

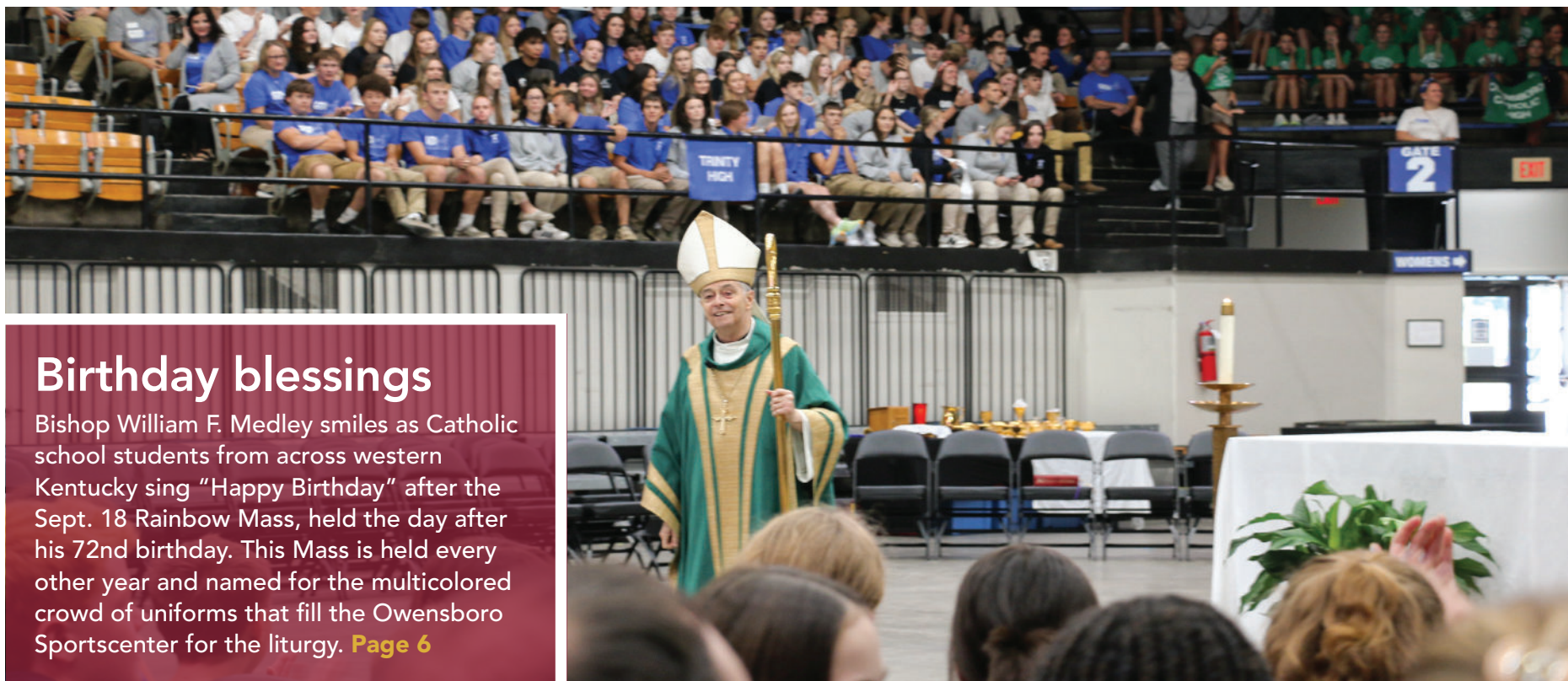
THE WESTERN  
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

October 2024 ● Volume 51 Issue 9 ● A Publication of the Diocese of Owensboro ● [westernkatholic.com](http://westernkatholic.com)



## Birthday blessings

Bishop William F. Medley smiles as Catholic school students from across western Kentucky sing "Happy Birthday" after the Sept. 18 Rainbow Mass, held the day after his 72nd birthday. This Mass is held every other year and named for the multicolored crowd of uniforms that fill the Owensboro Sportscenter for the liturgy. [Page 6](#)



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Seventy-five years

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## 'I am the post-Roe generation'

Approximately 110 people, including many youth, walk down Frederica Street carrying pro-life signs during the Sept. 7, 2024 annual Walk for Life, sponsored by Right to Life of Owensboro. (Read more on page 5.) For prayer, healing and other Respect Life Month resources in this month of October, visit [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).

PHOTO COURTESY OF STACEY DAVIS

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Front page main photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | 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.

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY  Catholic

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro  
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

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**Publisher** Bishop William F. Medley

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**Layout** Rachel Hall

**USPS Publication Number:** 25732

**Publication Title:** THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

**ISSN:** 2996-8445 (Print edition)

**ISSN:** 2996-8453 (Online edition)

**Postage paid at Owensboro, KY 42301**

Published monthly, excluding summer break, 11 times a year.

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

Member of the Catholic Media Association.



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# A Word From Bishop Medley

## Helping Kentucky's children learn and prosper

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We often speak of the obligation of parents to be the first educators of their children. This is especially noteworthy of the religious education and formation of their children. The larger community shares in and assists in this formation. In the Catholic community, this is manifested in the establishment of schools or religious education programs.

It is not just in the area of religious and faith formation, however, that parents are expected to be their children's first and most important educators. I think of the critical involvement of parents in their children's education: from getting to know their teachers and school administrators, to the hours that parents spend with children on homework and school projects.

The education of children is not a "one size fits all" proposition. For example, children with special needs may not always flourish in such an environment, and it is parents who are best suited to chart a way that maximizes their child's potential.

In Kentucky, we have a vast network of publicly-supported schools that serve the majority of students across the commonwealth. Citizens support this endeavor to serve the common good and for the benefit of society.

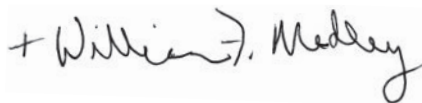
This November, citizens of the commonwealth have an opportunity to support Constitutional Amendment #2 that will expand the opportunity for the state legislature to consider support for parents and

families that may find that their child flourishes better in a private school. Private schools offer a reasonable and just alternative that also serves the common good and benefits society. This assistance may take many forms, and, if passed, it will be up to the legislature to fashion equitable ways to pursue this goal.

Many suggest that any such support will harm public school students. I believe, however, that empowering parents to choose the educational environment and opportunities for their child is a plus for all Kentuckians. In states that have embraced private school choice, it cannot be demonstrated that his has been detrimental to public schools. In fact, statistics may show that public schools prosper where there are also alternative opportunities for families, parents, and students.

There is an oft-used expression, "It takes a village to raise a child." We all have a vested interest that all the children of the commonwealth learn and prosper. I will vote for Constitutional Amendment #2 next month because I want to be contributor to that village that supports all God's children. I invite you to join me and vote Yes on Amendment #2.

Yours in Christ,



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

BISHOP MEDLEY'S OCTOBER 2024 CALENDAR	
Sept. 19- Oct. 9	Pilgrimage to Africa
Oct. 11	6:30 PM   Zo-American Retreat – Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
Oct. 19	11 AM   50th Jubilee Mass – Carmel Home, Owensboro
Oct. 21	10 AM   Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
	1:30 PM   Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
Oct. 22	9:30 AM   School Mass – St. Mary Elementary School, Paducah
Oct. 23	10 AM   Diocesan Staff Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
Oct. 24- 25	Brescia Board Meeting, Owensboro
Oct. 26	9 AM   Respect Life Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
October 29	6:30 PM   Eucharistic Mission Event with Sarah Kroger – Ballard Convention Center, Madisonville

**Bishop Medley is currently on a pilgrimage to Africa in order to visit the families of several of our diocesan priests. Please keep him and the communities he encounters in your prayers and stay tuned for coverage in the November issue of The Western Kentucky Catholic.**

*Editor's note: Statistics and resources pertaining to Amendment #2 may be accessed by scanning this QR code.*





# ‘All children of God’ – Catholic schools gather for Mass with Bishop Medley



RILEY GREIF | WKC

An altar server places the processional crucifix in its stand during Sept. 18 Rainbow Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter. The Mass takes place every other year to honor the Diocese of Owensboro’s 17 Catholic schools.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Speaking to the Catholic school students, faculty, staff, and parents of students gathered at the Owensboro Sportscenter on Sept. 18, Bishop William F. Medley reminded them of the story of Noah and the rainbow.

After the great flood, God sent a rainbow “as a sign that God would always be faithful to us,” said the bishop in his homily at this year’s Rainbow Mass, named as such because of the rainbow of colors formed by the many school uniforms filling the arena.

Rainbow Mass, sponsored by the Diocese of

Owensboro’s Catholic Schools Office, was founded in the 1980s and takes place every other year to celebrate the 17 Catholic schools across western Kentucky.

A noticeable absence this year was St. Mary School System from Paducah, which could not attend due to bus problems. In a spirit of camaraderie, during the opening procession of school banners up the aisle, students from other Catholic schools carried the banners for St. Mary Elementary, St. Mary Middle, and St. Mary High School.

Bishop Medley opened his homily by calling out different groups and encouraging them to



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Owensboro Catholic High School Students carry the banner representing St. Mary High School in Paducah at the beginning of Sept. 18, 2024 Rainbow Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter. The Paducah school system could not attend this year due to bus problems, so other students carried their banners in their honor.

cheer when named, such as parents who themselves attended Rainbow Mass as children, various grade levels, teachers, and religious sisters and priests. When he named each of the Paducah schools, he invited the entire sports complex to cheer loudly in their honor – which they did.

The bishop told the faithful that, despite perceived differences, “I want you to know that you’re a child of God,” and that it’s important to focus on “what we have in common.”

“We are all one; we are all children of God, and we all take care of one another,” he said.

*Continues on page 5*



## FEATURES

### Rainbow Mass continued from page 4

David Kessler, superintendent for the Catholic schools, told The Western Kentucky Catholic that even though Catholic school presence may be “small in stature in many places across the diocese, the sum of our parts is large.”

“(Rainbow Mass) is an opportunity to show we are a united diocese, a united Church, to be all in the same place and celebrate together,” he said. ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

A student of St. Mary of the Woods School in Whitesville plays the fiddle during Sept. 18 Rainbow Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter. Students from various Catholic schools helped lead the music for the liturgy that day.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Students from St. Paul School in Grayson County do hand motions during a song at this year's Rainbow Mass, which was held Sept. 18 at the Owensboro Sportscenter.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Students greet Bishop William F. Medley with a hug after Rainbow Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter, which took place this year on Sept. 18.

## Annual Walk for Life sees more than 100 participants

BY WKC STAFF

On Sept. 7, 2024, Right to Life of Owensboro held its annual Walk for Life down Frederica Street in Owensboro. Stacey Davis, the organization's executive director, said they saw approximately 110 attendees, who carried pro-life signs in support of the right to life from conception until natural death.

The mission statement of Right to Life of Owensboro is “to educate the public on the dignity of each human life, regardless of his or her circumstances, and to foster respect for human life from conception to natural death.” It was founded in 1973 by Virginia Corley and is a non-profit, non-denominational, and non-political organization. To learn more, visit <https://rtlo.org>. ■



COURTESY OF STACEY DAVIS

“More than a cause; this is life or death” reads a banner carried during the Sept. 7, 2024 annual Walk for Life, sponsored by Right to Life of Owensboro.



COURTESY OF STACEY DAVIS

Owensboro Catholic High School students carry an Owensboro Right to Life banner during the Sept. 7, 2024 annual Walk for Life down Frederica Street.

# ‘Very loyal’ cousins lifted voices in song together for decades at St. Alphonsus

BY ANDY TELLI, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Daisy Gibson and Joyce Thompson were born with a song in their hearts. And for more than 70 years they shared those songs and their love of music with the parishioners of St. Alphonsus Parish in Daviess County by signing in the choir.

“I love to sing,” said Gibson. “You get more out of Mass (singing) than you do just sitting. Graces I’m talking about. And God knows I need them,” she added with a chuckle.

Both Gibson, 88, and Thompson, 85, had to step down from the St. Alphonsus choir earlier this year because of health concerns, ending decades of musical service to their parish.

They both started singing at St. Alphonsus when they were children attending the parish school there.

“I’ve been singing ever since I was in the fifth grade,” said Gibson. “I remember that. They started us out in the fifth grade if you wanted to sing.”

“As soon as I was old enough, I started,” added Thompson. “When I joined the choir, I was a student over here at the school... I don’t know what grade I was in, but I was 13.”

Gibson and Thompson are first cousins. “Our daddies were brothers,” and their last name was Dant, Thompson said.

“We all grew up in” the parish, Thompson said. Their families each had farms in the Elba community of Daviess County not far from Maple Mount where both attended high school at Mount

Saint Joseph Academy, across the road from St. Alphonsus.

In Elba, “there used to be two grocery stores,” Thompson said. “We caught the school bus at the grocery store. It was very small.”

“We grew up about a half mile away, if we went the long way,” Thompson reminded Gibson one recent Saturday evening as they sat in the pews at St. Alphonsus after Mass.

Music was part of life growing up for both Gibson and Thompson. “There was always somebody who would play a bass and a fiddle and a guitar,” Thompson said.

When she got older, Thompson and her brother, who would play the guitar, would sing for the family. “We could visit family and they’d say, ‘Now well you’re going to sing. Sing this, sing that, sing something else.’”

Gibson’s family also was musical. “My mother could sing and my sisters could sing,” she said. Together they would sit in the porch swing at home and sing. “We would swing and sing.”

After they started their own families, both Gibson and Thompson kept singing at St. Alphonsus. Gibson “was a really good alto, and Joyce is a soprano,” said Kay Beth Riney, the music director at St. Alphonsus and its sister parish St. Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville.

It will be hard to replace Gibson and Thompson in the choir, Riney said. “They’ve been very faithful about coming to rehearsals and showing up on the weekends and practicing and getting things down



COURTESY OF KAY BETH RINEY  
During St. Alphonsus Parish’s 150th anniversary



ANDY TELLI | WKC

In this recent photo, Joyce Thompson, left, and Daisy Gibson started singing at St. Alphonsus Parish more than 70 years ago. The first cousins were stalwarts of the parish choir for decades.

right,” she said. “They’ve just been very loyal. I don’t know that I’m going to have anybody like them that’s lasted as long.” ■

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



## Already changing lives: St. Gianna's opens for women in crisis pregnancies



COURTESY OF MIKE NOLAND

A tour is given of St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home in Bowling Green on Aug. 24. (Left to right) Bishop William F. Medley; Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling, associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish; house mother Amanda Ashley; Fr. Randy Howard, pastor of Holy Spirit; and house director Missy Monroe.



COURTESY OF MIKE NOLAND

Friends and supporters of St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home in Bowling Green are seen with Bishop William F. Medley on Aug. 24, 2024 during a visit to the home after it opened. It is located on the property of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green.



COURTESY OF MIKE NOLAND

During his Aug. 24 visit to St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home in Bowling Green, Bishop William F. Medley offers a prayer of blessing over the home. The home will assist pregnant women in crisis who have chosen life for their unborn child.

BY SYLANN SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Aug. 24, 2024, Bishop William F. Medley visited the newly-opened St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home in Bowling Green, a faith-based program whose mission is to help the pregnant woman in crisis who has chosen life for her unborn child by striving to provide support, spiritual guidance, a safe and nurturing environment, and life skills to achieve independence. Women can come at any time during their pregnancy and stay for up to eight months after the birth of their baby.

Missy Monroe, one of the house directors, gave the bishop a tour of the inside and outside of the house, which can accommodate six women, their babies, and a housemother. As they walked, she spoke to him about the progression of the home and how the program is anticipated to operate.

Once a rental property on the serene grounds of Holy Spirit Parish, the house was renovated by local parishioners who donated the cost to repair the home

and assisted in constructing a much-needed dining room/classroom addition. The beautiful addition was funded by St. Teresa Ministries, United Way, and anonymous donors. This will be where participants in the program will attend life skill classes and sit down to evening meals around a family-style table, participating in devotions and talking about their day.

During the construction of the addition, the house was damaged and a storage building was destroyed by a tornado that hit in December 2023. Monroe said she believed the event was actually a blessing in disguise. Insurance reimbursement for the losses allowed for expansion of the upstairs bedrooms and the construction of a garage. The Good Samaritan Ministry assisted in building a garage as well as a spacious wraparound deck for the moms to relax on and enjoy the outdoors. Charlie Gries, a Holy Spirit parishioner, also provided materials and labor for an inviting portico erected over the front stoop, which will protect the women, visitors, and volunteers from the elements.

The garage provides storage space for extra

supplies and yard maintenance equipment and tools. Eventually, it will house a boutique. The women in the program will be able to “purchase” donated items such as highchairs, clothing, and baby beds with points they earn. These items will go with them when they transition out of the program to a home of their own.

After the conclusion of the tour, Bishop Medley said a prayer of blessing over the home and said, “This will change lives.”

Monroe replied, “It already has, in the lives of all who have been involved in this ministry in any capacity.”

Note: St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home welcomed its first program participant on Sept. 5, 2024. Please keep this young mother, her preborn baby, and all who directly and indirectly support her in your prayers. ■

For more information on St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home, visit our website [www.stgiannacph.org](http://www.stgiannacph.org) or follow us on Facebook @stgiannacph. To reach one of our house directors, Kathy Byrne or Missy Monroe, call (270) 702-4984, or send an email to [info@stgiannacph.org](mailto:info@stgiannacph.org).

# 'His timing is perfect' – How serving at Gasper River helped me discern a call to religious life

BY AMBER PAYNE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

*Editor's note: Amber Payne, a young woman whose home parish is Immaculate in Owensboro and graduated from Owensboro Catholic High School and Brescia University, recently entered the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco. She wrote this reflection for The Western Kentucky Catholic before leaving for the convent. Please keep Amber and all those discerning religious life in your prayers.*

When I first felt the tug on my heart to apply as a staff member at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp, I never could have pictured all the blessings that the Lord was about to bestow on me.

After three summer camps and three Christmas camps, I am able to reflect on the beautiful journey that the Lord has led me on and how he was preparing my heart to say yes to this next step of my adventure with Him. I am beginning formation as an aspirant with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, also known as the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, in New Jersey on August 31. The Holy Spirit has moved in a multitude of ways at Gasper River, including in my discernment of religious life.

From the beginning, the Lord was asking me to trust in Him. It was in 2021 when regulations from the pandemic were gradually beginning to fade, that the nudge to apply as staff at camp was too strong to keep pushing away. I already had a plan to continue working at my current job throughout all of college, yet the Lord knows us better than we know ourselves and His plans are always better than our own. The idea of Gasper kept coming to

my mind and through encouragement from a high school friend, I applied and I am forever grateful for that tug. (I remembered the moment of applying to Gasper when I took the step later to contact the Salesian Sisters.) I, yet again, had plans for my life but the tug to discern religious life was constant. He already had shown me the beauty and grace of following His will through saying yes to camp and I was reminded that I need to continue to surrender and trust in Him to see the great plans He has in store.

I was nervous at first when I arrived at Gasper River, but I was welcomed immediately. Gasper is like a home and family. I could be my most authentic self as God created me to be at camp and

I was seen, loved, known, and shown that I belong. I gained many virtuous and beautiful friends through camp who have led me closer to Christ by holding me accountable in the faith, by sharing our hearts in vulnerability, and by praying for and with one another. The directors and staff at camp are true witnesses of the faith, they have supported me throughout my journey, and they have allowed me to share my dreams. They have held my heart and assisted in guiding me to grow in holiness with each step I take. One of my Gasper friends introduced me to the Salesian Sisters by inviting me to join the Fiat Project, which is a discernment program that I attended virtually with the sisters as they accompany you to discern God's call for your life,



COURTESY OF CALEB JONES, GASPER RIVER  
Amber Payne climbs the Jacob's Ladder with camper Amelia Fagella during 2024 summer camp at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green.



COURTESY OF CALEB JONES, GASPER RIVER  
Amber Payne smiles while participating in an outdoor activity during 2024 summer camp at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green.

*Continues on page 9*



## FEATURES

### *Gasper vocation continued from page 8*

whichever vocation that may be. I am very grateful that she extended that invitation because it opened the door for me to meet the Salesian Sisters, witness their joy, and learn about their mission. The friends I have been blessed with at Gasper have been an instrument of God's love in my life.

One misconception I had before arriving at Gasper was that I was alone in having the thought of religious life. I was shown how far this was from the truth when I met multiple other staff members who shared that they too were discerning priesthood and religious life. They were so joyful about it, and this changed my perspective and was a beginning moment of my heart opening up to God's call. I have witnessed and journeyed with multiple friends who took the step of starting formation with religious orders or entering seminary, and their courage inspired me.

It is such a beautiful gift to see the fruit of camp through the many vocations of previous staff and campers. There are married couples who met at camp and place Christ at the center of their family; single people living out their call to serve the Lord in a variety of ways; and priests and religious sisters who are joyfully living out their vocation and serving the Church. The witness of their "yes" to the vocation that God called each of them to, encouraged my "yes" to this next step. All those who started camp and who continue to serve at camp show me the beauty of how your "yes" to His call will impact the lives of so many others, just as their "yes" did for me. They showed me the joy of following the Lord's plans for where you are called to love and serve.

Through camp, the Lord was preparing my heart to learn how to fully give and how to fully receive. I already had a passion of working with youth, but camp magnified that passion and I realized that

one of my deepest desires was to help youth encounter Christ. I wish I could express the beauty of witnessing a camper encounter Christ throughout the week and the transformation you witness. At the beginning of the week, you may see campers who do not know anyone and then by the end of the week, they leave with lifelong friends and the most joy-filled smile. Campers may be asked to lead their small group in prayer and no one volunteers, but by Friday they are saying prayers

from the heart with and for one another. You get the opportunity to hear about their encounter with the Lord through the week, such as after Adoration and during bible studies. You watch them grow in courage through different adventure activities and then you have a discussion about how it relates to the Catholic faith and their relationship with Jesus. Strong bonds are formed with the campers and you get to know who they are as children of God. As a staff member, I got to walk with campers on their journey to the Lord and I hope every camper knows the impact that they have on the staff, including me. Their love and faith is transformative to the hearts of staff and they help us desire to grow even closer to the Lord as we witness their joy, kindness, openness, and devotion. One thing I had to learn through my discernment was that the Lord wants to fulfill all of the desires of your heart. Even if it may not look as you planned, He will fulfill them in ways better than you can imagine.

When I discovered the mission of the Salesian Sisters, I truly felt so much joy and peace as I felt



COURTESY OF AMBER PAYNE

Amber Payne with her fellow aspirants with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, also known as the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco. (Left to right) Michelle, Erin, Amber, Kathy, Rachel, and María José.

that my heart was made for this call. The Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco live out the mission of educating and evangelizing to the youth, especially the poor and most at risk. They are teachers, youth ministers, and they even have summer camps! They are always around the youth to tell them about Jesus.

Jesus is the source of every moment at camp. We celebrate Mass daily, have daily bible studies, weekly Adoration and confession, and open and close every activity with prayer. Staff would also pray morning and night prayer and we each had thirty minutes of scheduled chapel time with the Lord. You can visit the Blessed Sacrament frequently as Jesus was right where we lived. This schedule of prayer showed me the significance of community prayer, spending time with Jesus in silence, and giving all that you do during the day to the Lord. Through the times of silence with Jesus in the chapel, I could hear his voice more clearly, my love for Him grew as I gave Him my heart, and I could recognize that He was pursuing my heart. I heard the Lord telling me to walk with Him each step and to trust, which was

*Continues on page 10*

***Gasper vocation continued from page 9***

a needed reminder throughout my discernment. I had a great amount of anxiety when it came to discernment because I felt that I needed to figure and plan it out by my timing. I had to realize that His timing is perfect and that our vocation is a gift that God reveals to us and an adventure with each step we take.

I would not have been ready if the Lord had revealed to me to apply to the Salesian Sisters in my first summer at camp, but after three summers I could recognize all of the fun memories and moments of grace that were leading me to this step. I grew abundantly during my time at camp and had multiple people tell me about the transformation that they witnessed through me after working there. I grew in joy, peace, confidence, courage, faith, friendship, trust, love, and service. My prayer increased and I had a stronger desire to receive the sacraments because I knew that the change that occurred came from the Lord.

I was taught in my very first week through our Eucharistic Life Camp (formation for the staff) that we pour ourselves out to our campers, and Jesus fills us back up in the Eucharist. I reminded myself this constantly as I tried to share the love of Christ to each camper. I will continue to remind myself of this and I will take all of my growth, memories, and lessons that I learned from camp as I start this next adventure to serve the youth as an aspirant with the Salesian Sisters. I cannot express my gratitude for the love the Lord has shown me through Gasper River and the impact that camp has made on my life, especially in the discernment of taking this next step towards God's call. ■

*To learn more about the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, visit [salesiansisters.org](http://salesiansisters.org).*

## Immaculate celebrates renovation, dedication of church



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

The new baptismal font and interior of Immaculate Parish in Owensboro is seen during the Sept. 15 dedication and blessing of the renovated church. The renovations took about a year to complete.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

As pastor Fr. John Vaughan looks on, Bishop William F. Medley pours the sacred chrism on the new altar at Immaculate Parish in Owensboro, during the Sept. 15 dedication and blessing of the renovated church.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Sept. 15, Bishop William F. Medley presided at the dedication of the altar and blessing of the renovated church for Immaculate Parish in Owensboro. The renovations began about a year ago, following several years of planning and discussion with construction and liturgical consultants and the parish community.

The renovations included new statues of St. Joseph, Our Lady, and St. John the Baptist, a new baptismal font at the entrance of the church, new ceiling and lighting, improved sound system, updated HVAC system, and refinished pews. A significant part of the project involved bringing the sanctuary out further, installing a new altar, and adding a ramp for accessibility.

The project also included adding a narthex, or gathering space, at the entrance of the church for improved fellowship and community-building, and an overhang outside the church to provide coverage in rainy weather.

With the renovations completed, Immaculate's next step is the new Paving the Way project, in which parishioners can purchase a brick for the pathway in the updated Mary garden beside the parish family center. To learn more, call the parish office at (270) 683-0689. ■



## ‘Baptism: A Call to Share Your Gifts’ the theme of this year’s ministry and leadership conference

BY WKC STAFF

On Aug. 24, the Diocese of Owensboro’s Parish Ministry and Leadership Conference, which takes place every other year and is coordinated by the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, was held at The Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville. The bilingual event featured Mass, talks, vendors, free childcare, workshops, and a youth track, as well as plenty of opportunities for parish leaders to meet and mingle. This year’s theme was “Baptism: A Call to Share Your Gifts.”

The keynote presenters were Fr. Wayne Cavalier, OP; Sr. Ruth Bolarte, IHM; and Dr. Jason Winkle. Workshop themes included the Eucharist and discipleship, how to sanctify the workplace, the role of the catechist, stewardship and planned giving, effective pastoral council strategies, and small group discipleship. ■

To learn more about opportunities like these, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/evangelization/>



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Dr. Jeff Andrini, director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, speaks to the crowd attending this year’s Parish Ministry and Leadership Conference at The Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville, which was held Aug. 24.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Jason Winkle speaks at the Aug. 24 Parish Ministry and Leadership Conference at The Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley presides at Mass during the Aug. 24 Parish Ministry and Leadership Conference, which takes place every other year and is coordinated by the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. The event was held at The Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Fr. Julian Ibemere, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Oak Grove, poses in front of The Bruce Convention Center for a picture with parishioners Cal Deleul, Deacon Tom Torson, Emma Hockaday, and Elaine Tontoh. Not pictured is parishioner David Tilly.

thank  
you!

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are very grateful for everyone who supported their mission and ministries by purchasing raffle

tickets and/or playing Quilt Bingo on Sept. 8. Congratulations to our raffle winners! See them here: [ursulinesmsj.org/raffle-for-the-ursuline-sisters/](https://ursulinesmsj.org/raffle-for-the-ursuline-sisters/)

To view Quilt Bingo photos, including several of the 40+ quilt winners, visit [ursulinesmsj.org/record-crowd-enjoys-quilt-bingo](https://ursulinesmsj.org/record-crowd-enjoys-quilt-bingo)



# A parent's witness

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Who influenced you the most in making your Catholic faith your own? For most, it is our parents. There is nothing more important in the lives of our children than to share our love for Jesus with them and for them to witness our discipleship throughout our lives. And the most recent study on American teens makes this clear.

“Of parents who report that their faith is extremely important in their daily lives, 67% of their teens report that faith is extremely or very important in their daily lives; only 8% of those parents’ teens report that faith is not very or not important in their lives. We’ll get what we are as parents. By normal processes of socialization, and unless other significant forces intervene, more than what parents might say they want as religious outcomes of their children, most parents most likely will end up getting religiously of their children what they themselves are.” (Soul Searching by Smith and Denton, 57)

Have you heard the famous saying by business leader Peter Drucker that “culture eats strategy for breakfast”? Here is my take: Our contemporary Catholic culture has not done a very good job of helping young people belong in the Church and our teaching as parents has mostly been to offer a little strategy to our kids, without a true culture of discipleship. According to St. John Paul II, “Our homes are to be schools of love.” However, due to our own limited view of God, many Catholics just

do what they have been taught or witnessed by their parents. We attend Church on Sunday, get the kids to religious ed, and put a bit in the collection basket. But there is so much more!

God wants a daily living relationship with each one of us. To love our families well, we need to allow God’s love to be the source of our lives. Yes, in the Eucharist and daily through our prayer life and conversations with the Lord. When we are transformed, our families and children will be.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops put it this way, “Adult faith formation, by which people consciously grow in the life of Christ through experience, reflection, prayer and study, must our central task...” (Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us, paragraph 5). While educating our children is important, it is important to create parishes where adults are thriving in their relationship with God – and there is a vibrant community of disciples of Jesus. These realities will create a Catholic culture that is attractive, meaningful and fruitful.

Finally, parents: your witness matters, your words matter, your own relationship with our loving Creator matters! But, once your kids leave home, whether we have done a great job or not, we must turn to prayer and surrender our kids to God’s loving care. Our witness still matters, our joy, our love, but our words... not so much! You did your best; leave them in God’s hands!

Peace,  
Jeff ■

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



RILEY GREIF | WKC

A woman pushes a stroller while participating in the July 1, 2024 Eucharistic procession in Auburn, Ky., during the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage’s visit to the Diocese of Owensboro

**ACTS 2:42 GROUPS**

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**Coming Fall  
2024**





Office of Evangelization & Discipleship  
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO



## Brescia University community asks Holy Spirit to bless new academic year at opening Mass



COURTESY OF BRESCIA UNIVERSITY

Fr. Mike Williams, chaplain for Brescia University in Owensboro, concelebrates the school's annual Mass of the Holy Spirit on Sept. 3, 2024.

BY BRESCIA UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF  
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

Brescia University in Owensboro held its annual Mass of the Holy Spirit on Sept. 3, 2024, with Bishop William F. Medley presiding. This Mass is celebrated each year asking the Holy Spirit to bless the new academic year and to gift the Brescia community with intellectual gifts of wisdom and understanding, effective administration gifts of counsel and strength and personal holiness in knowledge and reverence of the Lord. As a community, we commit to living a life of Caritas: to reflect upon God's love for us, the meaning of God's love for us, and how we give witness to God's love for all. At this Mass, the unity symbol for the class of 2028, created during the Fall Convocation, was sealed. Layers of sand poured into a clear glass vase represented eight states and 11 countries, all uniting as one on BU's campus. ■



COURTESY OF BRESCIA UNIVERSITY

Bishop William F. Medley presides at Brescia University's Mass of the Holy Spirit on Sept. 3, 2024. The opening Mass is held at the opening of each school year.

**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



**Join us for a community  
FOOD PACKING event  
Saturday, Oct. 26  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Brescia University Moore Center  
717 Frederica St., Owensboro, Ky.**

*To help mark 150 years since the Ursuline Sisters arrived at Maple Mount, we hope to have 150 volunteers (ages 13 and up) pack 50,000 meals for families in need.*

**Can you help?** Email Sister Martha Keller: [martha.keller@maplemount.org](mailto:martha.keller@maplemount.org) or Dan Heckel: [dan.heckel@maplemount.org](mailto:dan.heckel@maplemount.org). Or sign up here: [crosscatholic.org/food-packing-events/volunteer](http://crosscatholic.org/food-packing-events/volunteer)  
**Can't help but wish to support the event?** Visit [crosscatholic.org/food-packing-events/donate](http://crosscatholic.org/food-packing-events/donate)  
**Thank you!**



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

# Faithful citizenship: Catholics and elections

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

In democratic societies, Catholics are called to engage in the political process as individuals guided by a comprehensive understanding of social justice rooted in their faith. The Catholic Church's teachings emphasize the dignity of the human person, the common good, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. These principles form the foundation for how Catholics should approach their role as voters, where they must weigh multiple issues and consider their broader implications on society.

## Role of prayer in discernment

A vital part of this discernment process is prayer. Catholics are encouraged to begin their political engagement with prayer, seeking guidance from God to make decisions that reflect His will. Through prayer, they are invited to quiet their minds and open their hearts, asking for the wisdom to understand complex issues and the courage to act in accordance with their faith. This spiritual practice helps Catholics align their decisions with the Gospel's call to justice, peace, and love for all people.

## The social justice platform as a guide

Social justice in Catholic teaching is not merely a slogan but a call to action. It urges Catholics to promote policies that protect human life, ensure fair distribution of resources, and foster peace and reconciliation. When deciding how to vote, Catholics are encouraged to evaluate candidates and policies through the lens of social justice. This means considering not only prominent issues like abortion

or religious freedom but also the impact of policies on the poor, the marginalized, and the environment.

## Catholic social teaching and thoughtful discernment

Catholic social teaching does not advocate for blind allegiance to any political party or ideology. Instead, it calls for a thoughtful discernment process, guided by prayer, that seeks to align one's vote with the principles of human dignity, solidarity, and the common good. This requires considering a wide range of issues, such as economic justice, healthcare, immigration, education, and environmental stewardship.

These issues are interconnected and must be viewed in the context of their effects on the least among us.

## Living with the decisions

After voting, Catholics are called to accept the outcomes, whether or not they align with their hopes. This acceptance is rooted in understanding the political process's complexity and that no single election or candidate can fully embody the Church's teachings. Catholics are encouraged to remain engaged beyond the election, advocating for policies that promote social justice and working within their communities to address the needs of the vulnerable.

## Being gracious with differing opinions

In democratic societies, differences of opinion are inevitable, and Catholics are called to approach these differences with grace and humility. The Church teaches that all people are created in the image of God, including those with whom we



CNS PHOTO/JONATHAN ERNST, REUTERS  
People at the Smyrna Community Center in Smyrna, Ga., visit an early voting location Nov. 3, 2022, during midterm elections.

disagree politically. Catholics are encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue, seeking to understand others' perspectives and finding common ground where possible.

In the final analysis, Catholics are called to approach elections with a holistic understanding of social justice. By using the Church's teachings as a guide, beginning with prayerful discernment, and engaging graciously with differing opinions, Catholics can contribute to building a more just and compassionate society, reflecting the true spirit of the Gospel. ■

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



## What led me to seminary?



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Wes Wheatley speaks with Sr. Nancy Liddy, OSU, while they attend a portion of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passing through Franklin, Ky., in July 2024. Wheatley attended Brescia University in Owensboro, which is run by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, and is an Ursuline Associate.

BY WES WHEATLEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

God and His people. The specifics change with each retelling of the story. I try to tell

the story through the lens of the present, but I only see what I see now standing upon the shoulders of the past. There's too much to

mention. I didn't know what to do, but even before

He formed me in the secret of my mother's womb, God knew His plans for me. St. John

Henry Newman famously prayed, "God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has

committed some work to me which he has not committed to another... He has not created me for naught."

Certainly a seed was planted in me at some point - and which survived - to consider the priesthood,

and within the life of this seed, I wound up a lay student in the graduate theology

program at Saint Meinrad. I often walked by a longer version displayed of that prayer from Cardinal

Newman, and prayed it every time I passed by. Discernment is a walk, a journey, a process like that of a plant's growth. It's action. It's prayer and listening, but it's doing and being, too. Shifts and movements, often because of God's goodness or inspired by His people, led me to seminary.

His grace led me to go to Brescia University. His grace led me to work for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. From there, I was inspired to go to Saint Meinrad as a lay student, and see the goodness

there. The people I met at each of these places led me along the path to seminary in some way or another. Many times they were the word that was a lamp to my feet, that is to say, they were the presence of Christ in my life. ■

*Wes Wheatley is in his propaedeutic year at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. His home parish is St. Rose of Lima in Cloverport, Ky.*

## Just as a child learns to walk



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Tommy Rhodes presents Confirmation candidates to Bishop William F. Medley during the February 2024 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

BY TOMMY RHODES, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Just as a child learns to walk with the guidance and support of its family, so did my journey of discernment begin.

The one faith that we share is not my own to claim, but a gift from God that was given through the Church and transmitted to me first by my family. Without my family's guidance and support, I would not be able to begin the journey of discernment. My

*Continues on page 16*

## Seminarians continued from page 15

faith and love for God and His Church grew as a camper at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center where I experienced a communal experience of faith with my peers centered on the sacraments and an authentic Catholic lifestyle. This experience was influential in my growth as a Catholic youth and helped form me as I began discerning God's will for my life. This discernment continued as I began working on summer staff at Gasper where

we, in imitation of Christ, sought "not to be served but to serve" (Mark 10:45). It was in this goal of service that I experienced the joy of ministry, which began to shape how I lived out my Catholic faith.

My faith continued to grow at Western Kentucky University where I was blessed to be a part of the Catholic campus ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas. This community provided an environment and relationships that fostered a life centered on

Christ and the Catholic faith, which is crucial to discernment. The joy I found in both youth and college ministry in tandem with prayer and discernment led me to begin considering that God may be calling me to apply for seminary where I could further discern my vocation. ■

*Tommy Rhodes is in his propaedeutic year at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. His home parish is St. Lawrence in Philpot, Ky.*

## God opens doors



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Kevin Foster (center) leads a boys' small group while serving as a staff counselor at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in July 2023.

BY KEVIN FOSTER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The idea of discerning the priesthood first began in 2023 while working on summer staff at Gasper

River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. During the weeks that I was not a staff counselor, I often found myself in the chapel at night, attempting at least, to pray, although the typical experience usually consisted of about 15% prayer and 85% letting my thoughts go out in 50 different directions. One night, while reading a passage from Matthew's Gospel, the thought of becoming a priest came to me suddenly, kind of catching me quite off guard. It was something I had never seriously contemplated before. Immediately, I thought, "No way!" and left it at that. I remember, though, it was from that moment on that the thought continued to remain subtly in my mind.

Soon enough, I began watching countless videos on YouTube and reading many books and articles about discernment, about the life of the priest, and about what the priesthood really is.

Finally, I brought up the topic of discernment in spiritual direction and a seemingly short time later I began the application process. I heard somewhere, probably on one of those five thousand videos I listened to, that if God doesn't want you to walk through a door, He will close it. Facing a lot of ambivalence about the process, I kept that saying in my mind, and began walking through the doors: which were the diocesan applications, the psychological

evaluation, and the seminary application. All three doors were opened, and after a lot of wrestling in prayer and making the decision to commit, I felt a sense of peace. Special thanks to Fr. Brian Roby and Fr. Mike Williams for all of their help along the way. ■

*Kevin Foster is in his propaedeutic year at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. His home parish is St. Mary of the Woods in Whitesville, Ky.*

### Interested in the priesthood? Join the Office of Vocations for a Come and See visit!

Oct. 17-20, 2024 | Come and See for college students at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana

Nov. 7-10, 2024 | Come and See for college graduates at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Indiana

Come and See visits are free but participants must RSVP with the Office of Vocations at least one week in advance. To RSVP or learn more, contact Fr. Daniel Dillard, vocations director, at [vocations@pastoral.org](mailto:vocations@pastoral.org) or (270) 421-7868.



## SVdP servant leader leaves her mark

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Nancy G. Harris's term as president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) – Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky has come to an end, but during those six years, her leadership, compassion, and her love for God's people has shown through. She has turned obstacles into opportunities, making lifelong friends along the way. Nancy possesses the unique ability to bring people together to discuss, brainstorm and process opportunities.

Diocesan Council first vice president Harry Bellew had this to say about Nancy: "I had never met Nancy until getting involved with the SVdP council. We became fast friends and instantly began to respect each other's talents and commitment to SVdP. She is, without question, a natural leader and has done so, so much for the Council. She will be deeply missed by all."

Nancy's tenure as Diocesan Council president is significant in that she is the first female president since the council's inception in 1961. Through her keen leadership, no SVdP employees were laid off during the pandemic. She was instrumental in procuring approved Payroll Protection Plan Loans for SVdP employees. She helped to restructure the board with a renewed focus and was the first council president to add a second vice president to the board.

Under her leadership she supported the acquisition of more than \$3.5 million in grants including the largest grant ever received by SVdP Western Kentucky of \$1.7 million for tornado disaster relief. She is one of only three Vincentians in western Kentucky to graduate from "Invitation for Renewal," the SVdP national leadership program. She was hand-selected by the national council

to serve as a peer mentor for new diocesan council presidents. She is an active member of the Kentucky Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). Nancy is the first diocesan council president to host an SVdP regional meeting in Owensboro, which brought hundreds of Vincentians from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky.

CEO of SVdP Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Richard Remp-Morris, says, "I am forever grateful to Nancy for her support in my role, but more importantly for bringing authenticity, integrity, compassion, empowerment, continuous improvement, and always putting others first. She definitely left the Society better than she found it."

We know she will continue to use her talents to support SVdP National Council, Mideast Region, the



COURTESY OF BELINDA ABELL  
Bishop William F. Medley congratulates SVdP Diocesan Council president, Nancy G. Harris, and SVdP CEO, Richard Remp-Morris, on the 2023 Council of the Year award from SVdP Disaster Services.

Diocesan Council, local Parish Conferences/Districts and those Neighbors in Need that Vincentians serve. ■

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

### World Mission Sunday 2024 October 20th

**GO AND INVITE EVERYONE to the banquet**  
(MT 22:9)

TEXT "MISSIONS24" TO 44384

SHARE THE FEAST:  
*Give now*

YOUR GIFT HELPS SUPPORT:

- 38,140**  
Seminarians
- 8,750**  
Shelters and Orphanages
- 12,000**  
Health Centers
- 844,000**  
Catechists
- 258,540**  
Religious sisters

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
a Pontifical Mission Society

[WWW.ONEFAMILYINMISSION.ORG/WMS](http://WWW.ONEFAMILYINMISSION.ORG/WMS)



# Seventy-five years of mission celebrated at Blessed Sacrament

BY SR. JEANNETTE FENNEWALD, SSND

Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro celebrated the 75th anniversary of the dedication of our chapel on Aug. 25, 2024. Bishop William F. Medley and a number of priests who ministered at the parish concelebrated Mass. Michael Bogdan planned the liturgy, and prepared and led the musicians, enhancing the liturgy that seemed perfect for the celebration. A dinner in Blessed Sacrament Chapel hall followed the Mass. Some of the original members of the parish were recognized.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel had recently renovated the church. The first phase was the enlargement of the sanctuary, updating the lighting, heating/AC, and general appearance of the space. Then, as funds became available, new windows honoring

people were installed, the chapel was painted, and new tile flooring was installed. The pews which did not fit the small space were donated to Murray State University's Newman Center, and chairs were purchased. Stations of the Cross that once hung at St. Stephen Cathedral now grace our walls as a prayer focus. Many meetings were held to plan the worship space, and we feel as if it fits who we are. Parishioners, friends, and the diocese contributed funds and much support throughout this endeavor. We are grateful to all for the support that we have received over the past couple years. God has blessed us in many ways these past 75 years, and we know will continue to guide us in the years ahead. ■

*Sr. Jeannette Fennewald, SSND, is the pastoral associate of Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro.*



COURTESY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL  
Newly-renovated Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro is seen on Aug. 25 during the parish's 75th anniversary celebration.



COURTESY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL  
Several priests concelebrate with Bishop William F. Medley during Blessed Sacrament Chapel's 75th anniversary celebration on Aug. 25.



COURTESY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL  
Musicians and choir lead the music during Blessed Sacrament Chapel's 75th anniversary celebration on Aug. 25.



# Eleventh annual pro-life fundraiser on Oct. 12 in Dawson Springs

BY PICKIN' LIFE ORGANIZERS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear”, a one-day music festival and fundraiser for life-affirming pregnancy care centers, will be held for the 11th time on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 11:45 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Lake Beshear, four miles outside of Dawson Springs. The Pickin’ Life Project, a charitable organization founded by Resurrection Church parishioners Jeff and Laura Smith, hosts the event with the help of nine Knights of Columbus councils from the Owensboro diocese.

During its 10 years, “Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear” has raised more than \$200,000 for four life-affirming pregnancy care centers in western Kentucky. Alpha PCC (Hopkinsville), Door of Hope (Madisonville) and H.O.P.E. Clinic (Benton and Eddyville) have been the beneficiaries. In 2023, the music fest raised \$42,156. In addition, Knights of Columbus involvement netted an additional \$8,000 for the pregnancy centers through its national Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program. The pregnancy centers are faith-based and depend on private donations to remain open. They receive no government funding because the centers will never refer clients for abortion.

The Smiths are pleased to announce the addition of Pathway of Hope in Greenville as a beneficiary in 2024. “Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear” is held, rain or shine, at 307 Island Cove Lane in Dawson Springs. The grounds open at 11 a.m. Attendees



COURTESY OF PICKIN' LIFE PROJECT  
The South Union Bluegrass Band from Bowling Green, Ky., plays at Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear on Oct. 7, 2023.

should bring lawn chairs and are welcome to bring coolers. Volunteers will help people park, get to the venue and back to their cars. Bluegrass, country, gospel, rock and blues music begins at 11:45 a.m. Hot food and cold drinks are available for purchase all day. There will be a raffle with 15 winners and a \$700 grand prize.

A benefactor will match total donations up to \$15,000 – so every donation or purchase will be doubled. More information about the event and ways to donate can be found on [www.bluegrassonbeshear.com](http://www.bluegrassonbeshear.com), [facebook.com/bluegrassonbeshear](https://facebook.com/bluegrassonbeshear) or (C) 270-399-5018. All donations go to the pregnancy care centers and are tax deductible. Please help the Pickin’ Life Project in its mission, “Saving babies’ lives and families’ hearts.” ■



COURTESY OF PICKIN' LIFE PROJECT  
A sunbeam or something else? A ray of light seems to emanate from a life-affirming poster at the start of Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear on Oct. 7, 2023



**PRESENTS:**  
11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



**BLUEGRASS ON (LAKE) BESHEAR**  
**Sat, October 12, 2024 11:45 AM to 5 PM**  
**At: 307 Island Cove Ln Dawson Springs**  
**FREE ADMISSION.....FEATURING:**

11:45	Bright Life Farms Choir (Inspirational)
Noon	South Union Band (Bluegrass)
1 PM	Lighthouse Vocal Band (Country/Gospel)
2 PM	Chris Rogers & the Kentucky Troubadours (Country)
3 PM	Alonzo Pennington (Blues/Rock)
4 PM	Cutter & Cash & the Kentucky Grass (Bluegrass)

Donations, food, merch & raffle ticket sales support the following Pregnancy Care Centers:

**Door of Hope (Madisonville)**  
**H.O.P.E. Clinic (Benton and Eddyville)**  
**Alpha PCC (Hopkinsville)**  
**Pathway of Hope (Greenville)**

Visit: [www.BluegrassonBeshear.com](http://www.BluegrassonBeshear.com)  
for info

## Half a century of service celebrated by Madisonville St. Vincent de Paul at Christ the King Parish

BY JANICE HATLER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Christ the King Parish in Madisonville recently celebrated its St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) thrift store's faithful service to both Hopkins and Webster Counties for the past 50 years. It all began in 1971, when this faith community established a St. Vincent de Paul conference led by Fr. Jerry Glahn, and three parishioners Eva Markham, Eileen Ainsworth, and Louise Renfro. Three years later, they opened the thrift store. Over the years the store resided in various locations throughout the city of Madisonville until its permanent residence at 109 East Arch Street.

It is a great achievement and a blessing that this store has been open for half a century. The store has stayed viable these past five decades due to its staff of resolute volunteers. Though these volunteers are from different occupations, backgrounds, and varied denominations, they are one Christian family united together in the purpose of the St. Vincent de Paul mission. The volunteers who are Vincentians also strive to live out the tenets shaped by the Society's founder, Frederick Ozanam, and its patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

To commemorate this milestone, a weeklong celebration was held the first week of September. Events were held on each day, like giving away customer appreciation bags; providing children with one stuff animal, books, and toy of their choosing; and store merchandise discounts. On the last day, the morning began with a prayer

service led by Fr. Steve Hohman, pastor of Christ the King. Madisonville mayor Kevin Cotton thanked the store and its volunteers for serving the community so well. As he stated, "For half a century, St. Vincent de Paul has been a pillar of compassion and charity in our community providing to those in need. The store has been more than just a place for affordable goods - it has been a lifeline for many families, offering not only material assistance, but also hope and dignity. Based on their work, we are reminded that when we care for one another, we lift up the entire community. St. Vincent de Paul has been lifting up others for 50 years, and we look ahead to their accomplishments in the next 50 years."

Following the prayer service, the store was open for a few hours offering storewide sales. Upon the store closing, lunch was provided to the community while Pat Ballard and Scott Heltsley provided beautiful music.

Though our Society and conference founders are all now deceased, their faith and legacy live on in those of us who strive to continue to bring Christ's love and mercy to our vulnerable and marginalized neighbors recognizing Jesus in each one of them. ■

*Janice Hatler is the president of Christ the King St. Vincent de Paul Conference in Madisonville, Ky.*



COURTESY OF CHRIST THE KING

(left to right) Joe Rocha, past SVdP president; Fr. Carl McCarthy, previous pastor; Madisonville mayor Kevin Cotton; Janice Hatler, president; Fr. Steve Hohman, current pastor.



**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



## Madonna paintings from former Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center displayed at Brescia University

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

To honor the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in their 150th anniversary year of serving in Daviess County, Brescia University's Anna Eaton Stout Art Gallery displayed the replicas of the Madonna that once hung in the original Mount Saint Joseph Academy.

Mother Aloysius Willett, the first mother superior at Maple Mount, secured the Madonna replica paintings each year during her leadership. The paintings were displayed in a parlor in the Mount Saint Joseph Academy building where guests

were welcomed. After the Academy closed and was converted into the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, the room was rechristened as the Madonna Room and the paintings were displayed. Since the retreat center was deconstructed in 2023, the paintings have been in storage at Maple Mount.

The Anna Eaton Stout Art Gallery is in the C.E. Field Center for Professional Studies, the newest building on the Brescia campus at Ninth and Frederica streets. The Ursuline Sisters opened Brescia College in 1950, and Sisters have served there ever since. There are also other pictures of Maple Mount hanging on the first and second floors of the Field Center. ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH  
Madonna and Child in White, by Nathaniel Sichel, was one of the paintings on display in The Anna Eaton Stout Art Gallery at Brescia University. The gallery hosts a variety of exhibits throughout the year, including student art shows

### THE 34<sup>TH</sup> DIOCESAN MARIAN CONGRESS

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024**  
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

**Keynote Address by the Very Rev. Ryan Harpole**  
**Rosary, Crowning of Mary, and Reception**  
**Confessions offered**

**For questions please contact**  
**the Parish Office at (270) 842-2525**

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



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH  
The Anna Eaton Stout Gallery at Brescia University was filled with the entire Madonna collection from the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in August, including Madonna of the Chair, right, and Sistine Madonna, second from right, both replicas of work by Raphael. The paintings were previously hanging in the "Madonna Room" (known for its grand piano) in the former Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.



COURTESY OF JOHN CARRICO  
(Left to right) Tommy Ballard, purser; Fr. Darrell Venters, pastor of St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm, Ky.; and Denis Wilson, navigator. A check for \$2,000 was presented by the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Albert Thompson Fourth Degree Assembly #1594 to Fr. Venters to send to the rebuild project for the Catholic Newman Center at Murray State University.

## Knights contribute to Murray's Newman Center rebuild campaign

BY JOHN CARRICO, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The 53 members of Knights of Columbus Msgr. Albert Thompson Fourth Degree Assembly #1594, based at St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm, Ky., recently donated \$2,000 to the "All Things New" rebuild project for the Catholic Newman Center at Murray State University.

The mission of the Newman Catholic Center is to guide young adults, especially Catholic young men and women, in the call to holiness while they live out their life as college students. According to the Catholic Racers website, the proposed new building will be a 5000-square foot facility featuring a gathering space to accommodate approximately 100 students and a chapel that is 150% larger than the current one and will comfortably seat more than 70 students for the celebration of Mass. ■

## Pastor sworn in as U.S. citizen Aug. 30

BY WKC STAFF

Fr. Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, was sworn in as a United States citizen on Aug. 30, 2024, during the World-fest Naturalization Ceremony in Louisville, Ky. The ceremony was held at the Muhammad Ali Center. Born in Kenya to an Anglican family and convincing them all to convert to Catholicism by the time he was eight years old, Fr. Abiero was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro on May 30, 2015. He has served in many parishes across western Kentucky since then.

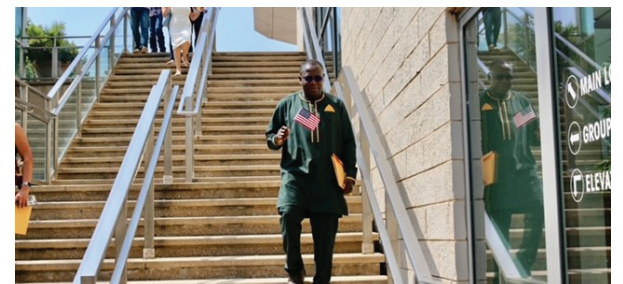
Today, Fr. Abiero is the pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Cloverport and Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Irvington. ■



COURTESY OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA  
(Left to right) Fr. Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Kentucky Regina S. Edwards, and Catholic Chairities director Susan Montalvo-Gesser smile for a photo after the Aug. 30 naturalization ceremony in Louisville, during which Fr. Abiero was sworn in as a U.S. citizen.



COURTESY OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA  
Fr. Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero registers to vote after being sworn in as a U.S. citizen on Aug. 30 at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Ky.



COURTESY OF ST. ROSE OF LIMA  
Fr. Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero waves an American flag while walking down the steps after participating in the naturalization ceremony on Aug. 30 at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Ky.



# The sword of Bishop Soenneker

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

If one was to venture a guess at what kind of sword was being held in an archive in Owensboro, Kentucky, it is likely that they would guess the sword of a Civil War general. If a second guess was offered, it would perhaps be the Freemason sword of a past governor or mayor. Few, I would assume, would guess the sword of a Catholic bishop, but that is exactly what we have.

The sword is the dress saber of the Knights of Columbus, and it belonged to our second bishop, the Most Reverend Henry J. Soenneker. Though it may appear to be a fierce weapon, it is of course only ceremonial; Bishop Soenneker had no plans to charge into battle like one of the Catholic Hussars of old (not to our archives' knowledge, at least).

The sword is truly elegant and rife with Catholic symbolism. The silver scabbard, at the top and bottom is flanked by a total of four K of C symbols. These symbols are nestled within an array of laurel wreaths on the locket and battle axes with sprouting flora on the chape. The blade is still a brilliant silver and has amassed little wear or rust since its creation decades ago. Gold engraving on one side of the blade reads, "Most Rev. H.J. Soenneker." Also in gold, the reverse side reads, "Bishop of Owensboro." The center of the cross-guard bares the symbol of the fourth degree, a dove descending on the earth over a cross. The grip is topped by a pommel bearing the likeness of Christopher Columbus.



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES  
The sword and scabbard of Bishop Henry Joseph Soenneker, second bishop of Owensboro, Kentucky.

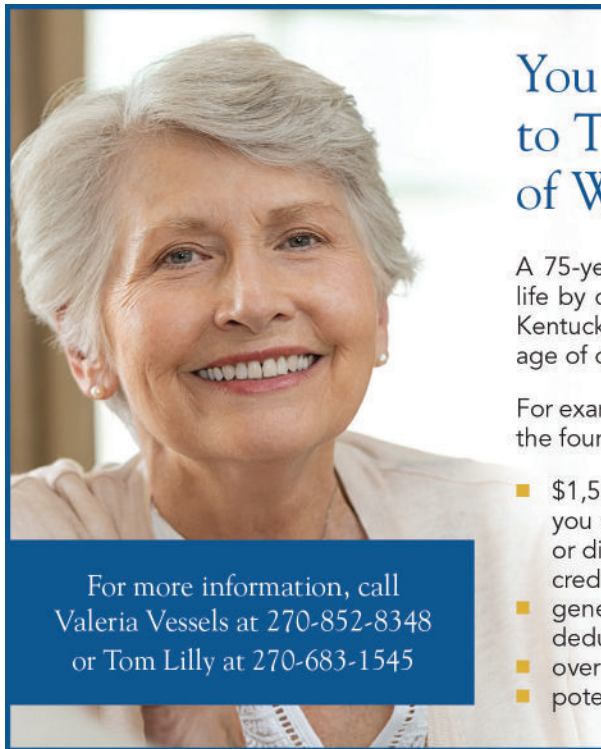
The Knights of Columbus is one of the most prolific and respected fraternal organizations in the world and deserves the gratitude of all Catholics. I could go on about how the Knights have been arguably the most effective advocates

for religious liberty that have ever existed in the United States, citing their work for the rights of

religious education, the legal rights of religious orders and organizations, and the pro-life movement, even in our own diocese, but I will refrain. I ask that you perhaps look into the order.

On that note, I want to end this article with a request. I ask that every man reading this article look into the Knights and consider joining. Perhaps, pray to the K of C founder, Blessed Michael McGivney. Or perhaps speak with your priest about it. Many are surprised to find that their priest is a Knight. Whatever you decide, please pray for the Knights of Columbus and their work. Bishop Henry J. Soenneker and Blessed Michael McGivney, 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](mailto:edward.wilson@pastoral.org).*



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

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

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

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

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

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

# October 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**

Ethan & Katie Blandford, 10  
Jack & Doris Mills, 66  
John & Riley Hess, 54  
Matthew & Cathy Stevens, 25  
Matthew & Ryan Simmons, 5  
Patrick & Courtney Franey, 10  
Steve & Gloria Baker, 54  
Tyler & Kara Conkwright, 5

### **Christ the King, Madisonville**

Jud & Karen Caldwell, 57

### **Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

Dean & Mary Ann Jorgensen, 59  
Donald & Shirley Wathen, 40  
Dwight & Diana Emerson, 60  
Jacob & Taylor Tabor, 10  
James & Amie Crawford, 25  
Larry & Phyllis Bumpus, 57  
Marvin & Daysi Chavez, 5  
Rob & Sally Wedding, 40  
Ronald & Dretha Weddell, 57  
Soap & Sandy Wilson, 55  
Travis & Rebecca Girten, 10

### **Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam**

Patrick & Cynthia Ziller, 56

### **Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**

Charles & Mary Ann Wolfram, 55  
Fred & Karen Bolek, 53  
Jaxon & Megan Stockstill, 5  
John & Melanie Paszkiewicz, 25  
Kevin & Emily McDuffee, 5  
Leon & Sherry Volkert, 56  
Matthew & Mary Davis, 25  
Ryan & Sylvia Ernst, 5  
Stephen & MaryJo Ryan, 53  
Virgil & Joyce Villanueva, 52

### **Holy Trinity, Morgantown**

Melvin & Mary Anne Bowles, 56

### **Immaculate Conception, Earlington**

Roger & Kathy Ordal, 53

### **Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

James & Gwan Bickett, 55

### **Immaculate, Owensboro**

Anthony & Jennifer Westerfield, 5  
Bill & Kay Pence, 50

Cody & Chandra Bender, 10  
George & Louise Weldon, 67  
James & Sharon Reid, 54  
JC & Millie Higdon, 70  
Jeremy & Melissa Phelps, 25  
Jim & Kathy Likens, 53  
Joe & Ann Roth, 60  
Kenny & Sheila Cecil, 52  
Lester & Helen Schaick, 75  
Matthew & Lauren Schell, 5

### **Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

Charlie & Linda Kamuf, 56  
Clinton & Marsha Terry, 54  
Garrett & Jessica Fortner, 10  
Jerry & Virginia Harper, 58  
Joseph & Mary Jane Clark, 62  
Ken & Sarah Wilhelm, 5  
Robert & Debra Horton, 51

### **Precious Blood, Owensboro**

Bruce & Sharon Tucker, 50  
Curtis & Carla King, 40  
Gerald & Lucy Goetz, 56  
Larry & Patricia Murphy, 60  
Tim & Diann Shock, 51  
Tony & Charlotte Powers, 50

### **Sacred Heart, Russellville**

Dennis & Diane Nieuwsma, 53  
Kerry & Sharlet Beauregard, 61  
Ryan & Sharon Fuller, 56

### **Sacred Heart, Waverly**

Donald & Ellen Buckman, 70  
John & Cheryl Buckman, 53  
William & Mechelle Buckman, 40  
William & Susan Buckman, 50

### **St. Agnes, Uniontown**

Adam & Lauren Carr, 10  
Micah & Ali Brown, 5  
Robert & Sammie Baird, 10

### **St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**

Tony & Betty Byrne, 50

### **St. Ann, Morganfield**

Bobby & Mary Jane Watson, 56  
Gary & Rebecca Sheffer, 40  
Mike & Rebecca Greenwell, 56  
Thomas & Vicki Sheffer, 51

### **St. Anthony, Axtel**

Charles & Pat Bissinger, 59  
Francis & Sue Henning, 63

### **St. Anthony, Browns Valley**

Randall & Deborah Goatee, 55

### **St. Anthony, Peonia**

Ervin & Coreen Moore, 60  
Milburn & Bernetta Higdon, 54  
Randolph & Judy White, 60  
Tim & Vanessa Bradley, 25

### **St. Augustine, Reed**

Steve & Rita Haire, 54

### **St. Columba, Lewisport**

Clyde & Anita Cambron, 56  
Layman & Mary Hawkins, 59

### **St. Elizabeth, Clarkson**

Dannie & Sheila Harris, 51

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

Bruce & Sherry Vandermeulen, 51  
Dan & Karen Kelley, 52  
James & Mary Scott, 59  
Kenneth & Rita Turner, 55  
Lewis & Casey Williams, 25  
Paul & Theresa Newman, 54  
Raymond & Rose Marie Smith, 60  
Tim & Cathi Hard, 50

### **St. Francis of Assisi**

Bob & Barbara Arms, 54  
Ellis & Gail Settle, 54

### **St. Henry, Aurora**

James & Vivian Montgomery, 50

### **St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**

Clay & Karen Willett, 59  
Gary & Marilyn King, 53  
Jack & Mary Ann Purcell, 66  
Jacob & Lauren Teasley, 10  
James & Betty O'Guinn, 53  
Raymond & Arlena Walker, 10  
Robert & Gela Wilson, 5  
Scott & Peggy Dossett, 5  
Terry & Hettie Wilson, 61

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

Joe & Eileen Fulkerson, 66  
Junior & Mary Roby, 58

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

Charles & Margaret Ballard, 64  
Mike & Judy Kaufman, 57

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

James & Mary Lou Wilson, 57  
Phillip & Pam Huff, 53

### **St. Joseph, Bowling Green**

Brian & Patricia Bour, 58  
Gary & Mary Meszaros, 40  
John & Lorelei Crutcher, 52  
Kenneth & Veronica Rice, 57  
Mark & Karen Slaughter, 40  
Matthew & Mary Ellen Daviss, 25  
Sam & Jenny Lowe, 25  
Walter & Deborah Williams, 51

### **St. Joseph, Calvert City**

Wesley & Emily Capuria, 10

### **St. Joseph, Leitchfield**

Bradley & Stephanie Tate, 10

### **St. Joseph, Mayfield**

Richard & Patricia Blackman, 52

### **St. Lawrence, Philpot**

Bernard & Kathleen Wright, 67  
Eathan & Lauren Johnson, 10  
Eddie & Marcella Wethington, 59  
Justin & Toni Howe, 10

### **St. Leo, Murray**

Alfred & Pat Koehler, 67  
Dan & Jane Blankenship, 53  
John & Marie Clark, 63  
Michael & Kaye Kelly, 54

### **St. Mark, Eddyville**

David & Ann Harkins, 59  
Joseph & Patricia Merimee, 59

### **St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**

David & Sandi Boswell, 56  
Jerry & Linda Ebelhar, 52  
Jim & Kelly Goetz, 50  
John & Sylvia Morton, 58  
Larry & Ruth Oller, 56  
Phil & Cathy Ebelhar, 50

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

Adam & Allison Roby, 5  
David & Rose Hamilton, 57  
Donnie & Paula Ward, 56  
Ray & Wanda Mills, 50  
Scott & Anne Coomes, 40  
Shelby & Kay Howard, 58  
Val & Bernadine Payne, 63

### **St. Mary, Franklin**

Dylan & Anne Marie Richardson, 5

*Continues on page 25*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Anniversaries continued from page 24*

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

James & Patricia Brink, 57

**St. Paul, Leitchfield**

Frank & Catherine Gawarecki, 65  
Jerry & Kathleen Crawford, 53  
Murrell & Ann Sims, 59

**St. Paul, Princeton**

Tommy & Martha Stewart, 60

**St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley**

Adrian & Cynthia Villarreal, 50  
Ken & Edie McKay, 57  
Robert & Mary Ann Alvey, 54

**St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly**

Bernard & Martha Alvey, 53  
James & Eva Lyon, 62  
Mike & Miranda Wolfe, 10

**St. Pius X, Owensboro**

Chad & Jackie Runtz, 10  
David & Pam Fleischmann, 40  
Gene & Margaret Boehmann, 50  
Tom & Libby Johnson, 59

**St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**

Bradley & Whitney Mattingly, 10  
Darrell & Rita Whitfill, 51  
Everette & Carolyn Pool, 58

**St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport**

Joe & Marie Haycraft, 58

**St. Sebastian, Calhoun**

Charles & Faye May, 58

**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**

Keith & Sara Toensing, 5  
Madison & Katelyn Fulkerson, 5  
Mark & Wilma Stallings, 40  
Terry & Theresa Potts, 50  
Thomas & Laura Smiley, 10  
St. Thomas More, Paducah  
Alan & Bobbi Wilson, 51  
Kelly & Barbara Robinson, 66  
Mark & Ashley Anderson, 5  
Mark & Mary Halbmaier, 50

**St. William, Knottsville**

Cary & Trudy Mattingly, 5  
Charles & Patricia Lanham, 52  
Clint & Shelly Lanham, 25  
David & Helen Higdon, 51  
Frankie & Priscilla Haynes, 57  
Lucas & Jessica Roby, 5  
Martin & Clara Johnson, 54  
Marvin & Josephine Boling, 60  
Steve & Beverly Hamilton, 50

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Gary & Linda Hall, 51  
Robert & Mary Helen Ward, 64  
Tommy & Angela Maxwell, 57

**Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

John & Jordan Lewis, 10  
Thomas & Sandra Hurley, 51

## OCTOBER 2024 BULLETIN BOARD

**Abbey Caskets open house Oct. 6**

Abbey Caskets, a division of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, will host a public open house on Sunday, October 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Central Time. The workshop is located in St. Meinrad, IN, along Indiana 545, just south of the Archabbey Entrance 3. Tours of the workshop will be given, caskets and urns will be on display, and refreshments will be available. Take advantage of our open house discount of 10% off when you prepay for your Abbey Casket during our open house through October 31, 2024. The public is also welcome to join the monks for Mass at 9:30 a.m., and attend the rosary pilgrimage at nearby Monte Cassino Shrine at 2 p.m. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Abbey Caskets was started in 1999 to offer handmade wooden caskets and cremation urns directly to consumers. The business' revenue supports the work of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. For more information, call Jenny Keller during business hours at (800) 987-7380. All times are Central Time.

**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). 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).

**Community Engagement Day at St. Peter of Alcantara in Stanley**

Date: Nov. 16, 2024. Time: 9 a.m.- 12 noon.  
Location: St. Peter of Alcantara Parish Hall.  
Address: 81 Church St., Owensboro KY 42301

What to expect: Resources within our community will be present so you may ask questions and learn more about what is available to you and your family. Representatives from St. Vincent de Paul, CareNet, St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter, Owensboro Health, our food pantry, and others will be present. We will also have representatives from our parish committees. All are welcome as we open the parish hall at St. Peter's for our Community Engagement Day. To learn more, contact Robin Tucker at (270) 315-8847.

**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](https://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.

**St. Teresa of Avila: Woman of Prayer, Teacher of Prayer**

Presented by Fr. Mark O'Keefe, OSB. Carmel Home Chapel. Nov. 25, 26, and 27. 7 a.m. Holy Mass. Conferences at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Fr. Mark O'Keefe, O.S.B. is a Benedictine monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana. Professed in 1978 and ordained in 1983, with a doctorate from The Catholic University of America (1987), he is Professor of Moral Theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. A long-held interest in the relationship between ethics and spirituality--our moral and spiritual lives--has lead him to the study of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross as models of viewing the Christian life in a dynamic and holistic way. Carmel Home is located at 2501 Old

*Continues on page 26*

Bulletin Board continued from page 25

## BULLETIN BOARD

Hartford Rd., Owensboro, KY 42303. Questions: (270) 683-0227

**A scout is reverent**

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

**Visit the Ursuline Sisters' Rosary Walk and Shrine Walk**

The Rosary Walk on the grounds of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph offers visitors a chance to express their spirituality among the beauty and splendor of the "holy ground" at Maple Mount (8001 Cummings Road, 12 miles west of Owensboro, Ky., on Hwy. 56). The Rosary Walk takes people on a journey as far as they are willing to let the Holy Spirit guide them, without leaving the peaceful confines of the Mount. It is located on the front of the grounds (northwest corner) and includes the Christ the King statue. Visitors can

use their cell phones to reach this webpage and listen to an audiotape of the rosary (recorded by Sister Elaine Burke, OSU) to accompany their walk: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/rosary-shrine-walk/> Or visitors can stroll to see the inspiring shrines on the grounds of the Motherhouse. They can visit this webpage to find a list of the shrines and to hear a recording about them (recorded by Sister Nancy Murphy, OSU): <https://ursulinesmsj.org/shrine-meditation-walk/> People can also listen to these recordings on their computers. No appointment is necessary to see the Rosary Walk or the shrines. There are also new sidewalks on the west side of campus available for anyone to use.

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

Need a meeting space for up to 200 people? Maple Hall (formerly known as Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium/Gym) is available for rent. It is located on the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph campus, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky., 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56, across from the park. Maple Hall is an open space with a kitchen equipped for catering. It's perfect for hosting receptions, parties, reunions, etc. There are

two rental options -- a partial rental for up to four hours (\$100) and a full rental which allows use for a full day (\$200). The use of 6-foot tables and chairs is included in the rental fee (user is responsible for setup, or this can be done for you for an additional fee). To reserve Maple Hall, contact the Mount Saint Joseph Finance Office by email: [ap@maplemount.org](mailto:ap@maplemount.org) or call the switchboard at 270-229-4103 and ask to speak to the Finance Office. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. You can find out more on this webpage: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/renting-maple-hall/>

**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.

## St. Martin Parish introduces a new tradition in honor of patron saint

BY NICOLE GRAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

We are excited to kick off a new tradition at St. Martin Parish in honor of our patron, St. Martin of Tours. This year, we're focusing on giving back to those in need, especially our veterans, by hosting a

special coat drive throughout November.

St. Martin of Tours, known for his act of kindness as a Roman soldier, famously cut his cloak in half to share with a freezing beggar. This simple yet powerful act of mercy led him to become a Christian and later the bishop of Tours. St. Martin's example of generosity and compassion truly captures the spirit of our parish. In honor of his legacy, we will be collecting new coats throughout November to help those in need, particularly veterans. As we approach the colder months, this is a chance for us to provide warmth and comfort and show our gratitude to those who have served our country.

It's fitting that our coat drive coincides with St.

Martin's feast day on Nov. 11, which is also Veteran's Day. As the patron saint of soldiers and beggars, his life is a reminder of service and compassion. By focusing on veterans, we honor both his past as a soldier and his love for the poor.

We aim to gather as many new coats as possible to support local shelters and organizations that serve those struggling, especially veterans facing homelessness or financial difficulties. We encourage everyone to get involved. Let's come together, to make a difference for veterans and those in need. ■

*Nicole Gray is the communications director for St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky. To learn how to help with the coat drive, call the parish office at (270) 685-0339.*



## Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley: Ayudando a los niños de Kentucky a aprender y prosperar

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Hablamos a menudo de la obligación de los padres de ser los primeros educadores de sus hijos. Esto es especialmente digno de mención en la educación y formación religiosa de sus hijos. La comunidad más amplia comparte y colabora en esta formación. En la comunidad católica, esto se manifiesta en el establecimiento de escuelas o programas de educación religiosa.

Sin embargo, no es sólo en el área de la formación religiosa y de la fe que se espera que los padres sean los primeros y más importantes educadores de sus hijos. Pienso en la participación crítica de los padres en la educación de sus hijos: desde conocer a sus maestros y administradores escolares, hasta las horas que los padres pasan con sus hijos en tareas y proyectos escolares.

La educación de los niños no es una propuesta genérica aplicable a todos. Por ejemplo, los niños con necesidades especiales no siempre pueden prosperar en un entorno típico, y son los padres quienes están mejor capacitados para diseñar el camino que maximice el potencial de sus hijos.

En Kentucky, tenemos una amplia red de escuelas con apoyo público que atienden a la mayoría de los estudiantes del estado. Los ciudadanos apoyan este esfuerzo por servir al bien común y en beneficio de la sociedad.

Este noviembre, los ciudadanos del estado tienen la oportunidad de apoyar la Enmienda Constitucional #2, que ampliará la oportunidad para que la legislatura estatal considere brindar apoyo a los padres y familias que descubran que sus hijos prosperan mejor en una

escuela privada. Las escuelas privadas ofrecen una alternativa razonable y justa que también sirve al bien común y beneficia a la sociedad. Esta asistencia puede adoptar muchas formas y, si se aprueba, será responsabilidad de la legislatura encontrar formas equitativas para alcanzar este objetivo.

Muchos sugieren que cualquier apoyo de este tipo perjudicará a los estudiantes de las escuelas públicas. Pero yo creo que empoderar a los padres para que elijan el entorno educativo y las oportunidades para sus propios hijos es una ventaja para todos los habitantes de Kentucky. En los estados que han adoptado la libertad de elección de escuelas privadas, no se puede demostrar que esto haya sido perjudicial para las escuelas públicas. De hecho, las estadísticas pueden mostrar que las escuelas públicas prosperan cuando también hay oportunidades alternativas para las familias, los padres y los estudiantes.

Hay una expresión que se usa a menudo: “Se necesita todo un pueblo para criar a un niño”. Todos tenemos un interés personal en que todos los niños del estado aprendan y prosperen. Votaré por la Enmienda Constitucional #2 el próximo mes porque quiero contribuir a ese pueblo que apoya a todos los niños de Dios. Los invito a ustedes unirse a mí y votar Sí a la Enmienda #2.

Suyo en Cristo,



**Obispo William F. Medley**  
**Diócesis de Owensboro**

### CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY OCTUBRE DE 2024

19 de sept. - 9 de oct.	Peregrinación a África
11 de octubre	6:30 p.m.   Retiro Zo-Americano – Parroquia Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green
19 de octubre	11 a.m.   Misa del 50° Jubileo – Asilo de Ancianos Carmel Home, Owensboro
21 de octubre	10 a.m.   Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
	1:30 p.m.   Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
22 de octubre	9:30 a.m.   Misa escolar – Escuela Primaria Santa María, Paducah
23 de octubre	10 a.m.   Reunión del personal diocesano – Centro Católico McRaith
24-25 de octubre	Reunión de la Junta Directiva de Brescia, Owensboro
26 de octubre	9 a.m.   Misa Respetemos la Vida – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
29 de octubre	6:30 p.m.   Evento de misión eucarística con Sarah Kroger – Centro de convenciones Ballard, Madisonville

*Nota del editor: Se puede acceder a las estadísticas y recursos relacionados con la Enmienda #2 en [owensborodiocese.org/vote-yes-on-amendment-2](https://owensborodiocese.org/vote-yes-on-amendment-2).*



## ‘Nuestro Bautismo: Un llamado a compartir nuestros dones’ fue el tema de la conferencia de liderazgo y ministerio de este año

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El 24 de agosto, se celebró en el Centro de Convenciones Bruce en Hopkinsville la Conferencia de Liderazgo y Ministerio Parroquial de la Diócesis de Owensboro, que se lleva a cabo cada dos años y está coordinada por la Oficina de Evangelización y Discipulado. El evento bilingüe contó con Misa, pláticas, vendedores, cuidado de niños gratuito, talleres y pláticas para jóvenes, así como muchas oportunidades para que los líderes parroquiales se conocieran y convivieran. El tema de este año fue “Nuestro Bautismo: Un llamado a compartir de nuestros dones”.

Los presentadores principales fueron el Padre Wayne Cavalier, OP; la Hermana Ruth Bolarte, IHM; y el

*Continúa en la página 29*



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Abel de Jesús y sus hijos, Santiago y Natalie, asisten a la Conferencia de Liderazgo y Ministerio Parroquial el 24 de agosto en Hopkinsville. El evento incluyó cuidado infantil gratuito para los padres que desearan asistir.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Susana Solorza, coordinadora de la pastoral juvenil de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro, con su hermana menor, Emily Solorza, asisten a la Conferencia de Liderazgo y Ministerio Parroquial el 24 de agosto en Hopkinsville.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

La Hna. Ruth Bolarte, IHM comparte durante la Conferencia de Liderazgo y Ministerio Parroquial del 24 de agosto, que se lleva a cabo cada dos años y está coordinada por la Oficina de Evangelización y Discipulado.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

El Obispo William F. Medley preside la Misa durante la Conferencia de Liderazgo y Ministerio Parroquial del 24 de agosto, que se lleva a cabo cada dos años y está coordinada por la Oficina de Evangelización y Discipulado. El evento se llevó a cabo en el Centro de Convenciones Bruce en Hopkinsville.



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Dr. Jason Winkle. Los temas incluyeron la Eucaristía y el discipulado, cómo santificar el lugar de trabajo, el papel del catequista, la corresponsabilidad y las donaciones planificadas, estrategias efectivas del consejo pastoral y el discipulado en pequeñas comunidades. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC  
(De izquierda a derecha) El P. Carmelo Jiménez y el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez participan en la Misa bilingüe en la Conferencia de Liderazgo y Ministerio Parroquial el 24 de agosto en Hopkinsville.

## Parroquias con misa en Español



**Domingo Mundial de las Misiones 2024**  
20 de octubre

**VAYAN E INVITEN A TODOS al banquete**  
(MT 22:9)

TU REGALO AYUDA A APOYAR:

- 38,140 Seminaristas
- 8,750 Viviendas y orfanatos
- 12,000 Clínicas
- 844,000 Catequistas
- 258,540 Hermanas religiosas

ENVIA "MISSIONS24" AL 44384



COMPARTE EL BANQUETE

Dona ahora



WWW.ONEFAMILYINMISSION.ORG/WMS

## Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Para denunciar una sospecha de abuso, llame a la Línea Directa de Protección Infantil de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su Fiscal Local del Commonwealth. Para reportar abuso, actual o pasado, a la diócesis por parte de cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a Scott Ingram, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinadoras de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270-880-8360. También puede visitar la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro (owensborodiocese.org/safe) para obtener más información. Para hacer un informe de abuso sexual de un menor de edad o conducta inapropiada relacionada por parte de algún obispo, visite <https://reportbishopabuse.org/es>.



# ‘Jesús sana mi familia’, el tema del Congreso Carismático Hispano de este año

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El 13° Congreso Carismático Hispano anual se llevó a cabo en Bowling Green del 24 al 25 de agosto de 2024. El tema de este año fue “Jesús sana a mi familia”. Cientos de personas asistieron al congreso, organizado por la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green y celebrado en el Museo Nacional del Corvette. El Padre Pedro Repollet, sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de Newark, Nueva Jersey, y Natanael Reyes, orador de la República Dominicana, fueron los líderes principales este año. El congreso atrae a personas de toda la diócesis y de más allá, incluso de lugares tan lejanos como Mississippi. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Los músicos dirigen las alabanzas durante el 13° Congreso Carismático Hispano anual del 24 al 25 de agosto en Bowling Green.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Los participantes del 13° Congreso Carismático Hispano anual del 24 al 25 de agosto en Bowling Green cantan y aplauden al ritmo de la música.

# Banquete de Bodas celebrado en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Del 13 al 14 de septiembre de 2024, casi 30 parejas participaron en el retiro matrimonial Banquete de Bodas, que se llevó a cabo en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green. Entre los asistentes había una pareja de Indianápolis y otra pareja de Mississippi. El retiro fue dirigido por el P. Carmelo Jiménez,

*Continúa en la página 31*



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Los participantes del retiro Banquete de Bodas del 13 y 14 de septiembre se reúnen en oración en la estatua de María afuera de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.



**Continuado de la página 30**

el párroco de la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree.

El próximo retiro de Banquete de Bodas se llevará a cabo en la Parroquia San Francisco de Asís en Guthrie, del 15 al 16 de noviembre. El retiro cuesta \$15 por pareja. Para obtener más información, comuníquense con el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez por WhatsApp, mensaje de texto o llamando al (270) 880-8018. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Los participantes del retiro Banquete de Bodas del 13 y 14 de septiembre, celebrado en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Las parejas participan en una actividad durante el retiro Banquete de Bodas del 13 al 14 de septiembre.

## “Todos hijos de Dios” – las escuelas católicas se reúnen para la Misa con el Obispo Medley



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Los estudiantes de la Escuela Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson se ponen de pie y aplauden durante la Misa Arcoíris del 18 de septiembre en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Al dirigirse a los estudiantes, maestros, personal y padres de los estudiantes de las escuelas católicas reunidos en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro el 18 de septiembre, el Obispo William F. Medley les recordó la historia de Noé y el arcoíris.

Después del gran diluvio, Dios envió un arco iris “como señal de que Dios siempre sería fiel a nosotros”, dijo el obispo en su homilía en la Misa Arcoíris de este año. La Misa se llama así debido

al arco iris de colores formado por los muchos uniformes escolares que llenan el estadio.

La Misa Arcoíris, patrocinada por la Oficina de Escuelas Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro, se fundó en la década de 1980 y se lleva a cabo cada dos años para celebrar las 17 escuelas católicas del Kentucky occidental.

Una ausencia notable este año fue la del Sistema Escolar Santa María de Paducah, que no pudo asistir debido a problemas con los autobuses. Durante la procesión inicial por el pasillo con las pancartas de cada escuela, en un espíritu de compañerismo, los

*Continúa en la contraportada*



Continuado de la página 31



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Un monaguillo coloca el crucifijo procesional en su soporte durante la Misa Arcoíris del 18 de septiembre en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro. La Misa se lleva a cabo cada dos años para honrar a las 17 escuelas católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

estudiantes de otras escuelas católicas llevaron las pancartas de la Escuela Primaria Santa María, la Escuela Secundaria Santa María y la Escuela Preparatoria Santa María.

El Obispo Medley abrió su homilía llamando a diferentes grupos y animando a todos a aplaudir cuando se les nombrara. Por ejemplo, nombró los padres que asistieron a la Misa Arcoíris cuando eran niños, varios niveles de grados, maestros, hermanas religiosas y sacerdotes.

El obispo dijo a los fieles que, a pesar de las diferencias percibidas, “quiero que sepan que son hijos de Dios” y que es importante centrarse en “lo que tenemos en común”. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez proclama el Evangelio en inglés y español durante la Misa Arcoíris del 18 de septiembre en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro.