



Wedding day

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Newly-ordained Dcn. Conrad Jaconette smiles at Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio outside St. Stephen Cathedral after Dcn. Jaconette was ordained by Bishop William F. Medley on Jan. 4. Archbishop Broglio, who shepherds the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., was principal concelebrant at the liturgy, as Dcn. Jaconette is cosponsored by both that archdiocese and the Diocese of Owensboro. **Page 5**

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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.

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## A Word From Bishop Medley: Beginning again

*This Holy Year, let us encounter God's grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have begun the Holy Year 2025. Pope Francis inaugurated this time of grace on Christmas Eve when he ceremonially opened the Holy Year door of St. Peter's Basilica. Even in the first few days of the New Year, hundreds of thousands of visitors and pilgrims entered the basilica through these doors in keeping with a tradition dating back hundreds of years – ritually observing to follow the way of Jesus Christ.

Most of us will not have an opportunity to travel to Rome and visit the Church's major basilicas during this Holy Year. But be assured that this symbolic step is not the only door by which we might experience the grace of this special year. Pope Francis has called upon all the faithful to see in this year that lays before us a "moment of grace and an invitation to begin again."

"Beginning again" is at the heart of the tradition of Holy Years. However faithful and good a person might be, we all recognize sin and bad habits that can be remedied. The practice of new year's resolutions and Lenten promises speak to the human recognition of opportunities to start over, to do better, to grow in virtue.

One door through which we might all pass in our desire to "begin again" is available to us through the sacraments. The Holy Father has specifically called for Catholics to seek out the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this special time. Perhaps you confess your sins regularly. The Holy Year is an opportunity to approach this with greater fervor and humility. Many Catholics have gotten away from the practice of regular confession. During the Holy Year perhaps we can commit to entering this extraordinary door of grace.

The apostle John, in addressing the early Christians, wrote, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and truth is not in us." The Lord himself taught us to pray: "Forgive us our trespasses," linking our forgiveness of one another's offenses to the forgiveness of our sin that God will grant us.

The Church recognizes many and various ways that the Christian encounters the grace of God's



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Fr. Basilio Az Cuc (foreground) and Fr. Tom Buckman (background) hear confessions on Nov. 23, 2024 during Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference in Hopkinsville.

mercy and forgiveness. We observe special days and seasons of penance in the course of the year and have available intense moments of healing and mercy. In but a few weeks, we will open the door of grace given us in the season of Lent where the Church calls us to fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Conversion and forgiveness are accomplished in daily life by gestures of reconciliation, concern for the poor, seeking justice, and admission of faults to others. Taking up one's cross each day and following Jesus is a sure way of penance.

Every time we receive the Holy Eucharist we pray, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof but only say the word and my soul will be healed."

Sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him. Conversion, then, entails forgiveness and reconciliation with God and the Church and these are encountered richly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As this Holy Year unfolds, I encourage everyone to plan to confess your sins in this extraordinary sacrament. During confession, we receive the absolution offered by the priest: "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit upon us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the church may God grant you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Having been absolved, the penitent completes the sacrament by solemnly making an Act of Contrition and then fulfilling a penance.

Having passed through this door of grace, we may surely encounter the special blessings of this Holy Year.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

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

BISHOP MEDLEY'S FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR	
Feb. 1	4 p.m.   Confirmation – Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson
Feb. 2	2 p.m.   Confirmation – Immaculate Parish, Owensboro
Feb. 8	Men's Conference – Riverpark Center, Owensboro
Feb. 11	6 p.m.   Confirmation – Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro
Feb. 13	9 a.m.   School Mass – Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus
Feb. 16	9:30 a.m.   Confirmation – St. John the Evangelist Parish, Paducah
Feb. 17	10 a.m.   Priest Personnel Board Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
Feb. 18-20	Catholic Conference of KY Meeting and Meeting of the Bishops of the Province – Louisville
Feb. 23	10 a.m.   Confirmation – St Agnes Parish, Uniontown
Feb. 25	8 a.m.   School Mass – St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville
	6 p.m.   Serra Club Dinner – Briarpatch, Owensboro
Feb. 26	10 a.m.   Diocesan Staff Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
	6 p.m.   Confirmation – St. Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg

*Happy anniversary  
to our priests!*

Fr. Pat Bittel  
Ordained 2/20/1982  
Retired

## Fifteen years of grace: *Bishop Medley's diocesan ministry over the years*

BY WKC STAFF

On Feb. 10, 2025, Bishop William F. Medley will celebrate his 15th anniversary of episcopal ordination, when he was made the bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky. Here are some highlights from his past 15 years as the shepherd of the Catholic Church in western Kentucky. ■



FILE PHOTO  
Bishop-elect William F. Medley speaks at a Dec. 15, 2009 press conference at Brescia University in Owensboro, the day that he was officially appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to be the fourth bishop of Owensboro.



MEL HOWARD | WKC  
Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville ordains Bishop William F. Medley through the laying on of hands at the Owensboro Sportscenter on Feb. 10, 2010.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
On May 21, 2015, Bishop William F. Medley pours sacred chrism onto the new altar while consecrating it at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green.

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FILE PHOTO  
Bishop William F. Medley smiles in the sunshine during his ad limina visit to Rome, during which he meets with the pope, in September 2010.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
While in flight on Dec. 21, 2021, Bishop William F. Medley lifts a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament to bless the communities of his diocese which were affected by the tornadoes that struck during the night of Dec. 10, 2021.

## Jaconette ordained to transitional diaconate, looks forward to journeying ‘with the people’ as he continues on vocational path

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On a cold Jan. 4 morning at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, seminarian Conrad Jacquette was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop William F. Medley.

The principal concelebrant was Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., since Dcn. Jacquette is cosponsored by both that archdiocese and the Diocese of Owensboro.

After he is ordained to the priesthood, Dcn. Jacquette will serve for several years in the Diocese of Owensboro. Following that period of time, he will be on loan to the military archdiocese for a set number of years to serve as a military chaplain.

Dcn. Jacquette is set to be ordained to the priesthood on May 31, 2025 at the cathedral.

In his homily during the ordination Mass, Bishop Medley spoke of the Church’s celebrating a jubilee, or holy year, of hope, in 2025. Observances of holy years include passing through holy doors, and Bishop Medley challenged Dcn. Jacquette to “seek out” other “doors” in society by bringing God to the marginalized.

“You, my brother, my son, are called to do your



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Soon-to-be Dcn. Conrad Jacquette smiles as clergy give their affirmation for him via applause after he is called and presented to Bishop William F. Medley during the Jan. 4, 2025 Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate.

part in saving souls,” said the bishop.

A few days after his ordination Mass, Dcn. Jacquette shared a few thoughts with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

He is assigned to serve at St. Stephen Cathedral until his ordination to the priesthood, and said he looks forward to helping with sacramental ministry like visiting the homebound and those in the hospital, and preaching and assisting as deacon at Mass.

His ministry assignment while in seminary was to the cathedral, so he is already familiar with the community: “It allows the people to

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## FEATURES

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journey with you.”

Not being a native-born western Kentuckian – Dcn. Jaconette is from Alexandria, Ky., and became Catholic while a student at St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center at Western Kentucky University – he said he has enjoyed “getting to know the diocese through its people.”

“This is my chance to foster those relationships with the people, which I will have through my entire priesthood,” said Dcn. Jaconette, who earned a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry from WKU before entering seminary.

Since his family is not Catholic, Dcn. Jaconette said a big question for them was “Will the Diocese of Owensboro be able to love and support Conrad as much as we do?” And being there at my ordination that day, I think they were able to see that,” he said. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Bishop William F. Medley lays hands on the head of seminarian Conrad Jaconette, symbolizes the calling down of the Holy Spirit as he is ordained to the diaconate on Jan. 4, 2025.



RACHEL HALL | WKC  
Bishop William F. Medley (left) and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio (right) smile for a photo with newly-ordained seminarian Dcn. Conrad Jaconette outside St. Stephen Cathedral on Jan. 4, 2025.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Seminarian Conrad Jaconette lies prostrate on the floor of St. Stephen Cathedral as the Litany of the Saints is sung during his Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate on Jan. 4, 2025.

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# 'Make it your ministry'

## *Incoming Brescia president reflects on faith journey that led him to university*

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

For incoming president of Brescia University, “this place is deeply a part of my faith journey,” even down to his coming into full communion with the Catholic Church at the school’s chapel.

“As with so many people, your faith journey starts with the people who came before you,” said Madison Silvert in a Jan. 8, 2025, interview with *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

On Dec. 16, 2024, Brescia University announced that Silvert had been named the next president, after current president Fr. Larry Hostetter shared with the school’s board of directors that he wished to complete his contract at the end of May 2025. According to a press release from Brescia, Silvert will begin his role prior to the end of the academic year and work in tandem with Fr. Hostetter until May 31.

Silvert was born and raised in Owensboro. He told the WKC that his grandfather was Jewish and had converted to Christianity, and Silvert’s father always reminded the family that their faith came from the Jewish tradition.

“I grew up at First Baptist Church in Owensboro,” said Silvert, adding that he was baptized there at nine years old. When he was a senior in high school, he committed himself to fulltime ministry before the whole church community.

“I thought I’d major in theology and go to seminary,” he said. But early in his college career

Silvert found himself compelled by economics, which prompted existential questions about his prior promise to ministry.

When he was home from college, Silvert met with his former Sunday school teacher-turned mentor, Sanford Peyton, to discuss the dilemma.

Peyton told Silvert, “You know, Madison, no matter what you do, make it your ministry.”

From that point, Silvert shifted his focus to understanding the “why” of what he does.

In college he met his wife, Amy, who is Catholic. They dated for five years and married when he was in law school.

For several years, they attended his Baptist service and her Catholic Mass every Sunday. But by the time their second child was born, it had become difficult to take two small children to two churches in one day.

Keeping in mind the priorities of his family life, Silvert told his wife, “It’s not a sin for me to miss my service, but it is for you to miss yours,” deciding together to start going to just Mass on Sundays.

The Silvert family became involved with their parish – St. Pius X in Owensboro – such as participating in the Families in Faith program. With his wife volunteering as a religious education teacher, Silvert reflected on how he could help adults in the parish grow in their faith as the children were.

He ended up starting an adult faith formation program that included watching Bishop Robert Barron’s “Catholicism” video series – “even though



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Madison Silvert is seen at Brescia University in Owensboro on Jan. 8, 2025, standing in front of the school’s iconic stained glass window of St. Ursula and Companions.

I wasn’t Catholic,” said Silvert.

He did, however, continue learning more about the Catholic Church by studying, reading books and listening to podcasts. Silvert said he struggled specifically with the idea of transubstantiation, the Catholic Church’s term for Jesus’s body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist existing under the appearances of bread and wine.

Fortunately, this was addressed in the Catholicism series. In the series, Bishop Barron explained that if one can believe in God, and that God created the entire universe, there is no reason why God could not also exist under what looked like bread and wine.

“If you can believe one, why can’t you believe the other?” said Silvert. “That’s not that much of a leap, really. Once I not only agreed but fundamentally agreed, then I was ready.”

Silvert had gotten to know Fr. Larry Hostetter through the Greater Owensboro Economic

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*Brescia president continued from page 7*

Development Corporation around the time Fr. Hostetter became president of Brescia.

When they got coffee together one day, Silvert told his priest friend, “I’m ready.”

About eight years ago this Mother’s Day, Madison came into full communion with the Catholic Church in Brescia’s chapel.

“Not only do I feel that I’m practicing my faith as I was created to, but I’m coming into the fulfillment of when I was 18 years old, standing before my church,” he told the WKC.

Looking toward his presidency that begins June 1, Silvert said that leading Brescia “will always be a ministry – whether the president is a religious or a layperson.” That, and making sure “the Ursuline Sisters tradition that not only started this school but continues to this day, remains strong,” he said. ■

## ‘Walking with them on the journey’

*Fr. Kight serving as spiritual director for Catholic foster/adoption ministry*

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

As the new spiritual director for a Catholic adoption and foster support ministry, Fr. Christopher Kight sees himself as “bringing the Good News of the Gospel to people who have experienced suffering on so many levels.”

Fr. Kight, the parochial vicar of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, Ky., was himself adopted, as was his younger brother.

He recently took on the additional role of spiritual director for Springs of Love, a national organization based in Pennsylvania whose mission is to raise up more Catholic foster and adoptive families and to support those whose lives have been touched by fostering and adoption.

“I’m an anomaly,” said Fr. Kight in a Jan. 13 interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic. “I was adopted at six weeks old... there was never a time I didn’t feel loved or wanted,” adding that his family annually celebrates his adoption day on Jan. 31 and his brother’s on July 24.

“But what I’ve come to realize is that many

people who were adopted were told that they are burdens and not treated with dignity,” he said. “By the grace of God, I was spared from that.”

As the Springs of Love spiritual director, Fr. Kight hopes to be “someone who can enter in and walk with them on that journey” – whether “they” are adoptive or foster parents, or people who themselves were adopted or in foster care.

Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro in 2023, Fr. Kight says this type of ministry had never crossed his mind while in seminary.

But shortly after his ordination, his friend Fr. Jamie Dennis connected him with a parishioner who is an adoptive parent, who emphasized the Catholic Church’s responsibility respond to the needs of children in the foster care system.

Over the next few months Fr. Kight prayed about what his role might be in this area. Through a series of providential conversations, he was put in touch with Dr. Kimberly Henkel, the founder and executive director of Springs of Love.

After meeting and conversing on Zoom, Dr. Henkel asked Fr. Kight if he would consider serving as the spiritual director for the organization.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Fr. Christopher Kight is seen on Jan. 13, 2025, at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, Ky., where he serves as the parochial vicar. Fr. Kight recently took on the additional role of spiritual director for Springs of Love, a national Catholic foster and adoption support ministry.

Fr. Kight knew his assignment as parochial vicar of Sts. Peter and Paul took precedence, and discussed this idea with his pastor, Fr. Emmanuel Udoh. Fr. Udoh immediately affirmed the idea and urged Fr. Kight to

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## *Foster ministry continued from page 8*

speak with Bishop William F. Medley for his perspective.

“I went back and prayed some more,” said Fr. Kight - and scheduled a meeting with Bishop Medley. The bishop gave his permission and even shared some of his experiences from his previous life as a social worker for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This past fall, Fr. Kight called Dr. Henkel and said he was on board, as long as he could properly balance it with his parish assignment.

Since then, Fr. Kight has participated in the ongoing creation of a Springs of Love curriculum for Catholic foster and adoptive families. He also reached out to his fellow diocesan priests to spread the word about Springs of Love, inviting them to consider starting a foster care/adoptive ministry in their parishes.

He said there needs to be greater awareness of and support in the Catholic Church of “parishioners around us who have adopted or are considering it, and parishioners around us who have struggled with infertility and the trauma of that.”

“One of the things we do well as a Church in the United States is talk about abortion,” Fr. Kight told the WKC. But in a post-Roe v. Wade society, in which the conversation is more complex, “how do we become more pro-life?” he asked.

He said Springs of Love does not sugarcoat the challenges and heartache of foster/adoptive parents seeking to grow their families, nor the pain and neglect experienced by many children in the foster care system: “They don’t hide the messiness.”

Instead, the ministry hopes to follow Christ’s example and sanctify “the muck and nastiness of

the human condition,” he said.

“From the pulpit you can say ‘your suffering is redemptive,’” said Fr. Kight, “but you can’t just say that to a foster kid who has been abused and abandoned,” adding that “the worst thing you can say to someone who’s gone through that kind of trauma is ‘I understand what you’re going through.’”

Fr. Kight said there are currently about 400,000 children in need of homes across the United States. In Kentucky, there are approximately 8,300 children in out-of-home care, according to Kentucky Health and Family Services.

About 2,200 of these young people have a goal of adoption, with about 30% coming from the 33 western counties of Kentucky. Historically, Daviess, McCracken, and Christian counties have reported the highest number of children needing placement; all three of these counties are within the Diocese of Owensboro.

“I firmly believe that it’s the job of the Church to help in this area,” said Fr. Kight, urging all Catholics to prayerfully discern how they might support foster and adoptive families in their area.

He said this could be as simple as starting a prayer team for these families or coordinating a Meal Train for the foster and adoptive families in one’s parish.

Fr. Kight encouraged those who are considering fostering or adoption to check out Springs of Love and to remember that “if God is calling you to foster or adopt, his grace is sufficient, and he would never call us to do something beyond us - I firmly believe that.” ■

*Learn more about Springs of Love at [springsoflove.org](http://springsoflove.org).*

## The Hope House to provide a welcoming environment for kids awaiting foster homes

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A unique initiative to provide a loving environment for children awaiting placement in foster homes has “grown quickly from an idea to fruition,” according to a Sts. Peter and Paul parishioner who is helping make this dream a reality.

Julia Roberts works for Joy Closet, a Hopkinsville community foster closet that offers support for foster and kinship families upon receiving a placement, providing free items the children need like clothing,



COURTESY OF JULIA ROBERTS  
The exterior of the future Hope House in Hopkinsville is seen on Dec. 19, 2024.

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## *The Hope House continued from page 9*

car seats, and other necessities.

But there are more children than there are foster homes in western Kentucky.

Roberts said this results in the children, who have been removed from their homes by state child protection social workers, often having to sleep overnight in state offices until a foster family is available.

“Part of that trauma is that once they have been removed from their home, (case workers) start making phone calls for potential families” which includes being required to describe the child’s distressing circumstances on each phone call, said Roberts.

Sitting in the state office, “the child hears ‘no’ over and over,” she said, explaining that this adds to the trauma already experienced.

Joy Closet’s solution to reducing this trauma is to provide an interim space with beds, warm meals, and bathrooms for children to feel safe and comfortable until they join their foster family. This space, which is currently being built in Hopkinsville, will be called The Hope House.

Roberts said that as soon as a child is removed from their home, they will be taken to The Hope House to be fed and bathed and have access to toys and crafts to unwind. The facility will even include a soundproofed space for case workers to call potential families without being overheard by the children.

“We will open sometime in spring 2025,” she said.

Roberts, who with her husband have fostered several children while raising their biological children, said she hopes more Catholics can get involved in supporting foster families, even if they are not called to foster themselves. Financial support for organizations like this, donating items,

and volunteering are easy ways to help.

She said supporting foster families is often overlooked by Catholics and is “one of the biggest missed missions of the Catholic Church.”

She pointed out that this is a pro-life issue: “We’re protecting them in utero, but now that they’re here, what do we do?” she asked rhetorically. “As Catholics, we can make a difference... it’s about protecting life from conception to natural death. We are called to protect the vulnerable.”


“St. Joseph was a foster father, and he’s an example of loving what’s not biologically yours with such a passion that it changed the whole world,” she said. ■

*Learn how to support The Hope House at [www.joycloset.org/hopehouse](http://www.joycloset.org/hopehouse). Email Julia Roberts directly at [julia@joycloset.org](mailto:julia@joycloset.org).*


## The Journey

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# ‘Never too late for God’s people’

## *Thirteen couples of Holy Spirit’s Myanmar community receive the Sacrament of Matrimony*

BY FR. MARTIN MA NA LING, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The year 2024 ended with a great blessing with the wedding of the 13 couples of Myanmar Catholic Community at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, Ky., on Dec. 28. All these couples speak the Karenni dialect, which is one of the major dialects in Myanmar.

This was a long process, which took over a year of preparation for the marriage ceremony. From the end of 2023, I interviewed each couple to learn if they could marry in the Catholic Church, through the help of the catechists who worked hard to translate the Karenni dialect for me because I do not speak that dialect. When I interviewed them to find out why they were not married in the Catholic Church, most of the couples said, “I broke up with my girlfriends or boyfriends. Therefore, we thought we were not allowed to marry in the Church.” After hearing this, I told them that there was no marriage at all even according to their traditions and cultures. Therefore, they were eligible to get married in the Catholic Church.

Among these 13 couples, some of them had been living together for 40 years, 30 years and 20 years or 10 years without even civilly marrying. (Some of them got married at the courthouse when they arrived in the United States.) Others were married according to their traditions in Thailand refugee camps or in Myanmar. However, the marriage documents in Thailand camps were in the Myanmar language; therefore, all these 13 couples received new marriage licenses from the

courthouse in Bowling Green before they married in the Church. Now, they have both their civil marriage licenses and marriage certificates from the parish.

The most exciting moment for me was that they received the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the

marriage ceremony from a visiting priest, Fr. Mark Phe Bya, vicar general of Loikaw Diocese, Myanmar, because he is a Karenni priest and spoke their dialect. During the Mass, some couples were able to receive

*Continues on page 12*



COURTESY OF JULIAN MEH

A group photo of the 13 couples who received the Sacrament of Matrimony on Dec. 28, 2024, with Fr. Mark Phe Bya and Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling.



COURTESY OF JULIAN MEH

Fr. Mark Phe Bya blesses the rings of the 13 couples getting married at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green on Dec. 28, 2024.



COURTESY OF JULIAN MEH

The 13 couples of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green who were married on Dec. 28, 2024, are seen during their exchange of consent.

## *Karenni weddings continued from page 11*

their First Communion as well. They will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Easter Vigil night.

A great aspect of the marriage ceremony for these couples was that a priest who spoke their own dialect was present to celebrate the wedding Mass. As he celebrated the Mass in the Karenni dialect, most of the elderly couples who did not speak another dialect were able to participate fully.

I am happy that these couples could receive the blessing of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Because of this wedding, the faithful came to realize that the Sacrament of Matrimony is for all people. It is never late to receive it for the people of God as Catholic Christians. Every married couple is to fulfill the words of Jesus Christ: “He said in reply, ‘Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.” (Matthew 19:4-6). ■

*Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling is the parochial vicar for Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, Ky.*

## *‘She’s a dandy!’ - Owensboro couple married 75 years shares the secret to a long, happy marriage*

BY DANNY MAY, OWENSBORO LIVING

*Editor’s note: Les Schaick passed away in December 2024 prior to this story being published.*

Lester and Helen Schaick recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary with a celebration for family at Cedarhurst Senior Living, where they both now live. When Owensboro Living heard about their story, we wanted to celebrate them in this magazine and ask what advice they could share for making marriage last.

Now better known as “Nanna” and “Papaw” to their six grandkids and seven great-grandchildren, Helen (95) and Lester (96) were all smiles as they looked back at their happy lives together.

“We feel very fortunate,” Helen explained. “We’ve been blessed with good health, a wonderful family, our children, and great friends. It’s hard work, but you just go on day to day and do what you have to do. I guess the Good Lord just meant it to be this way.”

Talking with them is like listening to a living time capsule. There are many differences about weddings today compared to 1949, when Les & Helen were married on October 1st in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

They did not have a gigantic wedding party; only a select few of their best friends and cousins. There was no expensive honeymoon to an exotic locale; a trip to nearby Madison sufficed just fine. There was no wedding planner or exorbitant budget; keeping things simple was plenty for them.

In fact, the two were married at 11am on a Saturday in their parish priest’s home, signifying that faith has always been the bedrock of their marriage. She was 20 and he was 21.

Today, as longtime members of Immaculate Parish, their 75th anniversary milestone makes the Schaick’s the longest living married couple in the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro (which covers all of Western Kentucky).

Helen still maintains an apartment at Cedarhurst, while Lester resides in the memory care unit, but the two still manage to spend time together every day. Helen walks down to eat dinner with Les each night. The staff told me they’ll often see the two lovebirds playing cards together, working puzzles, or sitting by the fireplace.

“He still calls her sweetheart; it’s very sweet,” an attendant in the memory care unit told me.

Accompanied by their daughter, Lynn O’Bryan, Les and Helen spent an afternoon reminiscing on their life together, the happiness they still enjoy, and the secrets to a long-lasting marriage.

This is the advice they shared:

*Rely on Your Faith:* Faith means a lot to the Schaick’s. Helen is Catholic while Les is Presbyterian but together they found a way to blend their faith. Once they got engaged, Les and Helen took instruction together and Lester was always supportive of raising the kids Catholic. Les faithfully saw to it that Helen and the kids got to Mass and he would attend with them on holidays.

*Surround Yourself with Friends:* Helen and Les have known each other since high school. In the beginning, they started hanging out as a group of friends, but as the friend group got older, some of them started pairing up. Eventually Les and Helen started dating too.

After starting their lives together as husband and wife, the Schaick’s moved from Wisconsin to North Carolina, then here to Owensboro because of Les’ woodworking business. But wherever they were, they say having close couple friends has always been a

***Continues on page 13***

## FEATURES

Owensboro couple continued from page 12



COURTESY OF JAMIE ALEXANDER, OWENSBORO LIVING  
Lester and Helen Schaick are seen on the day of their interview with Owensboro Living on Nov. 25, 2024.

support throughout their marriage.

*It's a Partnership:* Lynn says one of the keys to her parent's marriage is that it has always been a noticeable partnership with shared responsibility. Helen helped Les with the business from their home office. Les helped Helen with raising their four kids. Helen enjoyed being at home cooking and cleaning.

"Their relationship together is so good. You don't see that as much these days. People today get mad and walk out, but they never did that. I don't ever remember them fighting much or either one of them getting so mad they walked out. They were good together," Lynn told me. "She always put him and us kids first and put herself last."

*Keep Dating:* Helen proudly recounted their long-standing weekly date nights, which they maintained for over 30 years. After Saturday evening Mass, they had a standing reservation at Colby's downtown. That was their time to talk. Helen says the managers knew they were coming. "We'd walk in and our booth was reserved. Usually it was the same booth and our drinks would already be on the table."

*Forgiveness & Patience:* Another foundation for their marriage is extending forgiveness and showing

patience with each other. "When you have a family and are raising four kids, if you just hang in there it will all work out," Helen said. She also commented that Les wasn't a big talker at home because he talked with people all day long as a salesman. For her, it was more about being able to understand his way of thinking and hearing him more with her heart.

*Don't Give Up:* The underlying thing that Helen mentioned several times was not giving up. "I think kids today give up too fast," she said. "You gotta hang in there. We didn't have all that highfalutin stuff like they do now. We didn't have television or any of that stuff. I never had a washer and dryer when we were younger. We had to hang our clothes on a line and the wet clothes would freeze in Wisconsin. We cooked. Kids nowadays don't make meals like we used to. We put meals on the table and we ate as a family."

*A Positive Attitude:* No marriage is perfect, and life is not always easy. Helen and Les recalled the heartache

of losing two grandkids who were 21 years old and the painful decision to sell the house and move into Cederhurst because they needed round the clock care and didn't want to burden their adult children.

But their positivity carried through. "Life is what you make it," Helen said. "I see people complaining all the time but it doesn't do you any good. Things could always be a lot worse."

I noticed when Lester sat down next to Helen for this interview, he immediately put his arm around Helen's shoulder and smiled. After the nearly hour long conversation, when I asked how he would summarize everything, Les gave a glance toward Helen and gave me what might be the best ending to an interview I've ever heard.

"She's a dandy!" he said.

*This story originally appeared in the January 2025 issue of Owensboro Living, and has been reprinted with permission.*

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## Grand Knight participates in bible-reading New Year's tradition

BY TOM AULL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A tradition in Hardinsburg, Ky., is a “public bible reading” on the courthouse square in downtown Hardinsburg starting at midnight on New Year’s Eve.

Different “teams” from all the local churches are invited to participate and are organized into “watches” to read the bible starting with the Book of Genesis, and ending with the Book of Revelation. The reading occurs around the clock on

Main Street near the front of the courthouse in a heated trailer constructed for this purpose. The readings are broadcast on a loudspeaker onsite as well as partially broadcast on the local radio station. It takes most of four days to complete the bible reading.

This year, Chris Brumfield, the Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Hardinsburg Council 2499 and member of St. Romuald Parish, participated in one of the “graveyard watches” late at night for the event. ■



COURTESY OF TOM AULL  
Chris Brumfield, the Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Hardinsburg Council 2499, participates in a “public bible reading” on the courthouse square in Hardinsburg at midnight on New Year’s Eve.

## Pathway of Hope receives ultrasound machine

BY BERNIE HAYES, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Twenty years ago, Pathway of Hope Pregnancy Resource Center first opened its doors in Central City, Muhlenberg County, with the desire to give hope to young pregnant women who found themselves in what seemed like a potentially hopeless situation. They provided support and help with obtaining clothing and food for the newborns, as well as helping to arrange medical assistance where needed.

In the years since that opening, Pathway of Hope has grown in size and services. They are currently in their fourth location, an ADA-compliant building



COURTESY OF PATHWAY OF HOPE

On Jan. 15, 2025, Pathway of Hope director Diana Anderson cuts the ribbon, officially opening the new ultrasound machine at the pregnancy resource center as staff, board members, supporters, and expectant mother MaKenna Whitehouse look on. The machine was purchased by a grant from the Knights of Columbus Council 17606 of Beaver Dam and Morgantown, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council.

in Greenville near the hospital, and have served nearly 2,000 clients, now providing pregnancy options counseling, peer counseling, pregnancy loss counseling, adoption plan assistance, post-abortion counseling, and many other services. They

also provide abstinence until marriage education for clients, public and private schools, churches, as well as groups and organizations. The center is 100% supported through donations and provides all services free of charge.

*Continues on page 15*

*Ultrasound machine continued from page 14*



COURTESY OF PATHWAY OF HOPE

Expectant mother MaKenna Whitehouse watches the ultrasound image of her unborn baby on the monitor above as Pathway of Hope volunteer Tricia Bears, RN, performs her ultrasound.

In their need to continue to support expectant mothers, Pathway of Hope director, Diana Anderson, reached out to the Knights of Columbus

to help them begin providing ultrasound services. The Fr. Joseph O'Donnell Council 17606 of Beaver Dam and Morgantown gladly took up this challenge. The local council worked to get approval from the Diocese of Owensboro and from the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus to begin fundraising efforts to provide a new ultrasound machine.

When the need became evident to other Knights of Columbus councils across western Kentucky, checks began pouring in. Seven other Knights of Columbus councils and one Fourth Degree assembly sent donations to assist in purchasing the ultrasound equipment needed. Donations also came in from several individuals and from the Pickin' Life Project, which raises funds to support four pregnancy resource centers in western Kentucky.

On Oct. 8, 2024, the ultrasound equipment was

delivered; on Oct. 14, the staff at Pathway of Hope began training on the use of the new machine; and on Jan. 15, 2025, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the ultrasound machine at the Pathway of Hope facility. Representatives from the Muhlenberg County Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus Council 17606, state representative Rebecca Raymer, judge executive Mack McGehee, Pathway of Hope staff and board members as well as many community supporters witnessed the ribbon-cutting and an actual ultrasound of an expectant mother and baby. Dcn. Don Adams of St. Joseph Parish in Central City was on hand to bless the new machine, as well as the expectant mother.

Many thanks to all who worked fundraising efforts, to Councils and individuals who donated, and to the Supreme Council for providing resources in such a needed and worthy program. ■

## Baby box installed in Madisonville, providing safe space for newborns

BY WKC STAFF

On Dec. 16, 2024, Knights of Columbus Council 11132 Father Gerald Glahn Council participated in the dedication of a Safe Haven Baby Box at Madisonville Fire Department's Station 4 location. The ceremony included a blessing by Fr. Steve Hohman, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Madisonville.

Dr. James Donley, a member of the council, said the council provided "at least a fourth of the funds that secured the Safe Haven Baby Box in our community."

"We worked in conjunction with Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center, which we support in our community as well as five other pregnancy care

centers in our area," said Dr. Donley.

This box is the 46th of its kind in Kentucky, and the 298th in the United States. It provides a safe, legal, and anonymous place for people to surrender a newborn they cannot care for. Special guests at the ceremony included mayor Kevin Cotton, Heather Bryant from Door of Hope, and assistant fire chief Jeff Mayfield.

"This obviously was a community effort, not only members of the community supplying money but also working with the city mayor and the fire department to ensure proper installation and proper use of the equipment," said Dr. Donley. "It was not just one person or organization."

Learn more at [www.SHBB.org](http://www.SHBB.org). ■



COURTESY OF DR. JAMES DONLEY

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 11132 Father Gerald Glahn Council are seen with Fr. Steve Hohman at Madisonville Fire Department's Station 4 location during the Dec. 16 dedication of a Safe Haven Baby Box. The council donated at least a fourth of the funds for the box, which provides a safe place to anonymously surrender newborn babies.

## While on Italy pilgrimage, Passionist oblates visit with mother president



COURTESY OF SUSIE BOARMAN

Dottie Pogue (front row, far left) smiles for a photo with the community of Passionist nuns in Lucca, Italy, with her sister, Monica Rhodes (front row, far right). Pogue, Rhodes, and their other sister, Susie Boarman, visited Italy.



COURTESY OF MONICA RHODES

(Left to right) Monica Rhodes, Mother Catherine Marie Schuhmann, Dottie Pogue, and Susie Boarman visit together at the Passionist monastery in Lucca, Italy, in November 2024.



COURTESY OF MONICA RHODES

Pope Francis waves to the pilgrimage group from western Kentucky during a papal audience in November 2024.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

As Passionist oblates, as soon as Monica Rhodes and her sister, Dottie Pogue, knew that they would be going on a pilgrimage to Italy along with their other sister, Susie Boarman, they began making plans to visit a special friend in Lucca, Italy.

Their friend and spiritual mother is Mother Catherine Marie Schuhmann, CP, who was the longtime mother superior of the Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, Ky., and today serves as the first-ever mother president of an international monastic congregation of nuns.

In January 2019, Mother Catherine Marie was elected the first mother president of the newly-erected Congregation of the Nuns of the Passion of Jesus Christ. (In 2018, the Holy See had officially erected the congregation, which encompasses all

female communities of Passionist nuns across the globe.)

Over the past few years Mother Catherine Marie has remained busy as she serves the communities across the world, but has visited her original community in Whitesville on several occasions.

“On August 3 we partook in the blessing of the new construction at St. Joseph Monastery with our beloved nuns, and Mother Catherine Marie was in attendance,” said Pogue, who, as an oblate, is one of a group of committed, like-minded individuals who collaborate in the charism and mission of promoting devotion to the Passion of Jesus Christ.

“We asked if it’d be all right if we came and what she thought would be the best way to get there,” she said. “When we got the (pilgrimage) itinerary, we sent a copy to her and she helped secure a day and approximate time and, with God’s providence and protection, it gloriously happened.”

Pogue, Rhodes, and Boarman participated in the

Nov. 4-14 pilgrimage – which was led by Fr. Mike Clark and Fr. Will Thompson – and Pogue said their “very quick” visit was on Nov. 8.

“We took a train to Lucca, hurriedly walked from the train station to the monastery, which was supposed to be a 15-minute hike, but with a few wrong turns, was a bit more,” quipped Pogue. “When we arrived at the main entrance, the gate was wide open waiting for our arrival.”

She said they were immediately welcomed by Mother Catherine Marie, visited with her fellow sisters, and had the opportunity to visit the monastery museum. They also visited the Sanctuary of St. Gemma, which houses the tomb of Passionist St. Gemma Galgani.

“All too soon our visit had to end, trains wait for none, so we hugged, kissed, and said our ‘arrivederci’ and ‘Dio vi benedica’ to our beloved Mother Catherine Marie President,” said Pogue. “All in all, a very wonderful experience.” ■



# Gospel values in the workplace

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF  
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Whether you are fully retired or just beginning a career, what are some of the Gospel values that you have seen in your workplace?

“On earth, as it is in heaven” are the values we pray for in the “Our Father” every time we recite the prayer that Jesus taught us. What are the values we think are in God’s kingdom, that we would like to see present here? Let’s list a few: compassion, mercy, peace, unconditional love, fairness, justice, and the list goes on.

Lest anyone think the secular workplace is devoid of Gospel values and working in the Catholic Church is the holy grail, sorry to burst your bubble. I have worked in the Church full-time for 35 years and it has not always reflected Gospel values. In fact, I now serve on the board for the National Association for Lay Ministry, and we interview lay ecclesial ministers in the Church and some of the stories are not very different from corporate America.

In a recent document called “The Church as a Field Hospital – Caring for our Own – The Catholic Church and Lay Ecclesial Ministers in the United States,” we suggest that “creating and sustaining a healthy ministerial workplace is both a theological and practical task. The doctrine of the Trinity, as the perfect model of communion, is the lens through which the ministerial workplace is imagined. It concerns God’s life with us – and our life with each other” (pg. 5).

How we live as missionary disciples of Jesus should be clear in the actions we take in the

workplace and in our parishes. Our love for God should be manifest in our love for one another and how we manage, serve, and care for and welcome others.

In our Acts 2:42 Small Groups this month, our theme is the “Workplace and the Wider Community.” We are being challenged to understand that our faith must be lived in every area of our lives and that promoting and protecting human dignity is the role of every disciple of Jesus! Pope Benedict XVI put it this way in his encyclical “Caritas in veritate” from 2009: “The economic sphere is neither ethically neutral, or inherently inhumane or opposed to society. It is part and parcel of human activity and precisely because it is human, it must be structured and governed in an ethical manner.”

We can only work within our scope of influence and entrust our circle of concern to the Lord. And within our influence there is much we can do to bring Gospel values into the workplace and society. How can we care for colleagues, those in our society that have no voice at the table (how we support and protect them?), and how do we treat our enemies?

Following the teaching of Jesus is not easy, but in union with God’s heart through prayer, the sacraments and in Christian community, we can witness to a way of life that works, making present the kingdom of God on earth!

God bless you!

Jeff ■

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



## SCREENSHOT

Local Catholic husband and father Wade Gaynor speaks in the February 2025 “The Workplace & Wider Community” episode of the Acts 2:42 video series, which this year has focused on sharing the faith journeys of people around the Diocese of Owensboro. Other interviewees this year have included Fr. Frank Ruff, GHM, of Todd County; Kristin Dorth of Owensboro; Bayardo and Susana Solorza of Henderson; and Andrew Mung of Bowling Green. These videos can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/@dioceseofowensboro7623](http://www.youtube.com/@dioceseofowensboro7623).

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OSV NEWS PHOTO/MIHOKO OWADA, CATHOLIC STANDARD

A woman prays during the Feb. 5, 2023, Mass for Black History Month at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church in Washington, D.C.

## Black History Month 2025: African Americans and labor

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

The 2025 Black History Month theme, “African Americans and Labor,” connotes the historical significance of work or labor to the history of African Americans. It brings to mind the images and realities of the history of a people who have struggled from the shackles of enslavement and unpaid labor through the socio-economic disparities of a segregated hostile environment of unfair labor practices. A race of people upon whose labors the wealth of slave owners ran plantations, producing cotton, cane, and tobacco. A race of people who were dehumanized for the justification of the greed of those very slavers. This is the dark side of the history of a people who have struggled persistently to overcome the barriers of inequality at work of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, voca-

tional and voluntary, military and civilian.

Work is the pivotal concept around which Black history and culture is focused. Whether in the fields of the rural South, the factories of the North, domestic service, military or public service or those social and political activists along with community groups and social or labor organizations. After the Civil War in which many fought, Black people became sharecroppers, landowners and wage earners (skilled and unskilled) as the country transitioned from an agriculturally-based economy to an industrial one.

Unfortunately, wage discrepancies and unfair discriminatory labor practices forced Blacks from all occupations to organize seeking better working conditions and fair compensation, but this was not an easy road because Blacks were not allowed in many instances to join unions despite the unions’ vow to allow them to do so. Integration even in the AFL-CIO was not effective until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which set a legal basis for Black people to demand membership and equal treatment “under the law.”

Black leaders, male and female, seeking human rights for Black people in the U.S., emerged throughout our history, especially after the abolishment of slavery. Women’s rights were always a large part of the “work agenda” as Black women were always a large part of the workforce.

In 1905 Mary McLeod Bethune, an advocate for Black and women’s rights founded a school for Black girls, (Bethune-Cookman College) in Florida. She became the first woman president of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools and was later appointed director of African American Affairs by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Addie Wyatt who was the first Black woman to hold a senior office in an American labor union at the local international level and joined ranks of union work and

leadership to advocate for job security, women’s rights, and wage increases.

Bayard Rustin, who grew up with visitors such as W. E. B. Du Bois and Mary McLeod Bethune in his home, saw the interconnection between global struggles for racial. Economic and social justice. He was a member of the executive council of the AFL-CIO and a founder of their A. Phillip Randolph Institute who fought against racism and discrimination in the labor movement.

The year 2025 also marks the 100-year anniversary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids. This first Black union to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor was founded by civil rights activist and labor organizer, A. Philip Randolph who became involved in the movement for Black economic and social freedom in Harlem after graduating from Bethune-Cookman college. He also helped lead the fight to end racial and economic justice and to end discrimination in the defense industry and the military, which paved the way for the Fair Employment Practices Commission and the desegregation of the armed services.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., incorporated issues outlined by Randolph’s march on Washington movement into the Poor People’s Campaign, which he set up in 1967. For Dr. King, it was a priority for Black people to be considered full citizens. This theme, “African Americans and Labor,” encourages recognition of the relationship between Black people’s work and their workplaces in Black history throughout the U.S., Africa, and the diaspora. Just as religion, social justice movements, and education, are subjects of interest so is the examination of African Americans’ labor and labor struggles an integral part of the Black past, present, and future. ■

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

# The Chair of St. Peter and our baptism

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

The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, celebrated on February 22, holds deep significance for the Catholic Church, as it emphasizes the authority and spiritual leadership of the Apostle Peter and his successors, the popes. This feast honors the unity of the Church under the pope's leadership, symbolized by the "chair" or "cathedra," a sign of the teaching authority entrusted to Peter by Christ. At its heart, the feast is a reminder of Christ's promise to Peter in Matthew 16:18: "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it."

This celebration of Peter's unique role resonates deeply with the promises made by every Catholic during baptism. At baptism, Catholics renounce sin and affirm their belief in Christ, the Church, and the communion of saints. They pledge to live as members of Christ's body, the Church, embracing the call to holiness, discipleship, and evangelization. These baptismal promises are renewed yearly at the Easter Vigil and every time Catholics participate in sacramental life, serving as a constant reminder of their identity in Christ.

There is an intrinsic connection between the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter and these baptismal promises. The feast highlights the importance of unity and fidelity to the teachings of Christ, handed down through the apostles, particularly Peter, and safeguarded by his successors. Just as Peter received the mandate to "strengthen [his] brothers" (Luke 22:32) and lead the flock of Christ,

baptized Catholics are called to remain steadfast in their commitment to the teachings of the Church, trusting in the guidance of the pope, who holds the Petrine office.

The promises made at baptism, including the rejection of Satan and the embrace of the faith as expressed in the Creed, reflect the need for obedience to the Church's magisterium. Peter and his successors are tasked with preserving and teaching the truth of the faith, and Catholics, through their baptismal promises, express their intention to follow that truth. As members of the body of Christ, Catholics are not independent believers but are incorporated into a community that remains in communion with the teachings of Christ, as upheld by the pope and the bishops.

Furthermore, the connection between the Chair of St. Peter and baptism is deeply rooted in the sacrament's call to mission. Baptism makes each person a participant in the life and mission of the Church. Just as Peter was called to be a "fisher of men" (Matthew 4:19), every baptized Catholic is called to spread the Gospel and contribute to the building up of the Church. The pope, as the visible head of the Church, provides leadership and guidance, encouraging the faithful to live out their baptismal promises by sharing the faith, serving the poor, and promoting justice.

The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter serves as a reminder of the unity and authority of the Church, which every Catholic enters into through the sacrament of baptism. Through the baptismal promises, Catholics affirm their commitment to the teachings of the Church, entrusted to Peter and his



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING  
Gian Lorenzo Bernini's sculpture, "The Throne of St. Peter," in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, is adorned with candles Feb. 22, the feast of the Chair of St. Peter. The annual feast day marks the role the saint and his successors as head of the Church.

successors. This feast highlights the call to follow Christ, remain faithful to His teachings, and live out the mission given to each believer at baptism—to be witnesses of the faith in a world that needs the light 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](http://owensborodiocese.org/faith-formation), email [jay.vanhoosier@pastoral.org](mailto:jay.vanhoosier@pastoral.org) or call (270) 852-8324.*

# SEEK25: Forgiveness, transformation, and friendship



COURTESY OF MICHAEL VON HAEFEN

A banner of St. Joan of Arc, the patron saint of SEEK25, is seen as participants walk between sessions at Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Jan. 3.



COURTESY OF STEVEN MAHONEY

Western Kentucky University students attending SEEK25 in Salt Lake City, Utah, take a group picture before the send-off Mass and before flying home on Jan. 5, 2025.

BY WKC STAFF

*Editor's note: SEEK25, a conference organized by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) took place in two locations this past January. A group from Western Kentucky University's St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center attend the Jan. 1-5 conference in Salt Lake City. Below are several reflections from WKU students who attended. To learn more or register for one of next year's three SEEK locations, visit <https://seek.focus.org>.*

*God is patient | By Carrie Peredo*

I am a senior studying interior design at Western Kentucky University. I grew up a cradle Catholic, resenting early Sunday Mass and going through the motions of the Catholic faith. At 14, my parents divorced, and my father became absent from my life. By 18, I had left home and turned to alcohol, drugs, and toxic relationships as coping mechanisms.

One random Wednesday in my sophomore year of college, I attended a bible study led by a FOCUS missionary to try and understand how Jesus' sacrifice could really absolve all of humanity's sins.

I believed my lifestyle had harmed God too much for forgiveness. After the study, my missionary, Margaret, spent three hours with me, discussing my doubts and ultimately inviting me to SEEK to help me find answers. This year marks my third and final SEEK conference as a student. God has been incredibly patient with my journey, transforming me from the broken girl who walked into a random bible study three years ago into the woman Christ so patiently and lovingly formed me into today. As I near graduation, I've prayed about my next steps. At SEEK 2025, during Adoration surrounded by 20,000 young adult Catholics, I felt God call me to missionary work, and through my melancholic tears, I accepted the call. FOCUS's outreach provided me

with resources to grow and sustain my faith, even in this new world where it's more normalized to disregard Christ than to seek Him out.

I met Christ and so many other virtuous friends at SEEK. SEEK isn't afraid to discuss the hard topics we so often sweep under the rug. I personally love and have reaped the benefits of FOCUS's mission to serve the young adults of the world.

*Running alongside each other | By Michael Von Haefen*

Attending SEEK25 in Salt Lake City was more than just a conference; it was a transformation encounter with God that deepened my faith and reshaped my perspective on my relationship with Him.

At first, I was a little nervous about going to SEEK. I had a general idea of what to expect from what my sister had told me, but I didn't know who

***Continues on page 21***

## SEEK continued from page 20

else was going or how much I'd enjoy it. That all changed the moment I got off the plane and headed to baggage claim.

As I picked up my bag and scanned the crowd, I spotted someone I knew - Brennen, a guy from my bible study. He was with a large group of girls and guys from our Newman center. In that instant, I felt reassured, like God was already guiding me through this journey. I joined their group, and from that moment, the trip truly began.

At the conference, many talks resonated with me, but my favorite was Sarah Swafford's session on relationships. She spoke about living with gift and grit, emphasizing the importance of giving your struggles to the Lord. She said to put them in a box, lay them at His feet, and then start running - looking not back, but side to side to see who's running with you. Those are the people you should surround yourself with.

Her words inspired me to reflect on myself and the people in my life, leading me to reconsider who I should truly invest my time in. Moving into 2025, I'll focus on surrounding myself with people who bring joy and help me grow closer to God. SEEK was an incredible experience, and I'm already looking forward to signing up for 2026 to deepen my faith and build even more meaningful friendships.

*Near Christ's heart | By Mary Pikar*

I was so excited to go to SEEK25. I had been the year prior and loved it. I hoped SEEK25 was going to give me the same experience that the year before did. And in more ways than one, it did, especially during Adoration.

When Adoration night came around, I was sitting on the floor. God put it on my heart to text my brother, who was going through a hard couple of

years. As I was texting him, I couldn't stop shaking. I wasn't cold. I wasn't nervous. Then suddenly, I felt a hand on my arm. It was one of the missionaries from school, Juliette. She asked if everything was okay and I told her I couldn't stop shaking and that I was crying because my brother was going through a hard time and I felt I couldn't help. She pulled me in for a hug. At first this seemed like an ordinary hug until I remembered a forgotten prayer from last year's SEEK. Last year I was struggling having a relationship with Jesus because I felt abandoned. I felt like I couldn't have a relationship with Him because He was not with me in flesh and blood. I believed in the full presence in the Eucharist; I still felt lonely. I wanted Jesus to hold me and to let me know everything was going to be all right. I knew Jesus wouldn't necessarily come to me in His own flesh, so I prayed that He would send someone to give me a hug and to somehow let me know that was the hug from Him.

Suddenly my tears of sadness turned to tears of joy. Juliette was the answer to my forgotten prayer. Then a certain lyric stood out to me from one of the songs that was playing. The lyrics were: "I just want to be near Your heart." Juliette was holding me on her left side and in that moment I heard her heartbeat and I knew that everything was going to be all right and immediately I stopped shaking. When Adoration concluded, I was still in awe of what happened and felt more on fire for Jesus than ever before.

This experience will never leave me lonely again. Even when it's hard having a relationship with Jesus, I hope my story can help others see that Jesus is with us even when we don't see or feel Him. It can be difficult to understand His overwhelming love for us. But he does love us, and he will show it in the most random moments just like He did for me. ■



COURTESY OF WKU NEWMAN CENTER  
WKU students gather in front of the "You Are Here" art display outside the Salt Palace Convention Center on Jan. 5, 2025 on the final day of SEEK25.

## JOY, LAUGHTER, & HOLINESS Women's Retreat

### FEB 8, 2025

**8:00AM | DOORS OPEN**  
REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST

**9:00AM - 2:30PM | RETREAT**  
LUNCH SERVED AT NOON

**REGISTRATION COST: \$30**

**ADDRESS:**  
ST. ANN PARISH HALL  
304 S CHURCH ST.  
MORGAINFIELD, KY 42437

**Register online  
(encouraged) or at the door!**

To register scan our QR code or visit  
<https://owensborodiocese.org/womensretreat/>

Or contact Kelly Joiner: 270-952-0696,  
Kejoiner3@gmail.com

## Gasper campers ring in New Year 2025

BY WKC STAFF

Every Dec. 29 to Jan. 1, current 8th grader and high school students are invited to attend Christmas/New Year's Camp at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green. This provides an opportunity for 8th graders to meet youths they will attend Camp LIFE (Live It For Eternity) with the following summer, and for high schoolers to reconnect with old friends from camp. Youths participated in Gasper's regular activities, attended Mass and Adoration, and had the chance to go to confession. ■



COURTESY OF GASPER RIVER

Campers and staff pose for a silly group photo while attending the Dec. 29, 2024-Jan. 1, 2025 Christmas/New Year's Camp at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green.



COURTESY OF GASPER RIVER

Youths cheer and confetti flies around Boone Lodge at midnight during the Dec. 29, 2024-Jan. 1, 2025 Christmas/New Year's Camp at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green.



COURTESY OF GASPER RIVER

Caroline Kunkel smiles while getting harnessed into the giant swing by program director Olivia Romero during the Dec. 29, 2024-Jan. 1, 2025 Christmas/New Year's Camp at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green.

### ***Save the dates for Gasper River's 2025 summer camps!***

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center's 2025 summer camp schedule is as follows. Register today at [gasperriverretreatcenter.campbrainregistration.com](http://gasperriverretreatcenter.campbrainregistration.com).

- May 12-16: Adult camp (any adults 18 and older)**
- June 1-6: Expedition 1 (fifth and sixth grade)**
- June 8-13: Quest 1 (seventh and eighth grade)**
- June 15-18: Explorer 1 (third and fourth grade)**
- June 22-27: Camp LIFE 1 (high school and graduating seniors)**
- June 29-July 4: Expedition 2**
- July 6-11: Quest 2, Called to Love (high school and graduating senior girls)**
- July 13-18: Expedition 3, Camp LIFE 2**
- July 20-23: Explorer 2**

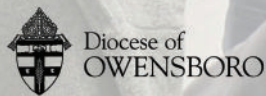
Applications are also open for summer staff. Full-time summer positions include summer ministry staff, photographer/social media manager, music minister, and health care provider. Learn more and apply at [gasperriverretreatcenter.org/summer-positions](http://gasperriverretreatcenter.org/summer-positions). Please contact the camp office at (270) 781-2466 or email [Gasper.Registrar@gmail.com](mailto:Gasper.Registrar@gmail.com) with any questions.

28th Annual  
**YOUTH 2000**  
A Eucharistic-Centered  
Retreat  
March 14-16, 2025



**Brescia University**  
**Owensboro, KY**

For more information:  
[owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000](http://owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000)  
270.683.1545  
270.993.3393



## Priests gather for annual convocation



COURTESY OF FR. COREY D. BRUNS

Fr. Ramesh Kattermetla reads during a liturgy celebrated at the Diocese of Owensboro's Jan. 13-16 annual priest convocation at Saint Meinrad Seminary.

BY WKC STAFF

From Jan. 13-16, the priests of the Diocese of Owensboro gathered for their annual convocation at Saint Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind. The gathering provided the presbyterate an opportunity for formation and to build community with their fellow priests. ■



COURTESY OF FR. COREY D. BRUNS

Dcn. Conrad Jaconette, who was ordained to the transitional diaconate at the beginning of 2025, preaches at the Diocese of Owensboro's annual priest convocation, which was held from Jan. 13-16 at Saint Meinrad Seminary in southern Indiana.



COURTESY OF FR. COREY D. BRUNS

Fr. Daniel Dillard closes his eyes in prayer during Eucharistic Adoration at the Diocese of Owensboro's annual priest convocation, which was held from Jan. 13-16 at Saint Meinrad Seminary in southern Indiana.

## FEBRUARY 2025 BULLETIN BOARD

### **Ursuline Sisters' Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays, first Sunday**

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on the first Sunday of the month from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. at the Motherhouse Chapel, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky. (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). The Ursuline Sisters continue to have Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The public is also welcome to attend on Fridays. Adoration on the second Friday of each month is dedicated to praying for vocations. The Adoration concludes with evening prayer. To see Adoration and Mass times for the Ursuline Sisters, visit <https://ursulinesmsj.org/mass-prayer-times/>

### **Need a meeting space? Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium is available**

Need a meeting space for up to 200 people? The Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium, located on the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph campus (8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky., 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56), is available for renting. The Auditorium is an open space with a kitchen equipped for catering. It's perfect for hosting receptions, parties, reunions, etc. It was built to serve Mount Saint Joseph Academy as a place to hold plays and recitals, and for athletic activities. Both the stage and the basketball court remain. 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 the Auditorium, 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 about renting the Auditorium. 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-the-auditorium>.

### **Mount Saint Joseph Archivists can respond to requests**

Do you have a relative who was an Ursuline Sister

of Mount Saint Joseph? Did you attend Mount Saint Joseph Academy and need a transcript or wish to obtain more information related to the former school? Are you interested in learning something specific about the history of the Ursuline Sisters? The Mount Saint Joseph Archives office is open on most weekdays of the year. The archives is the repository for the permanent historical records of the Ursuline Sisters in Maple Mount, Ky. The mission is to collect, preserve, and make available the permanent records that show the development, growth, and works of the congregation. Records in the archives span from the founding of the community in 1874 until the present day. You can find a list of the collections in archives here: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/archives-collections/> We do ask that researchers set up an appointment prior to visiting the archives. An online request form can be found here: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/archives/> You can mail inquiries to Mount Saint Joseph Archives, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. The archives director, Edward Wilson, can be reached at 270-229-4103, ext. 302, or by email at [edward.wilson@maplemount.org](mailto:edward.wilson@maplemount.org)

### **Support groups for victims/survivors of clergy abuse**

The Diocese of Owensboro would like to share some support group opportunities made available through the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. These groups are open to all victims/survivors in the United States. Learn more at <https://owensborodiocese.org/support-group/> and <https://owensborodiocese.org/safe/>. 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.

### **Homemade sausage sale at Precious Blood**

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Soenneker Council 10725 at Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro once again is hosting its semi-annual homemade sausage sale. You can place your order now for 2-pound rolls for \$9.50 each or links for \$4.75 per pound. The rolls and links come in regular, smoked

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

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

and spicy flavors. Orders are due by Feb. 23, and you can pick up your order between 9 a.m. and noon Sunday, March 2, at Precious Blood Parish, 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro, 42301. Don't wait, place your order today! Call or text 270-570-3192 or email [relbigshew@gmail.com](mailto:relbigshew@gmail.com). Proceeds from the sale will support the Council's charities.

### **Cursillo upcoming events**

Upcoming Cursillo weekends will be held at Gasper River Feb. 27-March 2, 2025 for men and March 6-9, 2025, for women. This is a lay-led, clergy-advised short course in Christian living. The cost is \$180, but there is financial aid available. We don't want anyone to miss out! For more info or to register, contact Martha or Denis Wheatley 270-927-6540, 270-922-6860 or [marthawheatley@att.net](mailto:marthawheatley@att.net). And for those who have attended a weekend, please consider helping in a prayerful way and sign up for an hour of prayer during the weekends. You can contact Michelle Sandheinrich at 270-889-3546 or [michelle.sandheinrich@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.sandheinrich@gmail.com)

### **St. Mary Magdalene truck raffle**

Win a GMC 2500 and support St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho by buying a ticket for their 2025 truck raffle. \$50/raffle ticket. The drawing is Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at the 7:30 PM Fat Tuesday party at St. Mary Magdalene Parish Hall, 7232 State Route 56, Owensboro, KY 42301. For more information call (270) 771-4436 or email [susan.calhoun99@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.calhoun99@yahoo.com).



# Tribunal Explains

**Question: Am I able to receive Holy Communion if I am divorced?**

**Answer:** *Divorced Catholics in good standing with the Church may certainly receive Holy Communion just like any other member of the Church. During such a painful time, Catholics experiencing divorce may need their Church more than ever. The only thing that would keep a divorced Catholic from receiving Holy Communion is if they enter into another marriage outside the Church, or another circumstance arises, such as serious sin, that would keep them from being properly able to receive. One of the ways the Church addresses the needs of divorced Catholics is through the ministry offered by the diocesan Tribunal which is designed to help individuals in the healing process by seeking clarification with regard to their marriage. Further information will be published monthly. If you have questions, please contact the Tribunal at (270) 683-1545 or [tribunal@pastoral.org](mailto:tribunal@pastoral.org).*

## 'We will not let our community be divided in this way' – Catholics urge protection for vulnerable amid new administration

BY KATE SCANLON, OSV NEWS

WASHINGTON (OSV News) – Among the first acts of his second term, President Donald Trump signed a series of executive orders including on immigration, birthright citizenship and climate. Some Catholic organizations expressed concern about the scope of his orders and their potential impact on migrants.

In an event at Capital One Arena, Trump signed a slew of executive orders in front of a crowd of his supporters. According to announcements from one of his aides, Trump signed orders rescinding 78 of former President Joe Biden's executive actions, including one which created a task force to reunite families deliberately separated at the border. Another order suspended some U.S. refugee programs, including one for Afghans cleared by the U.S. government to resettle in the U.S. due to threats by the Taliban after they aided the U.S.

Trump also signed an order withdrawing from the Paris Agreement on climate.

Once he reached the Oval Office, Trump signed an executive order granting about 1,500 pardons for those charged in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol – the day 2,000 supporters of then-President Donald Trump attempted to block Congress' certification of President Joe Biden's election victory when he returned to the Oval Office later that evening. Trump indicated there might be additional commutations after "review."

Trump also signed an executive order seeking to



OSV NEWS PHOTO/REBECCA NOBLE, REUTERS  
A migrant from Mexico's Chiapas state looks through his family's immigration paperwork at Casa Alitas in Tucson, Ariz., March 15, 2024.

end the practice of birthright citizenship. The 14th Amendment states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside," but Trump told reporters in the Oval Office "we're the only country in the world that does this." The order will likely face legal challenges.

In his inaugural address just hours earlier, Trump said he would sign a series of executive orders in the coming days, including declaring a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border, shutting down "illegal entry," and beginning "the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places from which they came." The White House said Trump would take "bold action to secure our border."

While the specifics on how the White House may carry out a mass deportation program are not yet fully clear, mass deportations more broadly run

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**Vulnerable continued from page 25**

contrary to the Second Vatican Council's teaching in "Gaudium et Spes" condemning "deportation" among other actions, such as abortion, that "poison human society" and give "supreme dishonor to the Creator," a teaching St. John Paul II affirmed in two encyclicals on moral truth and life issues.

Executive orders are legally binding directives from the president and are published in the Federal Register. Conversely, the term "executive actions" is broader and may include informal proposals for policy the president would like to see enacted. While it is typical for new presidents to issue some executive orders on their first day to signal certain priorities, Trump signaled plans that were broader in scope. Some of his planned orders are expected to face legal challenges.

Chieko Noguchi, executive director of public affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement the "conference will be carefully reviewing the executive orders that are expected to be signed today by President Trump."

"The Catholic Church's foundational teaching calls us to uphold the sacredness of human life and the God-given dignity of the human person. This means that the care for immigrants, refugees, and the poor is part of the same teaching of the Church that requires us to protect the most vulnerable among us, especially unborn children, the elderly and the infirm. The bishops' conference will work with the Trump Administration as well as the U.S. Congress to advance the common good for all, which will include instances of agreement, as well as disagreement."

Ronnate Asirwatham, director of government relations for Network, a Catholic social justice lobby, said in a statement, "In the coming days we will see an onslaught of Executive Orders, proclamations,

and legislation that will attempt to criminalize our neighbors, family members, and friends, we will not let our community be divided in this way."

"From doctors to grocery store workers, if our neighbors are ripped from our communities, we will be grieving their loss, absence, gifts, and contributions to our community and country," Asirwatham said. "We refuse to stay silent as the state unnecessarily targets people, all the while pursuing policies that benefit only the ultra-wealthy."

Use of CBP One, the mobile app run by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to secure appointments needed to claim asylum and legally enter the United States, was suspended as Trump's term began.

Dylan Corbett, executive director of the Hope Border Institute, wrote in a post on X that while the app "wasn't perfect," it "contributed to a dramatic reduction in irregular border crossings and was the beginning of a safe, orderly and rational way of managing migration at the border."

"Demolishing it in a day will only make life more chaotic for Border Patrol and migrants," he said.

The same evening, the U.S. Senate voted unanimously to confirm Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., as secretary of state on Monday, making him the first confirmed member of Trump's Cabinet in his second administration.

All 99 senators voted in favor of Rubio - including Rubio himself. The one vacancy in the Senate was due to Vice President JD Vance resigning from his Ohio seat earlier in January to take on his new role. Rubio subsequently resigned from the upper chamber as a result of his confirmation. ■

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

## *Know Your Rights presentations to be held in February, March, May*

What do you do if you encounter U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents if you are in the United States without permission? Join us for Know Your Rights presentations with Susan Montalvo-Gesser, immigration attorney and director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, to address this question and others like establishing power of attorney letters for your children in case something happens to you.

**Saturday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish Hall, 609 E. 4th St., Owensboro, Ky.

**Saturday, March 1 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

St. Joseph Parish Hall, 434 Church Ave., Bowling Green, Ky.

**Sunday, May 25 from 2:30-5:30 p.m.**

St. Thomas More Parish Hall, 5645 Blandville Rd., Paducah, Ky.

*Questions about these presentations may be directed to Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez, director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro, at (270) 880-8018.*

## February 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**  
Bob & Marian Davis, 57  
Jake & Courtney O'Nan, 10  
John & Mary Medley, 64  
Ralph & Rose Bemboom, 56  
Tyler & Holly Gardner, 10  
Vince & Joan Frey, 66
- Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro**  
Burnell & Mabel Hamilton, 55
- Christ the King, Madisonville**  
Robert & Martha Pleasant, 50
- Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**  
David & Laura Hager, 51  
Greg & Nelissa Sutton, 25  
John & Carlene Gabe, 62  
Kenneth & Harriett Hite, 58  
Larry & Teresa Baronowsky, 50  
Lawrence & Darlene Smithhart, 54  
Mike & Bobbie Willett, 62  
Norman & Mary Anne Williams, 60  
Richard & Doris Market, 62  
Walter & Gail Clancy, 54
- Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam**  
Leon & Lisa Whitehouse, 25
- Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**  
Agustin & Margaret Sepulveda, 57  
Anthony & Kerry Berta, 10  
Arthur & Carol Kunkel, 50  
Donald & Janet Mott, 57  
Joe & Betty Kunkel, 52  
Peter & Kaye Buser, 58  
Scott & Rosalie Sims, 40  
Toby & Nancy Church, 57
- Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**  
Charles & Patricia Hagman, 54  
Denis & Martha Wheatley, 65  
Josh & Nicole Ballard, 10
- Immaculate, Owensboro**  
Danny & Francele Warren, 55  
Gary & Pat Satterwhite, 65  
Kenny & Rosie Holt, 56  
Logan & Katelynn Buckman, 5  
Michael & Shelia Fulton, 55  
Terry & Carol Hall, 40  
Tony & Becky Dant, 53  
William & Lynda Maddox, 58
- Precious Blood, Owensboro**  
Guy & Linda Connor, 64  
Wayne & Linda Winfield, 56
- Sacred Heart, Russellville**  
Lee & Denise Robey, 50
- St. Agnes, Uniontown**  
Donnie & Becky Ervin, 57  
Jack & Sue Miller, 60  
Robert & Carolyn Mills, 58
- St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**  
Bobby & Nickie Glenn, 10  
Paul & Beverly Smith, 60
- St. Ann, Morganfield**  
John & Emily Thompson, 5  
Pat & Jill Wempe, 40
- St. Anthony, Axtel**  
Homer & JoAnn Mattingly, 57
- St. Augustine, Grayson Springs**  
Billy & Diana Thompson, 51
- St. Augustine, Reed**  
Jeff & Cindy Simon, 40
- St. Benedict, Wax**  
Dwight & Brenda Johnston, 59  
Ruel & Louise Patterson, 57  
Tom & Judy Croghan, 58
- St. Columba, Lewisport**  
Dwayne & Joyce Duncan, 55
- St. Denis, Fancy Farm**  
David & Sandy Hayden, 56
- St. Edward, Fulton**  
Rick & Maria Smith, 53
- St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis**  
Cletus & Peggy Russelburg, 58  
Jimmy & Cecilia Curtis, 53
- St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**  
Larry & Becky Hopper, 52
- St. Henry, Aurora**  
Philip & Dianna Alvey, 55
- St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**  
Jim & Ann Munsell, 52  
Lane & Rylee Roberts, 5
- St. John the Baptist, Fordsville**  
Jim & Dorothy Roberts, 57  
Lee & Connie Roberts, 55
- St. John the Evangelist, Paducah**  
John & Anna Drury, 56  
Kenny & Jeannie Spraggs, 54
- St. Joseph, Bowling Green**  
Carroll & Sue Hughes, 59  
David & Allie Irons, 5  
Donald & Janet Thomas, 25  
Gerald & Norma Jenkins, 58  
Tom & Pat Volk, 57
- St. Joseph, Leitchfield**  
Bob & Joanne Deweese, 58  
John & Reva White, 51  
Kevin & Roni Mudd, 25  
Sam & Rita Hodges, 50  
Steve & Tammy Krebs, 40
- St. Joseph, Mayfield**  
Charles & Dorothy Harris, 58  
Jerry & Norma Erwin, 59  
Randy & Sandy Gossum, 57  
Robert & Rose Coplen, 74
- St. Leo, Murray**  
Joe & Linda Ohnemus, 55
- St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**  
Eddie & Alo Byrne, 56  
Jim & Barbara Schwartz, 52  
Sam & Sherry Holinde, 56
- St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville**  
Bryce & Sue Roberts, 52  
David & Peggy Morris, 55  
Jimmy & Marty Johnson, 61  
Kenny & Carleen Morris, 40  
Randy & Denise Edge, 51
- St. Mary, Franklin**  
David & Marian Becker, 51
- Richard & Elizabeth Gardner, 56
- St. Mary, LaCenter**  
Jim & Marie Funk, 58
- St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove**  
Charles & Barbara Peltier, 62  
Gary & Cheryl Heim, 54
- St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley**  
Denny & Sarona Grant, 50
- St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly**  
John & Judy Moore, 54
- St. Pius X, Owensboro**  
David & Pat Jones, 57  
Mike & Janet Schwartz, 54
- St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**  
Doug & Mona Hinton, 52  
Ken & Michaelanne James, 63  
Kenny & Faye Glasscock, 51  
Larry & Mary Edward Henning, 52  
St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro  
Audie & Lana Chaney, 55  
Robert & Vurble Mahoney, 68  
Tom & Lucy Neal, 64
- St. Stephen, Cadiz**  
Hong & Cathy Khang, 56  
Jim & Kathleen Ariagno, 60  
Tom & Patricia Fritsch, 60
- St. Thomas More, Paducah**  
Al & Mary McKeown, 62  
Larry & Phyllis Stovesand, 55
- St. William, Knottsville**  
Stanley & Barbara Roberts, 53
- Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**  
Ed & Ginny Simon, 25  
Randy & Elizabeth Belcher, 58  
Vincent & Linda Cecil, 57
- Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**  
Pete & Ofelia Barrios, 57

# Do you have diocesan history in Grandma's attic? (Part II)

## How to determine if your items are archives-worthy

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

As I mentioned last month, this article will give examples of archivable items to help you determine whether you have something that the diocesan archives might accept for preservation. Though entire books have been written on appraising possible archival items, I will try to keep this article brief. This is not a complete or exhaustive guide. Some examples are as follows:

*Anything very old having to do with local Catholic churches and institutions:* Any item that you have that is older than the mid-1930s relating to the local Catholic

Church is something that you should contact us about. Simply because of the age and their status as pre-diocesan, these items are much less likely to be extant in our holdings.

*Any minutes books, or records of local Catholic institutions or groups:* These are likely one-of-a-kind items that could contain information that is useful in constructing a more complete picture of our local Church. Groups like the Knights of Columbus, the St. Hubertus Society, the Catholic Students Mission Crusade, as well as countless others, all have such records.

*Old physical media:* Any reel-to-reel (audio or video), cassette tape (audio or video) etc. that contains local Catholic media. This goes beyond a production that was mass produced by the diocese. For example, we know that certain priests had daily or weekly radio spots. We have reel to reel of a few of these, but many we do not. If more of these have been preserved, we would absolutely accept them! Also, around the time Bishop McRaith was installed, he was interviewed by Mother Angelica on her television show. It is likely that someone taped this, and it is still laying around on an old VHS tape. Artifacts like these are absolutely archivable. The timeline is urgent, as well, as the media deteriorates.

*Photographs, memorabilia, and correspondence:* Photographs and memorabilia of, or correspondence with, local bishops, priests, monks, nuns, and sisters are all very welcome and historically valuable.

These are just some examples to help. Notice that all of these are local and Catholic. If an important item is from another diocese, it belongs there. Contact us



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Seen are examples of archivable items: a Knight of Columbus, Owensboro Council, No. 817, banquet program dated April 22, 1906; a reel-to-reel tape; a First Communion photograph from St. Rose in Cloverport, dated June 1, 1913; and a letter from Bishop Cotton, dated September 22, 1949.

and we will be happy to help you get it where it needs to go. Likewise, if something is archival but it is not Catholic, say Civil War items, we will also help you get it to an archive or museum where it can be preserved. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the archives. We are happy to help! ■

*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).*

*Save the Date*

**An Evening in Italy**  
2nd Annual Fundraising Gala & Auction  
May 10, 2025 | Bowling Green, KY  
Benefitting St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home

St. Gianna  
CRISIS PREGNANCY HOME

# Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley:

## *Volver a comenzar: Este Año Santo, encontremos la gracia de Dios en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación*

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Hemos comenzado el Año Santo 2025. El Papa Francisco inauguró este tiempo de gracia en la víspera de Navidad, cuando abrió con ceremonia la puerta del Año Santo de la Basílica de San Pedro. Incluso en los primeros días del Año Nuevo, cientos de miles de visitantes y peregrinos entraron a la basílica a través de estas puertas siguiendo una tradición que se remonta a cientos de años: observar ritualmente el camino de Jesucristo.

La mayoría de nosotros no tendremos la oportunidad de viajar a Roma y visitar las principales basílicas de la Iglesia durante este Año Santo. Pero tengan la seguridad de que este paso simbólico no es la única puerta por la que podemos experimentar la gracia de este año especial. El Papa Francisco ha invitado a todos los fieles a ver en este año que se presenta ante nosotros un “momento de gracia, una invitación a volver a comenzar”.

“Volver a comenzar” está en el corazón de la tradición de los Años Santos. Por muy fiel y buena que sea una persona, todos reconocemos pecados y malos hábitos que se pueden remediar. La práctica de los propósitos de año nuevo y las promesas de Cuaresma hablan del reconocimiento humano de las oportunidades para empezar de nuevo, hacerlo mejor y crecer en la virtud.

Una puerta por la que todos podemos pasar en nuestro deseo de “volver a comenzar” está disponible para nosotros a través de los sacramentos. El Santo

Padre ha pedido específicamente a los católicos que busquen el Sacramento de la Reconciliación durante este tiempo especial. Quizás ustedes ya confiesan sus pecados regularmente. El Año Santo es una oportunidad para acercarse con mayor fervor y humildad. Muchos católicos se han alejado de la práctica de la confesión regular. Durante el Año Santo quizás podamos comprometernos a entrar por esta puerta extraordinaria de gracia.

El apóstol Juan, dirigiéndose a los primeros cristianos, escribió: “Si decimos que no tenemos pecado, nos engañamos a nosotros mismos, y la verdad no está en nosotros”. El Señor mismo nos enseñó a orar: “Perdona nuestras ofensas”, vinculando nuestro perdón de las ofensas de los demás con el perdón de nuestros pecados que Dios nos concederá.

La Iglesia reconoce muchas y diversas maneras en que el cristiano encuentra la gracia de la misericordia y el perdón de Dios. Observamos días y temporadas especiales de penitencia a lo largo del año y tenemos disponibles momentos intensos de sanación y misericordia. En pocas semanas abriremos la puerta de la gracia que se nos da en el tiempo de Cuaresma, donde la Iglesia nos llama al ayuno, la oración y la caridad. La conversión y el perdón se realizan en la vida diaria mediante gestos de reconciliación, de preocupación por los pobres, de búsqueda de la justicia y de reconocimiento de las culpas ante los demás. Tomar la propia cruz cada día y seguir a Jesús es un camino seguro de penitencia.

### CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY FEBRERO DE 2025

1 de feb.	4 p.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson
2 de feb.	2 p.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Owensboro
8 de feb.	Conferencia de hombres – Centro Deportivo [Sportscenter], Owensboro
11 de feb.	6 p.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Owensboro
13 de feb.	9 a.m.   Misa escolar – Escuela Católica de Owensboro, Campus de 4- 6
16 de feb.	9:30 a.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia San Juan Evangelista, Paducah
17 de feb.	10 a.m.   Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
18-20 de feb.	Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de KY y Reunión de los Obispos de la Provincia – Louisville
23 de feb.	10 a.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia Santa Inés, Uniontown
25 de feb.	8 a.m.   Misa escolar – Parroquia Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville
	6 p.m.   Reunión del Club Serra – Briarpatch, Owensboro
26 de feb.	10 a.m.   Reunión del personal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
	6 p.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia San Romualdo, Hardinsburg
27 de feb.	10:30 a.m.   Misa Escolar – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro

Cada vez que recibimos la Sagrada Eucaristía oramos: “Señor, no soy digno de que entres en mi casa pero una palabra tuya bastará para sanarme”.

El pecado es ante todo una ofensa a Dios, una ruptura de la comunión con él. La conversión, entonces, implica perdón y reconciliación con Dios y

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con la Iglesia, y estos se encuentran abundantemente en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación.

A medida que se desarrolla este Año Santo, animo a todos a planificar confesar sus pecados en este sacramento extraordinario. Durante la confesión recibimos la absolución ofrecida por el sacerdote: “Dios, Padre misericordioso, que reconcilió consigo al mundo por la muerte y la resurrección de su Hijo y derramó el Espíritu Santo para la remisión de los pecados, te conceda, por el ministerio de la Iglesia, el perdón y la paz. Y yo te absuelvo de tus pecados en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo”.

Después de haber sido absuelto, el penitente completa el sacramento haciendo solemnemente un acto de contrición y luego cumpliendo una penitencia.

Habiendo pasado por esta puerta de gracia, seguramente podremos encontrar las bendiciones especiales de este Año Santo.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,



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



*Parroquias con misa en Español*

## El Diácono Conrad Jaconette es ordenado diácono de transición

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

En una fría mañana del 4 de enero en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro, el seminarista Conrad Jaconette fue ordenado diácono de transición por el Obispo William F. Medley.

El concelebrante principal fue el Arzobispo Timothy P. Broglio de la Arquidiócesis para los Servicios Militares de EE. UU., ya que el Dcn. Jaconette está copatrocinada tanto por esa arquidiócesis como por la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Después de ser ordenado sacerdote, el Dcn. Jaconette servirá durante varios años en la Diócesis de Owensboro. Después de ese período de tiempo, será cedido a la arquidiócesis militar por un número determinado de años para servir como capellán militar.

Está previsto que el Dcn. Jaconette sea ordenado sacerdote el 31 de mayo de 2025 en la catedral.

En su homilía durante la Misa de ordenación, el Obispo Medley habló de la celebración por parte de la Iglesia de un Jubileo, o Año Santo de esperanza, en 2025. Las observancias de los años santos incluyen pasar por las puertas santas, y el Obispo Medley desafió al Dcn. Jaconette a “buscar” otras “puertas” en la sociedad llevando a Dios a los marginados.

“Tú, mi hermano, mi hijo, estás llamado a hacer tu parte para salvar almas”, dijo el obispo. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
 El Obispo William F. Medley impone las manos sobre la cabeza del seminarista Conrad Jaconette, simbolizando el llamado del Espíritu Santo al ser ordenado diácono el 4 de enero de 2025.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
 Conrad Jaconette, que próximamente sería diácono, sonríe mientras el clero le da su afirmación mediante aplausos después de ser llamado y presentado al Obispo William F. Medley durante la Misa de Ordenación al Diaconado del 4 de enero de 2025.

# Los sacerdotes se reúnen para la convocación anual

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Del 13 al 16 de enero, los sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Owensboro se reunieron para su convocatoria anual en el Seminario San Meinrad en St. Meinrad, Indiana. La reunión proporcionó al presbiterio una oportunidad para la formación y para fortalecer la comunidad con sus compañeros sacerdotes. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. COREY D. BRUNS  
El Padre Daniel Dillard cierra los ojos en oración durante la Adoración Eucarística en la convocatoria anual de sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Owensboro, que se celebró del 13 al 16 de enero en el Seminario San Meinrad en el sur de Indiana.



## Conozca sus Derechos



Contacto o preguntas de logística  
Dcn. Cristóbal Gutiérrez (270) 880-8018



**Susan Candelaria Montalvo-Gesser**  
Abogada de Inmigración y Directora Ejecutiva de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro

**SÁBADO 22 DE FEBRERO, 10:00-1:00PM**  
SALÓN SANTOS JOSÉ Y PABLO, 609 E 4TH ST, OWENSBORO, KY

**SÁBADO 1 DE MARZO, 10:00-1:00PM**  
SALÓN SAN JOSÉ, 434 CHURCH AVE, BOWLING GREEN, KY

**DOMINGO 25 DE MAYO, 2:30-5:30PM**  
SALÓN SANTO TOMÁS MORO, 5645 BLANDVILLE RD, PADUCAH, KY

**RETIRO**  
*Padre & Hijo*  
**2025**

**8 DE FEBRERO 2025**

**GASPER RIVER**  
**CENTRO DE RETIRO**

para registrar  
llama al (270)852-8341

**RETIRO: Madre & Hija**  
**RECUPERANDO TU AMISTAD**  
**22 DE FEBRERO DEL 2025**  
GASPER RIVER RETREAT CENTER  
PARA REGISTRARSE  
LLAMA AL (270)852-8341

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](https://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>.

# Quince años de gracia: El ministerio diocesano del Obispo Medley a lo largo de los años



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El Obispo William F. Medley da la bienvenida a los peregrinos que participan en la peregrinación hispana para el Año de la Misericordia del 27 de agosto de 2016 desde la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro hasta la Catedral de San Esteban.

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El 10 de febrero de 2025, el Obispo William F. Medley celebrará su 15º aniversario de ordenación episcopal, cuando fue nombrado obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro, Kentucky. A continuación, se presentan algunos aspectos destacados de sus últimos 15 años como pastor de la Iglesia católica en el oeste de Kentucky. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Mientras estaba en vuelo el 21 de diciembre de 2021, el Obispo William F. Medley levanta una custodia que contiene el Santísimo Sacramento para bendecir a las comunidades de su diócesis que se vieron afectadas por los tornados que azotaron la noche del 10 de diciembre de 2021.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Un hombre y su hijo pequeño saludan al Obispo William F. Medley después de las vísperas del 17 de febrero de 2020 en la Catedral de San Esteban para celebrar el décimo aniversario de la ordenación episcopal del obispo.