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*rebuilt*

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During the Aug. 11, 2024 Mass at St. Edward Parish in Fulton, pastor Fr. Anthoni Ottagan blessed the parish's catechists and religious education students as they begin their new school year. The students of St. Edward's religious education program range from ages seven to 15 years old. According to Maria Woods, the parish's religious education director, the classes are usually bilingual, which reflects the growing Latino demographic among the parish community. PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSIE FENWICK

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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.

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

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

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# A Word From Bishop Medley

## God walks with His people: Encountering the face of the Lord in migrants and refugees

*“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in.” (Matthew 25:35)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

For more than a century, the Vatican has sponsored the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (this year on September 29) to remind us that there are strangers among us, strangers who share in both our humanity and a call to care for one another. If we look at this century past, we realize that the aftermath of both World War I and World War II left tens of millions of people displaced. The Catholic Church has added its voice to calls to nations to welcome these people seeking to rebuild their lives.

One might hope that in the 21st century, the dangers left from the aftermath of war would be lessened. But violence and oppression still mar the lives of millions. Statistics are difficult to verify, but many estimate that there are today more migrants and more people seeking refuge across the globe than at any time since World War II.


Pope Francis has a unique perspective from which to observe the world, and the network of Catholic religious groups and relief agencies recognize a global crisis. Sometimes, when Americans hear the Holy Father addressing questions of migrants and refugees it is perceived that he is looking only at the crisis at the border of the United States and Mexico.

Certainly the pope sees and hears of our nation’s challenges – but homeless people seeking safe refuge is a worldwide problem. Time and again he appeals to the nations of Europe to respond more generously to the world’s migrants.

In his 2024 Migration Day message, Pope Francis urges the nations of the world to provide humanitarian and spiritual support to migrants throughout their journey. He notes, “God not only walks with His people, but also within them, in the sense that He identifies Himself with men and women on their journey through history, particularly with the least, the poor and marginalized. In this we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation. In this sense, the poor save us, because they enable us to encounter the face of the Lord.”

Pope Francis stresses that Christ Himself was a once a migrant with Joseph and Mary, fleeing to Egypt to escape persecution. When we allow ourselves to see Christ in the refugees of our day, we permit ourselves to see and encounter Christ today.

May God Bless You Always,



**Most Reverend William F. Medley**  
**Diocese of Owensboro**

BISHOP MEDLEY'S SEPTEMBER 2024 CALENDAR	
Sept. 1	9 AM   Confirmation – St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish
Sept. 3	11 AM   Opening School Mass – Brescia University, Owensboro
Sept. 4	Diocesan Staff Gathering
Sept. 9	4 PM   Catholic Foundation Board Meeting
Sept. 11	8:30 AM   Diocesan Finance Council
Sept. 12	12 Noon   Lunch with Senior Priests
Sept. 14	11:30 AM   Midday prayer and lunch with the Passionist Nuns, Whitesville
Sept. 15	2 PM   Dedication of Altar and Blessing of Renovated Church – Immaculate, Owensboro
Sept. 18	10:30 AM   Rainbow Mass – Owensboro Sportscenter
Sept. 19- Oct.11	Pastoral Trip to Africa

Happy anniversary to our priests!

**This month we celebrate the anniversary of:**

**Fr. John Okoro**  
 Ordained 9/9/1995  
 Pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish,  
 Owensboro, Ky  
*Please continue to pray for vocations!*

# Teamwork: Parish volunteers fix historic bell at Sts. Joseph and Paul



COURTESY OF DAVE CLARK

The historic bell at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, which was repaired by volunteers this summer.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

(Left to right) Fred Fulkerson, Dave Clark, and parish maintenance minister Kelly Ward are seen in the choir loft of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish on Aug. 6, 2024. The three worked with a team of parish volunteers to repair the church's historic bell.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

This past summer, several volunteers helped repair the historic bell at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.

Kelly Ward, the parish maintenance minister, told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* that during an evening Mass in June, it was discovered that the clapper – the metal shaft inside the bell to strike the sides and make it ring – had fallen out of the church bell, which had been made in 1890.

Considering how many stories up the belltower is in the church – which itself was built in 1887 – the clapper fortunately did not fall through the ceiling of the parish entryway.

Ward said it is customary for him to ring the bell after each Mass. But during that particular Mass, “all of a sudden we heard this loud noise” – which was the clapper falling through to the next level.

He coordinated with Bill Blincoe, the Diocese of Owensboro’s director of project and risk management, to find a company that could do the repair. Unfortunately, the company wasn’t able to complete the project, leaving the bell in limbo.

That’s when the parish’s dedicated volunteers who rose to the occasion.

Parishioners Dave Clark, Fred Fulkerson, Don Kelley, Scott Lashlee, John Soldo, and Chuck Istre worked with Ward to put the repaired clapper back inside the bell. They completed the project on July 9.

Ward said the bell, unlike many church bells in the diocese, has two options for ringing: an electric

system that rings automatically at set times, and the traditional, manual setup that involves pulling ropes to ring the bell. In the manual system, one rope is used to ring the bell after Mass, and another is used for ringing the bell at funerals.

Ward and the bell have a special history together, too. In 2020, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Andy Beshear encouraged all churches to ring their bells every day in unison. Ward rang the parish’s bell for those long, difficult days (and was even featured on CNN for his dedication).

Now, thanks to the teamwork of parish volunteers, Sts. Joseph and Paul’s bell will be able to ring for years to come.

“We wanted to fix it for good so you wouldn’t have to fix it again,” said Ward. “Everything here relies on our volunteers; they take ownership of it. We wouldn’t be able to do any of this without our volunteers.” ■



COURTESY OF DAVE CLARK

Volunteers are seen from a floor above as they work to repair the damaged historic bell at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.

## ‘They are going to do great things’ – Catholic Charities follows Gospel teaching while helping unaccompanied youth

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Working with unaccompanied minors who have migrated to the United States, and helping them reunite with someone who can take care of them, is one of Miguel Quintanilla’s favorite aspects of his work with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

“God manifests himself in these kids,” said Quintanilla, a paralegal with Catholic Charities who serves as the legal services coordinator for youth in the Caminos program at Mary Kendall Campus of The Kentucky United Methodist Children’s Homes, located in Owensboro.

Quintanilla said that when he starts assisting a young person in Caminos, he gives a Know Your Rights presentation and explains “how they can stay here, and what are pathways to stay here,” such as applying for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status. If that classification is granted, the minor may qualify for lawful permanent residency, which is also known as getting a green card.

Ultimately, the goal is to release them into the custody of a stateside family member who will care for them.

He said that despite common assumptions, not all of the minors are from Latin America. He has also served young people from Africa, South America, and Cuba, among others.

Many minors enter the U.S. with a friend or family member who also wishes to settle here. But if they come without a mother/father, they are classified

as unaccompanied – because they cannot be released into the U.S. with someone who is not their parent.

Quintanilla said he has seen unaccompanied minors as young as seven or eight years old. They miss their families, like any kid would.

But the parents who send their children to the U.S. have no alternative, he explained. If the young people remain in their home countries, they will soon be forcibly recruited by the cartels to sell drugs. Sending their children away is the greatest act of love the parents can do for their futures.

Other young people, he said, come to pursue education – because the only other option is a life of poverty and hunger.

These can be difficult concepts to grasp if one has not experienced anything akin to the struggles of migrants, said Sr. Jacinta Powers, OSU, who also works with Catholic Charities.

This past spring, Sr. Powers volunteered with the Kino Border Initiative, which offers humanitarian assistance to migrants on the border of Arizona and Mexico. Services include offering Sunday Mass, psychological accompaniment, legal assistance, daily meals, clothes, medical care, and occupational support to help people find work while they wait on



COURTESY OF SR. JACINTA POWERS, OSU

Sr. Jacinta Powers, right, works in the clothing section of the Kino Border Initiative with two other religious sisters. From March 4-April 4, 2024, Sr. Powers served with the Kino Border Initiative, a ministry begun in 2009 to offer humanitarian assistance to migrants on the border of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

their cases.

In accompanying these individuals, she learned that “the cartel is after them – that’s why they are fleeing for their lives and their children’s lives,” she said.

Ahead of World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which takes place this year on Sept. 29, Sr. Powers said it is important to follow “what our Catholic catechism teaches – that these are our brothers and sisters.”

Sr. Powers cited the words of Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, who presided at the closing Mass for the National Eucharistic Congress this past July. In his homily, the cardinal challenged the faithful not to stay in their churches after Mass, but to “go out” to the community.

“If we don’t take (the Gospel) out, we have not

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## Helping migrants continued from page 5

succeeded,” said Sr. Powers. She added that everyday people, who are not able to serve at the border or work with migrants, can always pray for them – “We can all pray; people in nursing homes can pray!”

Quintanilla said the stories and experiences vary among the children he helps, but he is always moved by what he hears.

“I admire a lot of these kids, because they have

big plans,” he said, recalling multiple youths who enthusiastically shared with him their dreams of starting their own businesses one day.

He said many aspire to attend university, because here in the United States, they have a chance.

“A lot of these kids are going to go on to do great things,” he said. ■

## Migration and Refugee Services

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro recently qualified to participate in a new program called Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) through the Resettlement Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Stay tuned for more information, and to learn more, contact disaster case manager/paralegal Khaibar Shafaq at [khaibar.shafaq@pastoral.org](mailto:khaibar.shafaq@pastoral.org).

# St. Gianna’s in Bowling Green looks forward to helping moms

BY SYLANN SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home officially opened its doors to residents on Aug. 20, 2024. The home operates under Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro and is located on the campus of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green. It had held an open house on July 21 and more than 150 attendees came to celebrate.

The house was renovated by a Holy Spirit parishioner and his family. Through awards from St. Teresa Ministries and United Way, the dining hall/classroom became a reality. Tornado damage to the house afforded St. Gianna’s funds to expand the upstairs bedrooms and build a garage. Bowling Green Home Furnishings donated the home’s furniture. A wraparound deck was donated and built by the St. Joseph and Holy Spirit Good Samaritan ministry.

St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home’s mission is to help the pregnant woman in crisis who has chosen life for her unborn child by striving to provide her support, spiritual guidance, a safe, nurturing environment, and life skills to achieve independence. Their motto is: “Embracing Life!”

Volunteers are needed for various tasks and others can financially support the home, which is estimated to cost \$180,000 a year to house six women and their babies. Support includes direct donations, restaurant spirit nights, the “Do a 180” three-year giving campaign, or attending the annual gala, to be held May 10, 2025. ■

To learn more, visit [www.stgiannacph.org](http://www.stgiannacph.org) or follow at [facebook.com/stgiannacph](https://facebook.com/stgiannacph).

Sylann Smith is the director of communications for St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home.



COURTESY OF MIKE NOLAND

Fr. Randy Howard, chaplain for St. Gianna and pastor of Holy Spirit in Bowling Green, leading the open house attendees in prayer on July 21, 2024.



To sign up for the St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home online newsletter, scan this QR code

## Nineteenth annual celebration honors rural life in western Ky.

BY WKC STAFF

Bishop John J. McRaith, known for his love of the land and dedication to small family farmers, established the Rural Life Committee in the Diocese of Owensboro. On Aug. 11, 2024, the committee held the 19th Rural Life Celebration at St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Stanley. St. Peter's pastor, Fr. Will Thompson, opened the celebration with an invocation, followed by a dinner. The evening concluded with awards honoring those who have shown exceptional hard work and generosity in the local farming community. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Participants bow their head in prayer during an opening invocation led by Fr. Will Thompson during the Aug. 11, 2024 Rural Life Celebration at St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Stanley.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

FFA (Future Farmers of America) students attend the Aug. 11, 2024 Rural Life Celebration at St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Stanley.

## ‘Welcome home’ – Resurrection in Dawson Springs completed, dedicated, after 2021 tornado destroyed church



RILEY GREIF | WKC

The exterior of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, Ky., is seen on Aug. 17, 2024, the day of the church's dedication. The Catholic church was destroyed by the tornado that passed through the area on Dec. 10, 2021.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In the days following the historic 2021 tornado that devastated communities across western Kentucky and totaled Resurrection Catholic Church in Dawson Springs, Bishop William F. Medley was often asked whether the parish would ever rebuild its church.

He responded, “It’s called Resurrection. Of course it will be rebuilt.”

The prayers of Dawson Springs’ small Catholic community were fulfilled on Aug. 17 as they gathered in the completed church to witness it being dedicated by the bishop – nearly three years after the



RILEY GREIF | WKC

The interior of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs is seen on Dec. 15, 2021, five days after historic tornados devastated western Kentucky. The church was totaled by the storms.

storms destroyed their parish home.

Bishop Medley said he still remembers visiting the property a few days after the Dec. 10 storms, and seeing the sanctuary candle swinging in the wind, exposed to the elements when the tornado ripped walls off the church. (Miraculously, the tabernacle and Blessed Sacrament had been preserved and were recovered after the weather calmed.)

The contrast, from then to now, was tangible as volunteers greeted the faithful that August morning with a warm “Welcome home!” Finger foods to share after Mass were brought in by smiling parishioners, and several children – who were much smaller in 2021 – donned albs to altar serve.

Previous pastors Fr. Frank Roof (retired), and

*Continues on page 8*

## FEATURES

### *Resurrection continued from page 7*

Fr. Bruce Fogle (today the pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Paducah) were present to concelebrate with Bishop Medley and Resurrection's pastor who had seen them through the entire journey, Fr. David Kennedy.

Also present was Fr. Carl McCarthy, now the pastor of Precious Blood in Owensboro, but who had been the pastor of neighboring Christ the King in Madisonville at the time of the tornado, and whose parish supported and contributed to Resurrection's needs in the tornado aftermath. Unable to be present, due to presiding at a funeral, was Fr. Jojo Joseph, whose nearby parishes at the time - St. Mark in Eddyville and St. Paul in Princeton - also supported Resurrection's efforts.

"It's been a long road," said Jeff Smith, a parishioner who also served as a lector at the Mass that day. "We had a great contractor from a good Catholic family, who stayed with us the whole way."

"One of the reasons we're here is because as a parish we never separated," said Smith, crediting his fellow parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills, who immediately after the tornado had offered the use of their 20-by-20-foot backyard multiuse shed to have Mass, and continued to do so until now.

Ending the era of hosting Mass at their home, Rhonda Mills said, was a bittersweet experience.

"It's exciting (but) it's going to be different," she said. "Last week was emotional because it was the last Mass. Looking around, seeing people singing so loudly... I don't think any other church could have done what (our community) did."

By the end of their time at the Mills's home, there were usually 40-50 people crammed into the "church" (the shed), and another 20 people watching it livestreamed in the living room.

Rhonda Mills said it had been exactly "two years

and nine months" of Mass in the shed, which, when she and her husband first started hosting, "I never dreamed it would be this long."

"We've become more and more like family," she said of her fellow parishioners, adding that their community "loves and we're all proud of" how the church turned out. "I hope everybody loves it as much as we do."

A familiar sight at Resurrection was a statue of Our Lady holding the child Jesus, which had withstood the tornado and was one of the few items left standing. It now graces the entranceway to the church.

Dcn. Mike Marsili, who with his wife, Ashley, helped lead the parish's recovery and rebuild efforts from day one, said that soon they would begin working on installing stained glass windows, to be donated by parishioners. A prominent window will depict the Resurrection; its design having been unveiled at a sacred art exhibit at the National Eucharistic Congress this past July.

"So many people in the community have been so supportive and excited for us," said Dcn. Marsili. He said that after the stained glass is installed, Resurrection will host an open house for the people of Dawson Springs - many of whom are not Catholic - to thank them for their support over the past few years.

He said that they will never forget the storms, the lives lost, and the pain experienced by their community.

But today was a day to celebrate new life, especially looking forward to the First Communions and a baptism coming up soon - all of which will take place in the new Resurrection church.

"There's definitely a palpable sense that we've turned a corner," he said. ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

A statue of Our Lady and the child Jesus is seen outside the newly-completed Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, Ky. This statue withstood the Dec. 10, 2021 tornado that destroyed the church building.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

The family of Rhonda and Donnie Mills present the gifts at the offertory during Resurrection Parish's dedication Mass on Aug. 17, 2024. The Mills family had hosted Mass in a multiuse shed on their property ever since a tornado destroyed the Dawson Springs, Ky., church on Dec. 21, 2021.



## Couples from across diocese come together to celebrate anniversaries

BY WKC STAFF

On Sunday, August 18, Bishop William F. Medley celebrated the annual Marriage Anniversary Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral. Couples from across the diocese celebrating anniversaries of 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, and more than 50 years of marriage were invited to the celebrate and renew their marriage vows. Mills and Monika Logan, parishioners of St. Stephen Cathedral, celebrated 66 years of marriage, the highest number in attendance. The Marriage Anniversary Mass was coordinated and sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Marriage and Family Life. To learn more, visit [owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life](http://owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life). ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC  
Mills and Monika Logan, celebrating 66 years of marriage – the highest number in attendance – smile as they are applauded by fellow guests of the Aug. 18 Marriage Anniversary Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.



RILEY GREIF | WKC  
John and Terri Congleton hold hands during a renewal of vows during the Aug. 18 Marriage Anniversary Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

## Keeping the fire going: After returning home, National Eucharistic Congress keeps inspiring faithful to be disciples of the Eucharist

BY ANDY TELLI, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist drew people from the four corners of the country, including the Diocese of Owensboro, to Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21.

Now they're coming home inspired to lift the Eucharist for their families, friends, and fellow parishioners.

While in Indianapolis, a group of parishioners at Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro met at a lunch organized by Bishop William F. Medley and discussed ways they could bring what they were learning at the Congress back to their parish. One option was

to encourage more people to attend Eucharistic adoration.

"That's something that's definitely high on my priority list," said Lisa Wimsatt, a member of the parish council at Precious Blood who attended the conference with her husband, Bob Wimsatt, and grandsons Ethan, Caleb and Hunter Wimsatt, and Hunter's wife, Chaney.

Each of us have Jesus within us, given to us in Baptism, said Precious Blood pastor, Fr. Carl McCarthy. "That is strengthened in prayer... We need to come back to that prayerful posture and prayerful relationship with Jesus."

But the relationship shouldn't be a private one, Fr. McCarthy said. "We also need to recognize that



RILEY GREIF | WKC  
During a diocesan lunch on July 19, Fr. Carl McCarthy, pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro, speaks with a fellow Diocese of Owensboro pilgrim to the July 17-21 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

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## *Revival continued from page 9*

Jesus is in my brother and in my sister... The fire that burns within me is the fire I can bring to those cold places of the world. The light that is within me, the light that is within you... is the light you can bring to the dark places in the world. We just keep bringing that fire, we keep bringing the light with that hope... We cannot lose our hope. If we lose our hope, then we die.”

When Catholics receive the Eucharist at Mass, “we’re renewing our faith so we can go back out,” Fr. McCarthy said.

“I’ve got to take Jesus out to the world,” he added. “I’ve got to be that disciple of the Eucharist myself.”

As the National Eucharistic Revival moves from the Congress into the next year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is encouraging parishes to join its Walk With One initiative, helping Catholics reach out to others as missionary disciples.

The initiative struck Angela Mills, a Precious Blood parishioner who attended the Congress with her daughter Mary Clare. “If all of us there would walk with one person, we could change the world.”

“Everything of our faith stems from the Eucharist,” said Mike Joyce, who is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Precious Blood and is involved in a ministry to take Communion to shut-ins. “This is a gift from God that we receive, and we are healed by it and loved, and we are called to pass it on.”

“It really resonated,” Joyce added. “The Holy Spirit really wants us to do that. That’s what being a Christian is all about. To me it’s an incredible exhilaration to feel called to do this.”

Ethan Wimsatt also found inspiration at the Congress. He was struck that along the four pilgrimage routes which brought the Eucharist to the Congress, more than 100,000 people had walked a portion of one of the routes. “I’m inspired and actually want



RILEY GREIF | WKC

People kneel as a Eucharistic procession comes through downtown Indianapolis on July 20, as part of the National Eucharistic Congress, which drew more than 50,000 registrants.

to do something like that,” said Ethan, a senior at Owensboro Catholic High School.

Each day of the Congress, more than 55,000 people gathered in Lucas Oil Stadium, “a stadium that’s built for football games and concerts, the Taylor Swifts of the world,” noted Fr. McCarthy, who attended the first three days of the Congress before returning home to celebrate weekend Masses.

“We weren’t there for Taylor Swift. We weren’t there for a Colts game,” Fr. McCarthy said. “They all came for Jesus. From the north to the south from the east to the west, they all came for Jesus.”

“It certainly is inspirational when you get that many people together who are so committed to a single purpose,” said Bob Wimsatt.

“I think the Church is recognizing it needs to focus a little more on the Eucharist,” Wimsatt said. “It’s a highlight of the Church. It’s a unique thing about the Church.”

The Congress “was so overwhelmingly beautiful. I’m trying to take it all in,” said Mills. “It was absolutely beautiful. It was an amazing experience.”

“It was so amazing words seem inadequate,” she added.

Joyce listened to talks from the Congress as he drove from Owensboro to Indianapolis.

“Seventy miles away I remember saying to myself, ‘I’ve already heard enough to make this worthwhile.’”

“This was literally heaven on earth for four days for me,” Joyce added.

Lisa Wimsatt echoed the others’ reaction. “It was definitely an amazing experience for sure. Being in there with the music and the speakers and all the things that were happening, there’s something about being there in person that made it extra special.” ■

*Andy Telli writes for The Western Kentucky Catholic from Owensboro.*

# Walk With One!

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

As an incredible summer for the U.S. Catholic Church ends, we are looking to the Holy Spirit to lead us forward into year three of the National Eucharistic Revival. If you were not able to attend the National Congress or watch on TV, you can listen to all of the sessions at <https://relevantradio.com/national-eucharistic-congress/>. The theme for the third year of the Revival is “Year of Mission” and one important challenge is “Walk With One,” the National Eucharistic Revival’s initiative for welcoming people back into the Church and reaching those with no faith at all.

“Walk With One” is not a new concept that all Catholics are being asked to go through; rather it is a simple reminder that “sharing the Good News” typically happens in one-to-one moments that are not planned or scripted. This can happen at the grocery store, the bus stop, or at a sporting event. As Pope Francis has noted, “Anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love” in word and deed (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 120).

Here are the simple steps in “Walk With One.”

Step one: Identify someone in a spirit of humility. In prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to show you the person you are to accompany.

Step two: Intercede for this person in communion with the Holy Spirit. Consider making a holy hour or daily prayer for this person and pray for their joys and struggles.

Step three: Connect in Eucharistic friendship, which is to “take or receive what the other person has to share, to bless or lift up in prayer, to let the Holy Spirit help break open an area for potential growth, and then to give of yourself in response.” Look for an opportunity to connect with them over coffee or lunch and grow an ongoing friendship.

Step four: Invite that person on a path most suitable for him or her. “Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit to invite him or her to a concrete step in fostering a personal relationship with Jesus and the Church.”

Our Acts 2:42 Small Groups begin this month in parishes across our diocese, with a theme of “On Mission as a Eucharistic People.” We encourage you to seek out a group or invite your neighbors and friends to come to your home once a month to participate in a small group. Materials are available and the videos are easily accessible online. The eighth session in this year’s book is titled “Inviting People to the Bread of Life.” It is very much rooted in the “Walk With One” vision and talks about our need to recognize that by our baptism, each of us are called to live and share our faith with others.

For more information on “Walk With One,” check out <http://eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one>

And pray for our diocesan Eucharistic Revival team as we discern how best to support this “Walk With One” effort in our diocese!

Peace,  
Jeff ■

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

**You could be a raffle winner!**



**Tickets are still just \$5 each!  
You can win \$10,000!**

**\$5,000 • \$2,000 • Handmade Quilt**  
*(pictured above)*

Order tickets online:

**[ursulinesmsj.org/mountraffle](https://ursulinesmsj.org/mountraffle)**

Drawing takes place on **Sept. 8** at 4 p.m.  
*The Ursuline Sisters appreciate your support.*



**Ursuline Sisters**  
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356

License 0290

## ACTS 2:42 GROUPS

ON MISSION AS A EUCHARISTIC PEOPLE

YEAR OF MISSION

- **Gather in small parish groups**
- **Hear insight from Bishop Medley & other Pastoral Leaders**
- **Connect with fellow Catholics over the Source & Summit of our Catholic faith.**

visit [owensborodiocese.org/acts242/](https://owensborodiocese.org/acts242/)

**Coming Fall  
2024**



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**



Office of Evangelization & Discipleship  
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

## Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner receives Educator of the Year Award



RACHEL HALL | WKC

David Kessler, superintendent of the Catholic Schools Office for the Diocese of Owensboro, presents Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU, with a plaque honoring her as 2024 Outstanding Catholic Educator of the Year, which was presented at the July 26, 2024 Celebration of Catholic Schools event, held this year at Christ the King School in Madisonville.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU, smiles with a plaque honoring her as 2024 Outstanding Catholic Educator of the Year, which was presented at the July 26, 2024 Celebration of Catholic Schools event, held this year at Christ the King School in Madisonville.

BY WKC STAFF

*Editor's note: On July 26, 2024, the Diocese of Owensboro's Catholic Schools Office coordinated the annual in-service day for Catholic school educators, which was held this year at Christ the King School in Madisonville. The following is a portion of the nomination read by superintendent David Kessler at the announcement of the 2024 Outstanding Catholic Educator of the Year. To read the full nomination, visit [westernkycatholic.com](http://westernkycatholic.com).*

This educator is pure joy to her colleagues and parents of her students!

Having been at Mary Carrico for 17 years now, she is teaching the children of her former students. She has a knack for talking with parents and providing the encouragement that is needed to get the best behavior and effort from their children. She is a beloved member of the school community who parents value. Parents look forward to their children learning from Sister and having her influence in their children's lives! To date, she has taught more years than any other Ursuline Sister in her community.

Everyone please help me in congratulating Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner of Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville as the 2024 Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year. ■

## Join us Oct. 26 at Brescia to help feed children in need

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only.” - James 1:22

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) invite everyone to be “doers of the word” this October at a major service opportunity that will feed starving children.

An estimated 820 million people do not have enough to eat, and in the poorest countries, families sometimes go days without food. The World Health Organization estimates that more than 3 million children die from hunger-related causes each year - that's one child every 10 seconds.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at Brescia University's Moore Center, 717 Frederica St. in Owensboro, Ky., volunteers will gather from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a food packing event of Vitafood meals. Vitafood provides nutrient-rich food products which are designed to meet the dietary needs of malnourished children and adults. These packs, consisting of fortified rice, beans, vegetables, soy products, and vitamins, are shipped to needy families. Each meal pack, sealed in an airtight bag, feeds six individuals.

To help celebrate 150 years since the Ursuline Sisters arrived at Maple Mount in 1874, the goal is to gather at least 150 volunteers - ages 13 and up - to pack meals for four hours, producing 50,000 meals for children and adults in need. This is the last planned event to bring friends and supporters together with the Ursuline Sisters during this

**Continues on page 13**

## YOUTH

### **Food packing continued from page 12**

anniversary year, as we attempt to “Cultivate the Vine that Saint Angela Entrusted to Us.” Won’t you help us to bear fruit to feed the hungry?

The Ursuline Sisters are partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach, which will deliver the food supplies to Owensboro and then ship the completed meal packages to those in need. Cross Catholic provides this service to volunteers all over the United States.

We hope you will be able to join us on Oct. 26 for this wonderful event. If you are able to participate, please respond to Sister Martha Keller, OSU, at [martha.keller@maplemount.org](mailto:martha.keller@maplemount.org), or Dan Heckel at [dan.heckel@maplemount.org](mailto:dan.heckel@maplemount.org). You can also sign up directly with Cross Catholic at [www.crosscatholic.org](http://www.crosscatholic.org).

[org/food-packing-events/volunteer/](http://www.crosscatholic.org/food-packing-events/volunteer/).

If you can’t participate in person but want to support this effort, you can donate here: <https://crosscatholic.org/food-packing-events/donate/> (choose the Owensboro event). It will take \$16,500 to produce 50,000 meals – quite a bargain at just 33 cents per meal! Cross Catholic reports that a \$250 donation will provide 757 meals. A \$1,000 donation will provide 3,030 meals.

It’s estimated that more than 15,000 children die every day worldwide from hunger. If we all work together, we can do a small part to help those in need. May God bless you in whatever way you can help our most vulnerable people. ■

**HELP PACK 50,000 MEALS**  
Help us to Bear Fruit to Feed the Hungry

**OCTOBER 26, 2024 | 9AM - 1PM**  
Contact Sr. Martha Keller at [martha.keller@maplemount.org](mailto:martha.keller@maplemount.org)

**150th Anniversary**  
Cultivating the Vine Saint Angela Entrusted to Us  
Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph  
1874-2024

**Cross Catholic OUTREACH**

## Fun, faith, and fellowship at St. Martin VBS

BY NICOLE GRAY, ST. MARTIN PARISH

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky., was an unforgettable experience this year, brimming with activities that engaged children and adults alike in a joyful celebration of faith. The week-long event was a perfect blend of fun and learning, leaving participants with cherished memories and a deeper understanding of biblical stories. Debi Hopkins, the director of religious education, spearheaded the planning and execution of VBS. Her vision was to create an environment where children could explore their faith through interactive and hands-on activities. With the help of numerous volunteers, Debi transformed her vision into reality, ensuring that each day of VBS was filled with meaningful and enjoyable experiences. The week featured free meals provided by Owensboro Catholic

School Food Service, educational sessions focused on key biblical stories, crafts, and prayer – which was an integral part of VBS. The success of VBS at St. Martin was made possible by the dedicated efforts of many volunteers. From organizing activities to the behind-the-scenes work of numerous helpers ensured that everything ran smoothly. A big thank-you to everyone who contributed their time and talents to make this event a success. Debi would like to give a grateful nod to Crissy Stevenson and St. Paul Parish in Princeton, Ky., for the legacy of what we now call Bible Adventures. “Without Crissy and her childhood memories of the Marketplace VBS in Princeton, this would never come to fruition here,” said Debi.

*The above is an excerpt from the full article available online at [westernkycatholic.com](http://westernkycatholic.com).*

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



COURTESY OF NICOLE GRAY

Volunteers assist children in learning the hand motions to songs during the July 8-11 Vacation Bible School at St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky.

## Youth build friendships and remember ‘who they are’ at Hispanic ministry program

BY JUANA MATIAS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Hi, my name is Juana Matias. I am from Webster County. I attend St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Sebree, Ky. I will be talking about my experience at SEPI.

What is SEPI? SEPI is a South East Pastoral Institute for Hispanic ministry located in Miami, Fla. I attend a program that SEPI held for a week which is called YouLead. YouLead is an acronym for Young Latino Summer Leadership Institute.

YouLead is a program for first, second, and third-generation young Latinos in the Southeast area. It is a bilingual program with 2 levels held in the summer for a week. It helps prepare young Hispanic leaders who can impact their communities and churches. YouLead is held annually in a different location most of the time. This year in June for one week I

could attend YouLead which was held in Miami at SEPI.

On Friday the program started around 6 p.m. and we had to sign in and they provided everyone with a bag and a few items. Before we started the classes on Monday they set up activities where we were to bond with each other and get to know everyone. We had missions to do for one day where we went out and helped others in the community. We attended Mass there every day but on Sunday we attended Mass at Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad and it was beautiful.

We had classes from Monday through Thursday that started at 8 a.m. and ended at 4 p.m. The teachers who led the classes were great and they were all Latinos/Latinas. I was able to learn many new things and have a better understanding of my faith. I received information that helped me answer doubts that I had and was able to grow my relationship with God. I received information that I did not know

about Catholicism and it helped me have a better understanding of my Catholic faith. I met so many new people who were young Latinos/Latinas in a way that we were the same in different ways. The people that I met were very nice and helpful and I was able to form friendships.

We all had the same goal of what we wanted from the program and it was to learn and receive information to be able to take back to our community. Something that stays with me from YouLead is not to forget where you come from and to embrace your culture. I will be teaching this to our youth group because many of them are Latinos/Latinas and many forget who they are. I will also be talking about our Catholic faith to give them a better understanding. ■

*For more information about Hispanic youth formation programs such as SEPI’s YouLead, contact Susana Solorza at [susana.solorza@pastoral.org](mailto:susana.solorza@pastoral.org) or (270) 683-1545.*



COURTESY OF SISTER JEANETTE GAMBOA

Juana Matias, a member of the red team for a scavenger hunt during YouLead, and her group pose in front of a whiteboard during activities. Also pictured are friends Karen, Melanie, Jesus, Carolina, Clarissa and Gabriel.



COURTESY OF JUDITH MONTALVAN

This year’s YouLead participants smile for a photo outside Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad on Sunday after Mass. YouLead is a program by South East Pastoral Institute for Hispanic Ministry, based in Miami, Fla.

# Another amazing summer at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp

BY BEN WARRELL, GASPER RIVER CATHOLIC YOUTH CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

The 17th summer at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center was beautiful and amazing in so many ways. It was our biggest summer ever with almost 500 campers over the eight weeks of camp. It was wonderful seeing so many returning campers and how each week, they would welcome the new campers into the Gasper family. We had campers coming from all over the state and surrounding states and even as far as Virginia and Texas!

The theme for the summer was Bread of Life and we focused all summer on the Eucharist. Before daily Mass, chaplain Fr. Jason McClure would break down the parts of the Mass to help the campers better understand the greatest prayer we have as Catholics. We discussed in-depth the authority Jesus spoke with in saying, “This is my Body” and “take and eat.” We also shared about the history of the Mass and how it relates to the Passover meal and Jesus being the Lamb of God in the New Covenant.

The Eucharist sustaining us and giving us life was our focus on Wednesday and Thursday, as we taught about how we are to serve and look at the world through the eyes of Jesus Christ. We were also blessed to have the Southern Route pilgrims from the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage stay with us on their journey to Indianapolis. They led a



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Fr. Jason McClure, the chaplain for Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, celebrates Mass during Expedition 2 Camp (for fifth and sixth graders), on July 2, 2024.

Eucharistic procession into camp and shared about their experiences on the road. They also were able to get some much-needed rest and share in several of the camp activities.

The feedback from camper evaluations was overwhelmingly positive as well: “I’ve never felt the love of Jesus like I did at camp.” “I want to go to Mass more!” “I learned so much about the Mass, I can’t wait to share with my family and friends.” “I can’t wait to come back to camp!” “Jesus touched my heart at Adoration and I’ll never be the same.”

The new road into camp was a huge hit with camp families. Over the winter, the road into camp was widened and chip-sealed. Each week, parents would comment about how great the new road and parking lots were and how much it has added to camp.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Campers participate in a low elements activity during Expedition 2 Camp on July 2, 2024 at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center.

The summer staff did an amazing job this summer. These young people gave up 10 weeks of their lives to serve the young Church of western Kentucky. They led small groups, led all the activities at camp, and joyfully shared their faith with the campers week after week.

Our deepest thanks go out to all of you from this amazing diocese who pray for and support the ministry at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp. Great things are happening here and it is incredibly humbling to be a part of this ministry and see God work miracles in young people’s lives right before your eyes.

We’re already rolling into retreat season so bring your parish, youth group, men’s or women’s group, business or school out to camp

*Continues on page 16*

## YOUTH

### Gasper continued from page 15

for a retreat! Pray for us and be assured of our prayers for you! ■

Ben Warrell is the director of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green. Learn more at [www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org).

#### Support Gasper River!

This past summer, the camp's many expenses included \$5,000 for maintenance, \$26,000 for food and beverages, \$4,000 for professional and technical services, and \$6,000 for insurance. The road improvements were approximately \$375,000. Please help Gasper continue to serve our youth for years to come with quality, authentically Catholic programs. Donate to them directly online at [www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/support-gasper-river](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/support-gasper-river), or mail a donation to:

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp  
& Retreat Center  
2695 Jackson Bridge Rd.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Carol Staples, summer staff member at Gasper, assists an Expedition 2 camper who is getting ready to climb Tower #68 on July 2, 2024.



### Twenty-five years!

During a July 25 summertime in-service gathering hosted by the School Food Service office at the McRaith Catholic Center, Rhonda Bouchey was honored for her 25 years of working in the cafeteria at St. Mary Elementary School in Paducah. The School Food Service office coordinates the Diocese of Owensboro's school breakfast and lunch programs, as well as the Summer Food Service Program, which provides meals for children in Owensboro, Whitesville, Paducah, Barlow, and Henderson.

-Rachel Hall, WKC



**The Diocese of Owensboro Division of School & Community Nutrition will once again be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program!**

As part of this program, Owensboro Catholic Schools, Mary Carrico Memorial School, St. Mary of the Woods/Trinity High School, St. Joseph School, John Paul II Catholic School, St. Romuald School, Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Mary School System, and Holy Name School will offer healthy meals every school day. Students attending Christ the King School in Madisonville will receive meals at no cost due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2024-2025.

**Scan the QR code to learn more!**



## JOIN US FOR QUILT BINGO! Sunday, Sept. 8

1-4 p.m.

**Maple Hall at Mount Saint Joseph**

(formerly known as the Auditorium/Gym)

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky.

**Play bingo to win quilts!**



Extra quilts can be purchased after the bingo games.



\$25 per person includes lunch.

\$1.00 bingo cards for small quilt prize.

\$2.00 bingo cards for large quilt prize.

Seating is limited. Please sign up online:

**[ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-bingo](http://ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-bingo)**

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

**Help the Ursuline Sisters celebrate during their 150th year!**



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

[carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org](mailto:carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org)

License 0290



## Labor Day: The Sunday-Monday connection

BY FR. ANTHONY SHONIS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Over two thousand years ago the prophet Amos told Israel that if one wants to stand before God on the Sabbath, then that person must do justice the rest of the week. For Christians this means that the same God we worship on Sunday is the same God we meet at work on Monday.

For me this realization began 25 years ago when I left the university as a teacher and began to work in a parish – and I started visiting parishioners at their workplace.

I would ask them two simple questions: “What do you do?” And: “How do you feel about what you do?” Later I would invite them to small group discussions on the relationship between faith and work.

When I met with small groups of workers that I had visited, I told them upfront that a spirituality at work is:

Doing a competent job – “a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay.”

Being a good team member (the modern face of work is that we often work in teams).

Affirming coworkers for good work.

If there is one thing I have learned from our discussions, it’s that workers resent a “slacker” who

does not pull their own weight at work, so that others must compensate for them. If you are a good worker and a good team or crew member, people will notice you – as they notice everything about you at work. And eventually they will wonder about what makes you tick and then (and only then) you can talk your Christian faith.

When I would preach on the Labor Day weekend, as I often did, I would point out to people that the most important sign in the church is the exit sign. After they have been renewed and energized by their worship, they need to march out of there and make the world more the way God wants it to be. ■

*Fr. Anthony Shonis is a retired priest of the Diocese of Owensboro and resides in Henderson.*

## Where are they now? Checking in with the permanent diaconate class of 2021



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

The Diocese of Owensboro’s permanent diaconate class of 2021 is seen at their ordination on Sept. 11, 2021.

BY DCN. TONY CARMONA, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Diocese of Owensboro’s permanent

diaconate class of 2021, and most recently-ordained class, was ordained on Sept. 11, 2021. Below, we check in on how they are doing.

Dcn. Tony Carmona serves St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove. Dcn. Tony teaches adult faith formation, assists the diocese’s Office of Marriage and Family Life, and teaches RCIA at Fort Campbell, Ky., Catholic Community.

Dcn. Hal Jones serves St. Jude, Clinton; St. Edward, Fulton; and Sacred Heart, Hickman.

Dcn. John Knight serves Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson. Dcn. John is pursuing his master’s

degree in theology from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Dcn. Gayle Rhodes serves St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville.

Dcn. TJ Dennison serves St. Augustine, Grayson Springs; St. Anthony, Peonia; and St. Benedict, Clarkston. He also visits the sick and homebound, offers adult faith formation classes, and coordinates the parish RCIA program.

Dcn. Bill Clark serves St. John the Evangelist, Paducah. Dcn. Bill is involved as a chaplain at Mercy Health – Lourdes Hospital and works in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food pantry every month.

Dcn. Frank Bosh moved to another diocese due to a job opportunity. Today he serves St. Jude, Chattanooga, Tennessee. ■

BY WKC STAFF

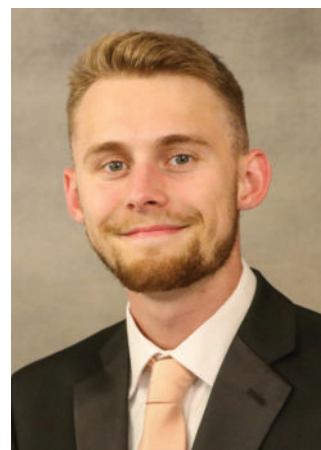
## Meet our new seminarians

This fall, the Diocese of Owensboro welcomes three men as diocesan seminarians, which will increase the number of seminarians from three to six. All three new seminarians started school this August at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Indiana, and are in their propaedeutic year – a formation stage to develop a life of prayer, study, fraternity, and appropriate docility to formation.

To learn more about priestly discernment in the Diocese of Owensboro, contact vocations director Fr. Daniel Dillard at [daniel.dillard@pastoral.org](mailto:daniel.dillard@pastoral.org).



**Wes Wheatley**  
Hometown: Hawesville  
Parish: St. Rose of Lima,  
Cloverport  
Propaedeutic year



**Tommy Rhodes**  
Hometown: Whitesville  
Parish: St. Lawrence, Philpot  
Propaedeutic year



**Kevin Foster**  
Hometown: Whitesville  
Parish: St. Mary of the  
Woods, Whitesville  
Propaedeutic year

## Seminarians' summer assignments connect them with God's people



COURTESY OF CONRAD JACONETTE

(Left to right) Dcn. Robert Waller, seminarian Conrad Jaconette, Fr. Zachary Kautzky, Fr. Tim Mergen, Fr. Ryan McDaniel gathered for a field Mass at Jack's Valley for the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2028.

BY WKC STAFF

### Conrad Jaconette

*Fourth Configuration, Saint Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology*

The life of a seminarian is never boring, to say the least. This summer, I spent 26 hours in flight, immersed myself in 135 hours of Spanish language study in Guatemala, and, for four weeks, I witnessed the profound faith of the Cadets at the United States Air Force Academy. In all these events, I engaged with countless individuals whose lives have been radically transformed by Christ through His Holy Catholic Church.

To say that I am blessed as a seminarian in the Diocese of Owensboro is an understatement. This

summer afforded me the unique opportunity to witness Christ's interaction with people from diverse backgrounds. From a five-hour Corpus Christi procession on the cobblestone streets of Guatemala, where an entire town paused to celebrate the Eucharist, to an emotional field Mass with 300 basic cadets, covered in mud, sweat, and tears – I encountered faith in its most raw and powerful form.

This summer, God stretched and pushed me beyond my comfort zone, revealing to me His people – people around the world thirsting for an encounter. An encounter with the sacraments, His Church, and one another. What a beautiful Church we have, and what a beautiful gift it is to serve as your seminarian.

*Continues on page 19*

*Seminarian summers continued from page 18*



COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER FRENCH

Seminarian Christopher French takes a selfie at Lake Atitlán, near where Blessed Stanley Rother, a priest from Oklahoma, was martyred in 1981.

## Christopher French

*Second Configuration, Saint Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology*

This summer, the diocese sent me on a Spanish immersion program in Guatemala. It was a time to learn Spanish and experience the vibrant culture and daily life in Guatemala. I had plenty of opportunities to try Guatemalan food, which was pretty good. My efforts to learn Spanish were both challenging and rewarding, helping me connect more with the culture and the people there. Coffee was another highlight for me in Guatemala. I'm not a big connoisseur

of coffee but I will say the coffee in Guatemala was one of the best that I have had. While there, I also had plenty of opportunities to meet new people and make new friends. It was great being able to connect with local people.

A memorable experience for me was visiting the site where Blessed Stanley Rother was martyred in Santiago Atitlán in 1981. There, I got to learn more about his story and see how he had such a profound impact on the people there, even to this day. Overall, my time in Guatemala was very good and I look forward to practicing my Spanish at seminary this fall semester.

## Hunter Dickens

*First Discipleship, Saint Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology*

My first summer as a seminarian included the National Eucharistic Congress culminating in Indianapolis. There, I arranged for sacred art from churches around the country to support the prayer of those going to Confession. It was a blessing to see countless people praying before these artworks, either while preparing for the sacrament or fulfilling their penance afterward.

The Congress's success stemmed from its focus on prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, from which prayer and liturgy flowed into cultural events like the downtown procession. This experience connected with my summer research project on the history and culture of the diocese, highlighting our opportunity to be the light where Catholicism is in the minority. I explored how we can uniquely embrace the family values that have for generations united and shaped our community, shared through art and cultural moments.

The most important aspect of my summer was



COURTESY OF ST. PETER OF ALCANTARA

Hunter Dickens, a seminarian for the Diocese of Owensboro, assists children in making s'mores during the Catholic Kids Camp Vacation Bible School program at St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Stanley, where Dickens was assigned for the summer.

the time spent in the diocese with the people of St. Peter of Alcantara and St. Augustine Parishes. They welcomed me into their community and deepened my understanding of our core values. Through their daily lives, I saw how our culture thrives on neighborly care for all people within our parish

Saturday, September 28, 2024

# CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

A benefit event for St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home

Registration fee \$60 includes

- ~ 6ft table
- ~ Door prizes
- ~ Pasta dinner

VENDORS ~ FOOD TRUCKS

Register by texting Lisa at 270.303.9271

9 am to 8 pm CST  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
4754 Smallhouse Rd, Bowling Green

boundaries. Their work on the farm helped reveal how our resilient faith must be rooted in a deep trust in God. ■

## Cousins and granddad participate in ‘Kansas Camino’



COURTESY OF PEGGY LOCKWOOD

Left to right: Thomas Turner, Elliott Turner (holding the cross), Joe Wathen (granddad), and cousin Sutton Markland of Evansville participate in this year's Father Kapaun Pilgrimage in Kansas. This photo was taken by Peggy Lockwood, the daughter of Fr. Kapaun's jeep driver in Korea.

BY SARA WATHEN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

This past June, Joe Wathen, a parishioner of St. Pius X in Owensboro, and his three grandsons participated in the Fr. Kapaun Pilgrimage which took place May 30-June 2 in Wichita Kansas.

Wathen, along with grandsons Sutton Markland (son of Margaret and Jeremy Wathen, who belong to Holy Redeemer in Evansville) and Thomas and Elliott Turner (sons of Mary and Jesse Turner of Philpot, who belong to St. William Parish in Knottsville) completed a 60-mile walk to honor Fr. Emil Kapaun, a Catholic priest and a military chaplain who died in a prison camp during the Korean War.

In 1993, Fr. Kapaun received the title of “Servant of God,” which is the first of four stages toward canonization (being named a saint) in the Catholic Church. This year 480 people registered for the annual event and came from 28 states.

Wathen and his grandsons plan to return next year despite their sore feet and aching muscles. ■

*The Father Kapaun Pilgrimage, nicknamed The Kansas Camino, is an annual event in which pilgrims walk in the plains of the heartland of Kansas to the hometown of Fr. Kapaun. Next year's Camino will take place May 29- June 1, 2025, with registration to open March 4, 2025. Learn more at <https://frkapaun.org/pilgrimage>.*

*Sara Wathen and her husband, Joe Wathen, belong to St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro.*

## Ursulines celebrate 150 years with special Mass with supporters

BY DAN HECKEL, MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

“The Ursuline Sisters came here because that’s what Ursuline Sisters do. They are sent, and good things happen.”

Those were the words of Bishop William F. Medley as he presided at Mass on Aug. 11, 2024, at the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Chapel. Bishop Medley spoke before a full house of Sisters and invited guests to honor the 150th anniversary of the first five Ursuline Sisters arriving in Daviess County on Aug. 15, 1874.

“They came in obedience,” Bishop Medley said.

While limited space restricted inviting

everyone the Sisters would have chosen, the Mass and reception included the most eclectic group of supporters gathered – priests, other religious communities, Ursuline Associates, alumnae, farm families, staff members, financial supporters, diocesan representatives, Brescia University staff, and family members of the Sisters.

Sr. Martha Keller, assistant congregational leader, offered those gathered an opportunity to share in a prayer practice of Fr. Volk, who invited the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville to send teachers to open Mount Saint Joseph Academy in 1874.

“Every March, Fr. Volk wrote down his personal prayer intentions for the year and slipped them under the statue of St. Joseph that is located on



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Bishop William F. Medley incenses the altar in the Motherhouse Chapel to begin the 150th Anniversary Mass on Aug. 11, 2024. Ursuline Sr. Catherine Barber, who taught him in school, is seated behind him.

*Continues on page 21*

*Ursuline Mass continued from page 20*

our front campus,” Sr. Martha said. “Fr. Volk called on St. Joseph to intercede for his personal needs as well as this community’s needs.”

During the reception in Maple Hall, Sr. Martha read congratulatory letters from the Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery in

Whitesville, and from Archbishop Shelton Fabre of the Archdiocese of Louisville. A special treat for those gathered was a congratulatory video from Kentucky governor Andy Beshear. ■

*For the full article and more photos, visit [ursulinesmsj.org](https://ursulinesmsj.org).*

## It’s about protecting our kids: Volunteers remain vigilant despite ‘Charter fatigue’

BY JANICE HENDRICKS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Charter fatigue. That’s a phrase we don’t often hear.

In her Feb. 21, 2024 letter enclosed with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2024 Annual Report on the Implementation for the Protection of Children and Young People, Suzanne Healy, the chair of the National Review Board, wrote: “We cannot risk Charter fatigue or complacency. We must remain vigilant.”

Originally finalized and set forth on June 14, 2002, the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People has gone through several updates and revisions. Parishes and schools are held to strict standards and count on many volunteers to help along the way. Every year, dioceses across the United States complete data audits. The data collected details the work of our efforts to comply with the implementation of the Charter.

When the religious education director is looking for catechists to teach... when the youth minister is searching for chaperones for an upcoming event... when the school needs drivers for a field trip... when it is time once again to renew our background check and training... it is easy to slip into the thoughts of “Do we really need to keep doing this?”

We get tired of Safe Environment, and Charter fatigue sets in.

“There are too many rules.” “It takes too long.” “Aren’t we safe yet?” The most important thing to remember when these thoughts take over is that one new allegation is one too many.

In the background, someone in every parish and every school is keeping up with Safe Environment compliance. They get Charter fatigue themselves. It is not glamorous. Yet they do not stop.

Now is a good time to encourage each other and remind each other why we do all these things. It is not a waste of effort. Together, we make a difference in our Catholic Church. ■

*Janice Hendricks is the Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Owensboro, and can be reached at [janice.hendricks@pastoral.org](mailto:janice.hendricks@pastoral.org).*

*To review the 2024 Annual Report on the Implementation for the Protection of Children and Young People, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Annual-Report.pdf>.*

## St. Vincent de Paul continues serving tornado survivors

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Inc., is humbled to work with tornado survivors for unmet needs. SVDP community liaison, Vicki Duncan, had a few stories she wanted to share amid recovery from the May 26, 2024 tornado.

Brittney Pentecost is from Muhlenberg County and lived on a farm beside her parents with her husband and their seven children, with one on the way. The tornado destroyed their home and all their possessions. Kentucky Emergency Management placed this family at Pennyrite State Forest Park in Dawson Springs until a trailer is set up on their property. On June 24, Brittney had her baby boy in the cabin. They needed help with clothes for kids, food, and gas for Britney’s husband to travel to work. SVDP helped alleviate the strains on the family with gift cards.

Pam and Thurman Deermond lost their home and possessions in the tornado. Thurman draws a check and Pam lost her job for excessive absences due to taking days off to accompany Thurman to his doctor’s appointments, which includes cancer treatments. Kentucky Emergency Management is providing a camper trailer on their property until they can secure a permanent home. The needs of this family are food, clothes, and gas money for Thurman’s doctor appointments. SVDP gave them gift cards to help with these needs.

To contribute to SVDP Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky’s Disaster Relief Services, visit [svdpwky.org](https://svdpwky.org)/give or mail your gift to SVDP Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Inc., P. O. Box 1203, Owensboro, KY 42302-1203. ■

# Sophia Award recipients of 2024 honored at cathedral Mass



BY WKC STAFF

Every year, the Diocese of Owensboro hosts a special Mass honoring the recipients of the annual Sophia Awards – individuals at least 65 years old, who received the highest number of nominations in their parish for this recognition, and who embrace and lead lives of stewardship by giving of their time, talent and treasure. On Aug. 11, 2024, at St. Stephen Cathedral, this year’s Sophia Awards Mass was celebrated by Bishop William F. Medley. At the conclusion of Mass, the recipients received their award plaques. To learn more, contact Valeria Vessels, director of stewardship and development, at [valeria.vessels@pastoral.org](mailto:valeria.vessels@pastoral.org).

ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

The 2024 recipients of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Sophia Awards are seen with Bishop William F. Medley after the annual Sophia Awards Mass, which was held Aug. 11, 2024, at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

**Blessed Mother, Owensboro:**  
Doug & Nancy Dunn

**Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro:**  
Kathi Skidd

**Christ the King, Madisonville:**  
William & Bonnie Burns

**Christ the King, Scottsville:**  
Jim Dickens

**Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson:**  
Mary Thurmond

**Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam:**  
Pamela Hayes

**Holy Spirit, Bowling Green:**  
Michael & Katharyn Byrn

**Holy Trinity, Morgantown:**  
Anita Gossett

**Immaculate, Owensboro:**  
Vic & Brenda Ramsey

**Immaculate Conception, Hawesville:**  
Nathan & Tina Powers

**Our Lady of Lourdes,**

**Owensboro:**  
Fr. Joseph Schoettle  
**Precious Blood, Owensboro:**  
Bruce & Sharon Tucker  
**Rosary Chapel, Paducah:**  
Mercedes Matchem-Powers

**Sacred Heart, Russellville:**  
Phillip & Connie Montooth

**St. Agnes, Uniontown:**  
Tommy Musser

**St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph:**  
Betty Byrne

**St. Ambrose, Henshaw:**  
Marilyn Day

**St. Ann, Morganfield:**  
Gerald Thompson

**St. Anthony, Browns Valley:**  
Bobby & Grace May

**St. Anthony, Peonia:**  
Gene & Lesa Weikel

**St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers:**  
Dan & Cindy O’Brien

**St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel:**  
Coston & Terry Lawson

**St. Augustine, Grayson Springs:**

Mary Loretta Smith  
(posthumously)  
Steve & Rita Haire

**St. Benedict, Wax:**  
Vanessa Logsdon

**St. Charles, Bardwell:**  
Diane Wilson

**St. Charles Borromeo, Livermore:**  
Francis & Shirley Durbin

**St. Columba, Lewisport:**  
Eddie & Rachel Gray

**St. Denis, Fancy Farm:**  
Patricia Ellegood

**St. Elizabeth, Clarkson:**  
Glenda Rae Killingbeck

**St. Elizabeth, Curdsville:**  
David & Sue Hamilton

**St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis:**  
Ken Farr

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

**St. Francis of Assisi, Guthrie: Tom & Carolyn Duncan**

**St. Henry, Aurora:**  
Mary Alice Kowalczyk

**St. Jerome, Fancy Farm:**  
Leo Pendel

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

Frank & Margaret Montgomery

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

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

**St. Joseph, Bowling Green:**

John & Rita Riley

**St. Joseph, Central City:**  
Rick & Cathy  
(posthumously)  
Schlessman

**St. Joseph, Leitchfield:**  
James & Ann Marshall

**St. Joseph, Mayfield:**  
Roy Dublin

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro:**  
Steve & Diane Lindsey

**St. Jude, Clinton:**  
Robert Tarver

**St. Lawrence, Philpot:**  
Alan & Aggie Fitzgerald

**St. Leo, Murray:**  
Kevin & Debbra D’Angelo

**St. Mark, Eddyville:**  
Roger & Michelle

Edelbrock

**St. Martin, Rome:**  
Larry & Michele Wahnsiedler

**St. Mary, Franklin:**  
Mark Pais

**St. Mary, LaCenter:**  
Susan Piper

**St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho:**  
Grady & Donna Ebelhar

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

**St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville:**  
Clara McDaniel

**St. Michael, Sebree:**  
Pedro Caballero & Francisca Ventura

**St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove:**  
Joseph & Sin Cha Gendreau

**St. Paul, Leitchfield:**  
Jacquelyn Milliner

**St. Paul, Princeton:**  
Susan Brinkley

**St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley:**  
Jerome (posthumously) & Bonnie Blair

**St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly:**  
Martha Gibson

Continues on page 23

*Sophia Award continued from page 22*

**Sts. Peter & Paul,  
Hopkinsville:**  
Sarah Kranz

**St. Pius X, Calvert  
City:**  
Olga Edwards

**St. Pius X,  
Owensboro:**  
Rosemary Smith

**St. Romuald,  
Hardinsburg:**  
Buddy & Kay  
Payne

**St. Sebastian,  
Calhoun:**  
James & Paula  
Tichenor

**St. Stephen, Cadiz:**  
Dr. Eduardo & Lorna  
(posthumously) Pavon

**St. Stephen Cathedral,  
Owensboro:**  
Dan & Sally Halbig

**St. Thomas More,  
Paducah:**  
Phyllis Stovesand

**St. William,  
Knottsville:**

**Claudie & Erma  
(posthumously) Millay**  
**St. William, Marion:**  
Sherry Frazer

## Family supports Sophia Award recipient

BY WKC STAFF

The family of William Wurth came out in full force to witness him receive a 2024 Sophia Award at the Aug. 11, 2024 Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. Wurth, who is a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist in Paducah, brought about 20 members of his family to the Mass, which is held every year to honor those who have served as faithful stewards in their parish communities. ■



COURTESY OF MELISSA REED

Bishop William F. Medley smiles for a photo with the family of 2024 Sophia Award recipient William Wurth, a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Paducah.



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Shown is the front of the banner for the Sodality of Our Lady from Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro.

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

Not too long ago, a woman called the archives for some information. After we discussed her request, the call became conversational. After a while, she somberly asked something like, “There used to be so many groups dedicated to Mary in the diocese. What happened to them all?” She was right, there were numerous, very active groups dedicated to Our Lady. Most of these types of conversations come back to the same answers; times have changed, and things are different. However, based

## Sts. Joseph and Paul’s Sodality of Our Lady banner

on the conversations many of us are having and the interest being shown, devotional groups may be making a comeback.

Religious banners used to be a staple for these groups and organizations. They were put up at meetings to instill pride and unity. They were paraded at large gatherings to let others know that the group was represented at the event. Often several groups were present, each marching under their individual banners. We have a collection of these banners in the archives and the one featured this month may be my favorite. It is the banner for the Sodality of Our Lady from Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro.

Focal to the piece is, of course, the Blessed Virgin. In her personification as Our Lady of Grace, Mary takes her place atop the earth, flanked by bellowing clouds. Grace pours from her hands. Her halo, nestled amidst the sky, becomes the sun. Below her delicate majesty is the serpent, crushed by the foot of Our Mother.

The design of the banner is unmistakably Marian. The blue, gold and silver trim, tassels and stitch work

exude a heavenly regalia. Her unearthly royal dignity is displayed in perfect harmony with her gentle, motherly femininity. It is a phenomenal homage to the countless graces of Mary.

The banner was originally gifted to the Mount Saint Joseph Museum by Fr. Henry Willett in May 1986, at the time of the Sts. Joseph and Paul remodel. When Sr. Mary Victor took over the museum in 1992, she gave it to Sr. Emma Cecilia at the diocesan archives. Sr. Emma Cecilia noted, “I remember using the banner for Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary meetings and on the Sundays the group met for a monthly Mass.”

The banner is truly striking. Three different diocesan staff members have come into my office to admire it while I have had it out to photograph it for this article. It is a beautiful look at the devotional culture of the past and hopefully the future. Our Lady of Grace, pray for us!

*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. ■*

# The vital role of catechists in our parishes: A call to serve

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

In the heart of our Catholic faith lies a commitment to education and the transmission of our sacred traditions. This mission is profoundly embodied in the work of catechists. These dedicated individuals serve as bedrocks of our parish, nurturing the spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults alike.

Reflecting on their invaluable contributions, I also extend an invitation to readers to consider becoming a catechist and sharing in this beautiful ministry.

Catechists are more than just teachers; they are evangelizers and mentors who bring the light of Christ to others. They play a pivotal role in the faith formation of our community, guiding individuals on their journey to a deeper relationship with God. Through their instruction, catechists help others understand and embrace the teachings of the Church, fostering a vibrant and living faith.

Their work encompasses preparing individuals for the sacraments, leading religious education classes, and facilitating discussions that explore the richness of our Catholic traditions. By doing so, they ensure that the faith is not only taught but also lived, creating a ripple effect that strengthens our entire parish.

The influence of a catechist extends far beyond the classroom. They shape the spiritual lives of their students, instilling values that last a lifetime. For children, catechists provide a foundation of faith that supports them as they grow and face

the challenges of life. For adults, catechists offer guidance and wisdom, helping them navigate their spiritual journey with confidence and clarity.

Moreover, catechists often find that their own faith is deepened through their service. Teaching others about Christ encourages them to explore their own beliefs more fully and to live out their faith with renewed vigor. This mutual enrichment fosters a stronger, more cohesive faith community.

All parishes are blessed with a diverse congregation, and the demand for catechists is ever-present. Each year, there are individuals who are eager to learn about our faith and to receive the sacraments. This highlights the critical need for more catechists who can share their knowledge and passion for the faith.

Without sufficient catechists, many in our community may miss out on the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Catholicism. This is where you can make a profound difference. By volunteering as a catechist, you can help bridge this gap and ensure that everyone in your parish has access to the spiritual nourishment they seek.

Becoming a catechist is a deeply rewarding experience. It does not require one to be a theological expert; rather, it calls for a willing heart and a love for Christ. The parish and diocese provides training and resources to help you succeed in this role. You will join a supportive community of fellow catechists who share your commitment to fostering faith.

If you have ever felt a stirring in your heart to serve, consider this your invitation. Whether you are a lifelong Catholic or a recent convert, your unique perspective and experiences can inspire



COURTESY OF HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling, associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, blesses the 20 catechists who will serve the parish's Myanmar Catholic community, on May 5, 2024.

others. Volunteering as a catechist allows you to make a tangible impact on the lives of those in our parish, nurturing the faith of the next generation and beyond.

Let us remember that each of us is called to serve in some capacity. The gift of faith is meant to be shared, and there is no greater joy than seeing that faith flourish in others. I encourage you to pray and discern whether God is calling you to this ministry. Your yes could be the answer to someone else's prayer, and a powerful step in your own spiritual journey. If you feel this call, please reach out to your parish's director/coordinator of religious education or your pastor. May God bless our catechists and all those who consider joining this sacred mission. ■

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



## SEPTEMBER 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.

### Join Ursuline Sisters for Adoration on Fridays and first Sundays

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on the first Sunday of the month 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 also have Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., and the public is welcome to attend. 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/>

### Watch new history videos about the Ursuline Sisters

As part of their 150th year celebration, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) are releasing brief new videos about their history on the 15th of each month in 2024. The Ursuline Sisters are celebrating 150 years since their arrival in Daviess County, Ky., and 150 years of service to God's people. Their anniversary theme is: "Cultivating the Vine Saint Angela Entrusted to Us." To see links to the videos, photos of anniversary events, and upcoming events throughout the year, visit <https://ursulinesmsj.org/150-years/>. You can also find the videos on the Ursuline Sisters' YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/UrsulineSistersMSJ](http://www.youtube.com/user/UrsulineSistersMSJ). Be sure to follow the Ursuline Sisters on their website, social media, or by email (sign up at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/subscribe/> and click on The Pilgrimage) to be informed about the release of future videos.

### Join Chris Stefanick for Reboot! event in Evansville

Reboot! is the fun, inspiring and practical experience for all ages (12+) of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life. Join Chris Stefanick, an internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and TV host, for a life-changing evening. Hear the Good News that the Lord has for all of us, and learn how to live out this joy in your everyday life. Whether you're a lifelong Church goer, just rediscovering your faith, or have never heard of Jesus before, this is the event for you! Make the commitment to have more joy in your life today. Grab a ticket for yourself, your friends, your family. We look forward to seeing you at 7 p.m. on Sept. 18, 2024, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 5301 Daylight Dr., Evansville, IN, 47725. Purchase tickets here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdzdmerw>.

### Sept. 20 Holy Name School Fall Festival

Sept. 20 from 5-10 p.m. and Sept. 21 from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Fish fry, pork chop and chicken dinners, game booths, rides, food booths, family bingo, live auction, silent auction, haunted house, and much more. Fun for everyone! For more information contact the school office at (270) 827-3425.

### Rachel's Vineyard fall 2024 retreat for post-abortion healing

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 Oct. 11-13, 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](mailto: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](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

### Cursillo happenings in the diocese

Calling all Cursillistas: Cursillo Retreat Day, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Christ the King Parish, 1600 Kingsway Dr., Madisonville. Activities include rosary, Mass, videos, Eucharistic Adoration, and potluck lunch. Come for a special day of prayer and community with fellow Cursillistas! Questions? Call or text Michelle Sandheinrich (270) 889-3546. Cursillo School of Leaders: Cursillistas are welcome to our School of Leaders and Ultreyas in Henderson. Fr. Richard Meredith has agreed to support us in our School of Leaders and Ultreya at St. Margaret's Chapel in Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 685 Watson Ln., Henderson. We will have our School of Leaders from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024. We will rotate each month at the same time and place. October Ultreya will be on the 12th and November School will be Nov. 9. December Ultreya is on Dec. 14. Fr. Richard will present the doctrinal talks at School in September, October, and December. November's speaker is to be determined. To learn more, contact Troy and Ruth Christian at (270) 869-4065.

### Have you read the Ursuline Sisters' history book?

More than 500 copies of "Hope and Firm Faith: The Story of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph" (published in 2022) have been sold. A limited number of books are still available for purchase. This book brings to life the amazing women who have served God's people since arriving at Maple Mount, Ky., in 1874. Readers will learn how the Diocese of Owensboro grew in conjunction with the Ursuline Sisters opening countless schools, including Brescia University. They will learn about the events that unfolded for the Ursuline Sisters through the eyes of the women who lived them. To purchase a book, visit <https://ursulinesmsj.org/hope-and-firm-faith-book/> The cost is \$37.10 which includes tax. If you need the book shipped, add \$10. You can ask that your copy be autographed by the author. If you have questions, contact Dan Heckel at 270-229-2007 or [dan.heckel@maplemount.org](mailto:dan.heckel@maplemount.org). Books can also be purchased in person at Maple Mount Monday through Friday, but please call ahead.

### A scout is reverent

As we begin a new school year, it is time to begin

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Continued from page 25

### BULLETIN BOARD

working toward Scout religious emblems. They include for Cub Scouts: Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei and for Boy Scouts: Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII and Light is Life (Eastern Catholic) and for Girl Scouts and others: God is Love, Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary the First Disciple, The Spirit Alive, and Missio. For more information on these, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/scouting>.

#### 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.

## Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Day proclaimed in Daviess County



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

A dozen Ursuline Sisters attended the Daviess Fiscal Court session in which Judge-Executive Charlie Castlen proclaimed Aug. 15, 2024, as "Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Day" in Daviess County. Pictured from left are Commissioner Larry Conder, Sr. Pam Mueller, Sr. Cecelia Joseph Olinger, Sr. Amelia Stenger, Sr. Elaine Burke, Sr. Helena Fischer, Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner, judge-executive Charlie Castlen, Sr. Monica Seaton, Sr. Judith Nell Riney, Sr. Barbara Jean Head, Sr. Betsy Moyer, Sr. Cheryl Clemons, Sr. Vivian Bowles, commissioner Janie Marksberry and commissioner Chris Castlen.

## 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.

#### 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

#### 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

**TRIVIA**  
*night*  
**FUNDRAISER**

Sts. Joseph & Paul Church, Owensboro, is hosting a Halloween-themed Trivia Night with Silent Auction and Bourbon Auction on **Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024**

5pm Happy Hour  
6pm Dinner  
7pm Trivia

Cost: \$240 (table of 8 if paid by Oct. 1); after Oct. 1 cost is \$320.  
\$600 prize for 1st place, \$400 prize for 2nd place.  
Prizes for best decorated table, best costume, and best group costume.

Call 270-683-5641 to RSVP

# September Wedding Anniversaries

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

**A note from the WKC: Make sure your anniversary is listed!** The WKC recognizes 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and over anniversaries being celebrated for the month printed (i.e. this edition shows the milestone anniversaries for August). In order to appear in the WKC's monthly anniversaries, you must be listed by your parish. Please contact your parish directly to make sure your anniversary is on file with them.

**Blessed Mother, Owensboro**  
Rob & Michelle Harris, 25

**Christ the King, Madisonville**  
George & Beverly Soria, 53  
Joseph & Daisy Rocha, 58

**Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

Bill & Becky Aldridge, 25  
Carroll & Margaret Fulkerson, 61  
David & Mary Sue Barron, 51  
Dean & Janice Arnold, 54  
Harold & Lucy Hargis, 55  
James & Rita Mills, 53  
Joshua & Elizabeth Long, 10  
Mike & Katrina Greenwell, 53  
Raymond & Joan Wawrin, 57  
Ronald & Joan Hockey, 65  
Sam & Patsy Moore, 51  
Stephen & Marilyn Schwallier, 50

**Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**  
Anthony & Rhona Feckter, 61  
Dean & Colleen Ewing, 57  
Joe & Sally Liles, 61  
Randy & Pam Spangler, 40  
Rick & Kathy Granger, 53  
Stephen & Wanda Baka, 54  
Steve & Sandy Stahl, 54  
Terry & Eleonora Hays, 40  
Timothy & Martha McAnnany, 10

**Holy Trinity, Morgantown**  
Richard & Peggy Seiler, 63

**Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

Charles & Peggy Howard, 55  
Dale & Marcia Reddin, 54

**Immaculate, Owensboro**

Chris & Jenny Jones, 5  
Jake & Stephanie Eagleson, 10  
Steve & Lee Ann Blandford, 40  
Stewart & Rose Foster, 55

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

Carl & Marie Hamilton, 53

Edward & Marilyn Sumner, 51

Johnny & Pat Kelley, 64  
Lee & Sheila Hopewell, 25  
Mike & Suzanne Wurth, 54  
Richard & Carli Stanley, 5  
Roger & Jessica Boling, 10  
Stephen & Sandy Mattingly, 10  
Wally & Julie Johnson, 51

**Precious Blood, Owensboro**  
John & Patricia Kramer, 54  
William & Susan Wedding, 55

**Resurrection, Dawson Springs**  
Mike & Linda Randolph, 59

**Rosary Chapel, Paducah**  
Rodney & Mary Ann Williams, 50

**St. Agnes, Uniontown**  
Damien & Jaci Simmons, 10  
Tim & Kelly Joiner, 40

**St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**  
David & Debbie Coomes, 53  
Rob & Tina Gabbard, 10

**St. Ann, Morganfield**  
Bill & Janet Robertson, 64  
Bill & Kay Owen, 50  
Jim & Carol Hosman, 58

**St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers**  
Steve & Linda Wilkes, 53

**St. Augustine, Reed**  
Sonny & Linda Evans, 59  
Stephen & Sheila Byrne, 52

**St. Charles, Bardwell**  
Danny & Bonnie Henderson, 53  
Keith & Diane Elliott, 40

**St. Columba, Lewisport**  
John & Rosemary Neff, 40  
Jordan & Misty Bozarth, 5

**St. Edward, Fulton**  
Eddie & Jan Taylor, 51

**St. Elizabeth, Clarkson**

Hayward & Sharon Roberts, 51

**St. Elizabeth, Curdsville**  
David & Sue Hamilton, 50

**St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis**  
Jerrod & Jessi Gibson, 10

**St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**  
Durwin & Maureen Ursery, 58  
Thomas & Jeannette Tocco, 51

**St. Henry, Aurora**  
Jack & Janice Faust, 57

**St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**  
Dylan & Krista Moore, 10  
Glenn & Barbara Wilson, 58  
Glenn & Gayle Willett, 51  
James & Virginia Carter, 10  
Marvin & Martha Byrd, 62  
Sam & Becca Higdon, 53  
Terry & Patrice Milan, 52  
Walter & Karen Shupe, 52

**St. John the Evangelist, Paducah**  
Lawrence & Dorothy Durbin, 56  
Lawrence & Geraldine Durbin, 59

Richard & Betty Wurth, 62  
Robert & Yolanda Neihoff, 61

**St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish**  
Joe & Karen Farmer, 5

**St. Joseph, Bowling Green**  
David & Debbie Cherry, 5  
George & Judith Martin, 58  
Hubert & Linda Richardson, 55  
John & Cynthia Korba, 40

**St. Joseph, Central City**  
Ric & Judy Sims, 59  
Spencer & Angelica Jones, 5

**St. Joseph, Leitchfield**  
Dale & Yvonne DePoyster, 51  
Jimmy & Sue Kipper, 58  
Sergei & Paloma Culver, 5

**St. Joseph, Mayfield**  
Alfredo & Andrea Tejada, 25  
Charles & Gay Willett, 53  
Robert & Jean Carrico, 57

**St. Lawrence, Philpot**  
Joseph & Nancy Payne, 64

**St. Leo, Murray**

James & Joan Carden, 60

**St. Mark, Eddyville**  
Kenneth & Maggie Pierson, 51

**St. Martin, Rome**  
Ben & Becky Marks, 40  
Jack & Delores Beyke, 58  
Jamie & Aubrey LaHugh, 10  
William & Judy Peak, 58

**St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**  
Bobby & Terry Knott, 65  
Danny & Sharon Ebelhar, 55  
Donnie & Susan Risse, 40  
Grady & Donna Ebelhar, 51

**St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville**  
Bobby & Della Payne, 51  
Darren & Diane Ward, 25

**St. Mary, Franklin**  
Dan & Maryellen Thompson, 25  
Jim & Gail Briley, 63  
John & Cindy Janicek, 51

**St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove**  
Richard & Sherry Washington, 54  
Roger & Margo Blair, 54

**St. Paul, Leitchfield**  
James & Helen Gawarecki, 62  
Joseph & Anna Jean Clark, 53  
Larry & Geneva Pawley, 57  
Mike & Joyce Whitfill, 56

**St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly**  
Carl & Kim Wolfe, 40  
Clarence & Darlene Powell, 50  
Jerry & Barbara Houston, 40  
Leslie & Martha Gibson, 54

**St. Pius X, Owensboro**  
Earl & Peggy Castlen, 55  
Larry & Patricia Hicks, 53  
Ronald & Mary Helen Strehl, 60

Ryan & Lauren Grant, 5  
Tom & Janie Blair, 53

**St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**  
Chuck & Joellen McGary, 59  
David & Elaine Adkins, 52

**St. Sebastian, Calhoun**  
John & Brenda Pinkston, 55  
Mike & Margaret Dant, 59

**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**  
Arthur & Nancy Hodde, 53  
Chase & Hannah Downing, 5  
Howard & Louise Brown, 57  
James & Madison Wells, 10  
John & Kathy Wright, 40  
John & Patsy Clayton, 67  
Louis & Debra Byrne, 50  
Pat & Donna McNulty, 59

**St. Stephen, Cadiz**  
Jim & Sally Vollmer, 58  
Mike & Tana Dickens, 53

**St. Thomas More, Paducah**  
Charles & Leigh Turner, 25  
Clint & Peyton Englert, 5  
Gary & Janie Lamb, 59  
Phil & Betty Higdon, 60  
Robert & Judy Milford, 58  
Steve & Julie DuPerrieu, 50  
Tom & Barbara Clinton, 56

**St. William, Knottsville**  
Brandon & Cecile Lanham, 10  
Charles & Joyce Mills, 67  
Darrell & Mary Lou Payne, 55  
Steve & Darlene Fulkerson, 52

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Bobby & Barbara Clark, 10  
Bobby & Theresa Pedley, 60  
Frank & Joanne Mason, 53  
Joel & Laura Mattingly, 10  
Larry & Raysha Maxwell, 5  
Ralph & Emilee Ward, 58  
Steven & Elizabeth Burch, 10

**Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

Andrew & Annette Mongeon, 72  
Gregory & Anita Jones, 55  
Jim & Maria Creighton, 55  
Keiji & Angela Mercado, 10  
William & Ann Farrell, 54  
William & Linda Keach, 52

# Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley: Dios camina con su pueblo: Encontrando el rostro del Señor en los migrantes y refugiados

“Porque tuve hambre, y ustedes me dieron de comer; tuve sed, y me dieron de beber; estaba de paso, y me alojaron” (Mateo 25:35).

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Durante más de un siglo, el Vaticano ha patrocinado la Jornada Mundial del Migrante y del Refugiado (este año cae el 29 de septiembre) para recordarnos que hay forasteros entre nosotros, forasteros que comparten tanto nuestra humanidad como el llamado a cuidarnos unos a otros. Si miramos al siglo pasado, nos damos cuenta de que las secuelas de la Primera y la Segunda Guerra Mundial dejaron a decenas de millones de personas desplazadas. La Iglesia católica ha sumado su voz a los llamados a las naciones a acoger a estas personas que buscan reconstruir sus vidas.

Se podría esperar que en el siglo XXI los peligros que dejan las secuelas de la guerra se reduzcan. Pero la violencia y la opresión todavía arruinan la vida de millones de personas. Las estadísticas son difíciles de verificar, pero muchos estiman que hoy en día hay más migrantes y más personas buscando refugio en todo el mundo que en cualquier otro momento desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

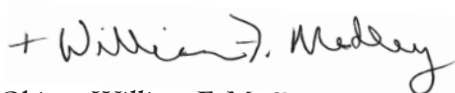
El Papa Francisco tiene una perspectiva única desde la cual observar el mundo, y la red de grupos religiosos católicos y agencias de ayuda reconocen una crisis global. A veces, cuando los estadounidenses escuchan al Santo Padre abordar cuestiones de

migrantes y refugiados, se perciben que sólo está mirando la crisis en la frontera de Estados Unidos y México. Ciertamente, el Papa ve y escucha los desafíos de nuestra nación, pero la realidad de las personas sin hogar que buscan refugio seguro es un dilema mundial. Una y otra vez el Papa hace un llamado a las naciones de Europa para que respondan con mayor generosidad a los migrantes del mundo.

En su mensaje para la Jornada del Migrante de 2024, el Papa Francisco insta a las naciones del mundo a brindar apoyo humanitario y espiritual a los migrantes durante todo su camino. Señala: “Dios no sólo camina con su pueblo, sino también en su pueblo, en el sentido de que se identifica con los hombres y las mujeres en su caminar por la historia [especialmente con los últimos, los pobres, los marginados], como prolongación del misterio de la Encarnación... En este sentido, los pobres nos salvan, porque nos permiten encontrarnos con el rostro del Señor”.

El Papa Francisco subraya que Cristo mismo en un tiempo fue un migrante con José y María, huyendo a Egipto para escapar de la persecución. Cuando nos permitimos ver a Cristo en los refugiados de nuestros días, nos permitimos ver y encontrarnos con Cristo hoy.

Que Dios los bendiga siempre,



Obispo William F. Medley  
Diócesis de Owensboro



FOTO DE CNS/LOLA GOMEZ

Se ve un detalle de “Ángeles sin saberlo”, una escultura del canadiense Timothy Schmalz en la Plaza de San Pedro en el Vaticano, el 3 de junio de 2024. La escultura representa un barco con 140 figuras de migrantes de diversos períodos históricos y varias naciones.

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY SEPTIEMBRE DE 2024	
1 de sept.	9 AM   Confirmación – San Juan Evangelista, Sunfish
3 de sept.	11 AM   Misa de apertura – Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro
4 de sept.	Reunión del personal diocesano
9 de sept.	4 PM   Reunión de la Junta Directiva de la Fundación Católica
11 de sept.	8:30 AM   Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas
12 de sept.	12 del mediodía   Almuerzo con sacerdotes mayores
14 de sept.	11:30 AM   Oración del mediodía y almuerzo con las monjas pasionistas, Whitesville
15 de sept.	2 PM   Dedicación del altar y bendición de la iglesia renovada – Inmaculada, Owensboro
18 de sept.	10:30 AM   Misa arco iris – Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter]
19 de sept.	Viaje pastoral a África

## Jóvenes construyen amistades y recuerdan ‘quiénes son’ en programa de ministerio hispano

POR JUANA MATÍAS, ESPECIAL PARA EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Hola, mi nombre es Juana Matías. Soy del condado de Webster. Asisto a la Iglesia Católica de San Miguel en Sebree, Ky. Voy a contarles sobre mi experiencia en SEPI.

¿Qué es SEPI? SEPI es el Instituto Pastoral del Sureste para el ministerio hispano ubicado en Miami, Florida. Asistí a un programa que SEPI realiza durante una semana que se llama *YouLead*. *YouLead* es el nombre corto para el Instituto de Liderazgo de Verano para Jóvenes Líderes.

*YouLead* es un programa para jóvenes latinos de primera, segunda y tercera generación en el área del sureste. Es un programa bilingüe con 2 niveles que se lleva a cabo en el verano durante una semana. Ayuda a preparar a jóvenes líderes hispanos que puedan impactar sus comunidades e iglesias. *YouLead* normalmente se lleva a cabo anualmente en un lugar diferente. Este año en junio pude asistir durante una semana al *YouLead* que se hizo en Miami en el SEPI.

El viernes el programa empezó alrededor de las 6pm con inscripciones y a cada uno nos dieron una bolsa y algunos artículos. Antes de empezar las clases el lunes, organizaron actividades para convivir y conocernos mejor. Un día salimos en misión para ayudar a personas en la comunidad. Asistimos a la Misa allí en SEPI todos los días, pero el domingo asistimos a la Misa en el Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad y fue hermosa.

Teníamos clases de lunes a jueves que empezaban a las 8am y terminaban a las 4pm. Los profesores que impartían las clases eran geniales y todos eran latinos/latinas. Pude aprender muchas cosas nuevas y comprender mejor mi fe. Recibí información que me ayudó a responder dudas que tenía y pude crecer en mi relación con Dios. Recibí información que no sabía sobre el catolicismo y me ayudó a tener una mejor comprensión de mi fe católica. Conocí a muchas personas nuevas que eran jóvenes latinos/latinas y teníamos mucho en común. La gente que conocí fue muy agradable y servicial y pude formar amistades.

Todos teníamos el mismo objetivo de lo que queríamos del programa: aprender y recibir información para poder llevarla a nuestra comunidad. Algo que me quedó de *YouLead* es no olvidar de dónde vienes y abrazar tu cultura. Enseñaré esto a nuestro grupo juvenil porque muchos de ellos son latinos/latinas y muchos olvidan quiénes son. También hablaré de nuestra fe católica para que puedan comprenderla mejor. ■

Para obtener más información sobre los programas de formación para jóvenes hispanos como *YouLead* de SEPI, comuníquense con Susana Solorza en [susana.solorza@pastoral.org](mailto:susana.solorza@pastoral.org) o al (270) 683-1545.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE JUDITH MONTALVAN

Los participantes de *YouLead* de este año sonríen para una foto afuera del Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad el domingo después de la Misa.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA HERMANA JEANETTE GAMBOA

Juana Matías, miembro del equipo rojo en el juego de búsqueda durante *YouLead*, y su grupo posan frente a una pizarra durante las actividades. También aparecen en la foto sus amigos Karen, Melanie, Jesús, Carolina, Clarissa y Gabriel. Cada equipo tuvo que crear una dinámica para realizar y esta fue una que se le ocurrió a su equipo.

## Conozcan a nuestros nuevos seminaristas

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Este otoño, la Diócesis de Owensboro da la bienvenida a tres hombres como seminaristas diocesanos, lo que aumentará el número de seminaristas de tres a seis. Los tres nuevos seminaristas comenzaron sus estudios este agosto en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad en St. Meinrad, Indiana, y están en su año propedéutico, una etapa de formación para desarrollar una vida de oración, estudio, fraternidad y docilidad apropiada a la formación. Para obtener más información sobre el discernimiento sacerdotal en la Diócesis de Owensboro, comuníquense con el director de vocaciones, el Padre Daniel Dillard, en [daniel.dillard@pastoral.org](mailto:daniel.dillard@pastoral.org). El Padre Daniel habla español. ■



**Wes Wheatley**  
Ciudad natal: Hawesville  
Parroquia: Santa Rosa de Lima, Cloverport  
Año propedéutico



**Tommy Rhodes**  
Ciudad natal: Whitesville  
Parroquia: San Lorenzo, Philpot  
Año propedéutico



**Kevin Foster**  
Ciudad natal: Whitesville  
Parroquia: Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville  
Año propedéutico



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Las mujeres preparan comida durante la Feria de Salud Hispana de la Alianza Latina del Área de Owensboro, celebrada el 27 de julio en el terreno de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo.

### *Más de 100 familias participan en Feria de Salud Hispana*

El 27 de julio, la iglesia católica Santos José y Pablo fue anfitriona de la primera Feria de Salud Hispana Anual de la Alianza Latina del Área de Owensboro, que incluyó servicios médicos gratuitos, servicios comunitarios, despensa de alimentos, inflables y

*Continúa en la contraportada*



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE CONRAD JACONETTE  
(De izquierda a derecha) El Diácono Robert Waller, el seminarista Conrad Jaconette, el Padre Zachary Kautzky, el Padre Tim Mergen y el Padre Ryan McDaniel se reunieron para una Misa de campo en Jack's Valley para la Clase de 2028 de la Academia de la Fuerza Aérea de los Estados Unidos.

## Las asignaciones del verano de los seminaristas los conectan con el pueblo de Dios

**Conrad Jaconette**  
Configuración, Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad

La vida de un seminarista nunca es aburrida, por decirlo menos. Este verano, pasé 26 horas de vuelo, me sumergí en 135 horas de estudio del idioma español en Guatemala y, durante cuatro semanas, fui testigo de la profunda fe de los cadetes de la Academia de la Fuerza Aérea de los Estados Unidos. En todos estos momentos, interactué con innumerables personas

cuyas vidas han sido transformadas radicalmente por Cristo a través de su santa Iglesia católica.

Decir que tengo suerte de ser seminarista en la Diócesis de Owensboro es quedarse corto. Este verano me brindó la oportunidad única de presenciar la interacción de Cristo con personas de diversos orígenes. Desde una procesión de cinco horas del Corpus Christi por las calles adoquinadas de Guatemala, donde un pueblo entero se detuvo para celebrar la Eucaristía, hasta una emotiva Misa de campo con 300 cadetes

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básicos, cubiertos de lodo, sudor y lágrimas, encontré la fe en su forma más cruda y poderosa.

Este verano, Dios me estiró y me empujó más allá de mi zona de confort, revelándome su pueblo: personas de todo el mundo sedientas de un encuentro. Un encuentro con los sacramentos, con Su Iglesia y con los demás. Qué hermosa Iglesia tenemos y qué hermoso regalo es servir como su seminarista.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE CHRISTOPHER FRENCH  
El seminarista Christopher French se toma una selfie en el lago Atitlán, cerca de donde el beato Stanley Rother, un sacerdote de Oklahoma, fue martirizado en 1981.

## **Christopher French** **Segunda Configuración, Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad**

Este verano, la diócesis me envió a un programa de inmersión en español en Guatemala. Fue un momento para aprender español y experimentar la vibrante cultura y vida cotidiana de Guatemala. Tuve muchas oportunidades de probar la comida guatemalteca, que era bastante buena. Mis esfuerzos por aprender español fueron desafiantes y gratificantes a la vez, y me ayudaron a conectarme más con la cultura y la gente de allí. El café también fue para mí una de las mejores cosas de Guatemala. No soy un gran experto del café, pero puedo decir que el café de Guatemala fue uno de los mejores

que he probado. Mientras estuve allí, también tuve muchas oportunidades de conocer personas nuevas y hacer nuevos amigos. Fue fantástico poder conectarme con la gente local.

Una experiencia memorable para mí fue visitar el lugar donde fue martirizado el Beato Stanley Rother en Santiago Atitlán en 1981. Allí pude aprender más sobre su historia y ver cómo tuvo un impacto tan profundo en el pueblo guatemalteco, incluso hasta el día de hoy. En general, mi tiempo en Guatemala fue muy bueno y espero poder practicar mi español en el seminario este semestre de otoño.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA IGLESIA SAN PEDRO DE ALCÁNTARA

Hunter Dickens, seminarista de la Diócesis de Owensboro, ayuda a los niños a preparar un postre durante el programa de la Escuela Bíblica del Verano del Campamento Infantil Católico en la Parroquia San Pedro de Alcántara en Stanley, donde Dickens fue asignado servir durante el verano.

## **Hunter Dickens** **Primer Discipulado, Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad**

Mi primer verano como seminarista incluyó el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional que se llevó a cabo en Indianápolis. Allí, organicé obras de arte sagrado de iglesias de todo el país para apoyar la oración de quienes iban a confesarse. Fue una bendición poder ver a innumerables personas orando ante estas obras de arte, ya sea mientras se preparaban para el sacramento o cumplían su penitencia después.

El éxito del Congreso se debió a su enfoque en la oración y los sacramentos, especialmente la Eucaristía, de donde la oración y la liturgia fluyeron hacia eventos culturales como la procesión eucarística en el centro. Esta experiencia se conectó con mi proyecto de investigación de verano sobre la historia y la cultura de

nuestra diócesis, destacando nuestra oportunidad de ser luz donde el catolicismo es minoría. Exploré cómo podemos abrazar de manera única los valores familiares que han unido y han dado forma a nuestra comunidad durante generaciones, compartidos a través del arte y momentos culturales.

El aspecto más importante de mi verano fue el tiempo que pasé en la diócesis con la gente de las parroquias San Pedro de Alcántara y San Agustín. Me dieron la bienvenida a sus comunidades y me ayudaron a comprender más a fondo nuestros valores fundamentales. A través de su vida cotidiana, vi cómo nuestra cultura prospera gracias al cuidado fraternal de todas las personas dentro de los límites de nuestras parroquias. El trabajo de estas personas en los ranchos me ayudó a descubrir mejor, cómo nuestra fe fuerte debe estar arraigada en una profunda confianza en Dios. ■

# El retiro de Cristo Renueva Su Parroquia recibe a aproximadamente 50 mujeres



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Las participantes del retiro de mujeres de Cristo Renueva su Parroquia de agosto de 2024, que se llevó a cabo en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro.

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Aproximadamente 50 mujeres asistieron al retiro Cristo Renueva Su Parroquia del 2 al 4 de agosto de 2024, que se llevó a cabo en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro. El equipo estaba formado por unas 40 personas que habían participado previamente en el retiro, lo cual se realiza por separado para hombres y mujeres. Las participantes eran principalmente del área de Owensboro. ■

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convivencia. La gente empezó a hacer cola a las 7 de la mañana y en poco tiempo el evento estaba en plena marcha. La feria distribuyó 200 mochilas llenas de útiles escolares y 95 cajas de comida, todas ellas patrocinadas por organizaciones comunitarias locales. Se brindaron servicios médicos a unas 50 personas y más de 100 familias participaron en el evento general. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Las familias exploran la Feria de Salud Hispana de la Alianza Latina del Área de Owensboro del 27 de julio, que se llevó a cabo en el terreno de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo.