo su madre.

El P. Jiménez entendió y ha llevado esas palabras en su corazón hasta el día de hoy.

“Quiero servir continuamente con amor y dedicar mi vida al pueblo y a Dios”, afirmó. “En todo mi sacerdocio, cada día ha sido diferente. Dios me llama y yo responderé: ‘Aquí estoy’”.

Hace años, dijo, tenía muchas metas.

“Pero esos eran ‘mis’ metas”, dijo. “Ahora, donde Dios me lleve, iré”. ■

Vía Crucis: La tradición anual trae la reflexión del Viernes Santo al centro de la ciudad



POR CORTESÍA DE TAYLOR MAURO GARCÍA RÍOS
Una mujer representa a Santa Verónica durante el Vía Crucis en vivo del 29 de marzo de 2024, que se lleva a cabo anualmente en el centro de la ciudad por los feligreses de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo.



POR CORTESÍA DE TAYLOR MAURO GARCÍA RÍOS
Los actores que representan a las mujeres de Jerusalén participan en el Vía Crucis en vivo del 29 de marzo de 2024, que se lleva a cabo anualmente en el centro de la ciudad por los feligreses de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo.

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Cada Viernes Santo a las 3 p.m., los feligreses de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro presentaron una representación viva del vía crucis de Jesús. Con oraciones y cantos, caminan por las calles del centro de Owensboro comenzando en las afueras de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo y terminando en el patio central de la Universidad de Brescia.

La experiencia meditativa y bilingüe celebrada en español e inglés reflexiona sobre las 14 Estaciones de la Cruz y es presentada por actores feligreses. Al Vía Crucis asisten tanto feligreses como no feligreses, ya que está abierto a cualquiera que desee orar junto con el grupo.

La tradición del Vía Crucis se celebra en todo el mundo en diferentes países, incluyendo México, Guatemala, El Salvador y Honduras. ■



POR CORTESÍA DE TAYLOR MAURO GARCÍA RÍOS
El Vía Crucis en vivo del 29 de marzo de 2024, que se lleva a cabo anualmente en el centro de la ciudad por los feligreses de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, representa a Cristo cayendo mientras carga la cruz.



POR CORTESÍA DE FULGENCIO GARCÍA
Taylor Mauro García Ríos se desempeña como fotógrafo mientras su padre, Fulgencio García, representa a uno de los soldados durante el Vía Crucis en vivo del 29 de marzo de 2024, que celebran anualmente los feligreses de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo.



Vía Crucis vivientes presentados por católicos/ hispanos/ latinos



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE P. COREY D BRUNS
El Vía Crucis en vivo del 29 de marzo de 2024, que se lleva a cabo anualmente por los feligreses de la Parroquia San José, representa a la crucifixión.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE P. COREY D BRUNS

El Vía Crucis en vivo del 29 de marzo de 2024, que se lleva a cabo anualmente por los feligreses de la Parroquia San José. La tradición del Vía Crucis se celebra en todo el mundo en diferentes países, incluyendo México, Guatemala, El Salvador y Honduras.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE P. COREY D BRUNS

El Vía Crucis en vivo del 29 de marzo de 2024, que se lleva a cabo anualmente por los feligreses de la Parroquia San José, representa a Simón de Cirene.