

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

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Seen, known, and loved

Steve Hollman, a parishioner at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro, teaches middle schoolers how to build bed frames for a service project in this June 2023 file photo.

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Front page main photo courtesy of St. Pius X Parish.

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.

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A Word From Bishop Medley: *Who is our neighbor?*

“The family of Nazareth in exile, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, emigrants in Egypt and refugees there to escape the wrath of an ungodly king, are the model, the example and the consolation of emigrants and pilgrims of every age and country, of all refugees of every condition who, beset by persecution or necessity, are forced to leave their homeland, beloved family and dear friends for foreign lands.”

One might assume that the above quote is one from Pope Francis addressing the plight of tens of millions of refugees and migrants on the move in our current century. But this quote is from Pope Pius XII in his Apostolic Constitution, “*Exsul Familia*,” of August 1, 1952. The year 1952 was but seven years after the end of World War II and still there were refugees wandering the world in the aftermath of that war. This era may have seen the vastest dislocation of peoples in the history of the world. It has been said that our day, this third decade of the 21st century, may be seeing the second largest such dislocation.

The quote from Pope Pius XII was included in a recent pastoral letter from Pope Francis addressed to the bishops of the United States. Since the beginning of Pope Francis’ now twelve-year papacy he has recognized the urgency of calling the worldwide Church and societies to recognize the crisis around the globe of peoples fleeing war, persecution, and crushing poverty. Though his concern extends around the globe he has been particular in challenging the stable nations of Europe to open their borders and their hearts to refugees from Ukraine, the Middle East, and Africa.

In addressing his particular concern to American

bishops, the Holy Father observes a “major crisis” with the initiation of a program of mass deportations.

I know that there has been a chorus of protests from around our country and from American Catholics that the pope should not be criticizing the United States. His concern for the plight of migrants and refugees well predates our current political upheaval. As I noted, Pope Francis has been continuously addressing the nations of Europe.

As for a country’s legitimate right to secure its borders and to provide security for its people, the pope writes, “One must recognize the right of a nation to defend itself and keep communities safe from those who have committed violent or serious crimes while in the country or prior to arrival.”

These issues are fraught with high emotion, and we tend too readily to join sides and question the motives of any with whom we disagree. Sadly, there are even those who quickly strike the chord of racism to incite people.

Who are refugees and migrants? Refugees are peoples who have been vetted and in many cases waited years and years to legitimately enter the U.S. Our own Catholic Charities had been approved to receive and resettle one hundred refugees in western Kentucky this year – but all that has been placed on hold for the time being.

In recent years many more have come to our country as migrants and very often did not enter the country legally, or, have stayed beyond their legal permission. But Pope Francis challenges the American bishops to lead our people to recognize that many of them “have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation,



CNS PHOTO/TYLER ORSBURN

A sculpture called “Angels Unawares” is seen at The Catholic University of America in Washington Sept. 27, 2020. The life-size sculpture, which depicts a group of migrants and refugees crowded on a boat, is a replica of the original one Pope Francis unveiled in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican during the 2019 World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

BISHOP MEDLEY’S MARCH 2025 CALENDAR	
March 1	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah
March 2	2 p.m. Rite of Election – St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm
March 4	8 a.m. School Mass – Sts. Peter & Paul School, Hopkinsville
March 5	12:05 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
March 9	2 p.m. Rite of Election – St. Stephen Cathedral
	6 p.m. Rite of Election – St. Stephen Cathedral
March 10-11	Installation of Cardinal McElroy – Washington, D.C.
March 12-14	The Way Forward Conference – Fordham University, New York

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FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

BISHOP MEDLEY'S MARCH 2025 CALENDAR CONTINUED	
March 16	10:45 a.m. Closing Mass for YOUTH 2000 – Brescia University, Owensboro
	2 p.m. Scouting Mass – St. Anthony Parish, Browns Valley
March 17	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
	1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
	4 p.m. Catholic Foundation Board Meeting – Owensboro
March 18	8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
March 20	9 a.m. School Mass – Owensboro Catholic Middle School
March 22	4 p.m. Confirmation – St. Peter of Antioch Parish, Waverly
March 23	11 a.m. Confirmation – St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
March 24	9 a.m. Senior Conversations – Owensboro Catholic High School
March 25	10 a.m. School Mass – St. Mary Middle School, Paducah
March 26	10 a.m. Diocesan Staff Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
March 27	8 a.m. School Mass – Holy Name of Jesus School, Henderson
March 29	4 p.m. Confirmation – St. Ann Parish, Morganfield
March 30	1:30 p.m. Confirmation – St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield

A Word From Bishop Medley continued from page 3

persecution or serious deterioration of the environment.”

Immigration is not an unfixable problem, but our broken politics always seem to avoid genuine solutions. The Holy Father notes the challenge of tens of millions of refugees and migrants in the world today demands that nations work together. He calls for us, as Christians, to ground our discussion and remedies by affirming the infinite dignity of all people – all created in the image and likeness of God.

The framework for our consideration is the parable of the Good Samaritan found in the tenth chapter of the Gospel of Luke. It presents a very high ideal. The Samaritan had no legal obligation to the man who had been robbed and beaten. He could have “passed by the other side” as did the priest and the Levite. But the parable says that the Samaritan was moved with compassion when he saw him.

Jesus told this parable in answer to the question, “Who is my neighbor?” After relating the tale Jesus asked, “Which of these proved himself a neighbor to the man?”

That question is one for each of us and for our nation, “Who is our neighbor?”

+ William F. Medley

Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro



A note regarding the Migration and Refugee Services program

With deep gratitude for the work that has been done, we share that our Migration and Refugee Services with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro are currently on pause. We ask for your prayers for the refugees and families in limbo, that they may find hope, stability, and the support they need. May we continue to be a people of welcome, trusting in God’s providence and seeking ways to serve those in need.

Be on the lookout for upcoming community conversations on immigration and refugees. As people of faith, we are called to reflect on what we want our community to look like and how we can move forward in love and readiness to welcome the stranger. May our hearts be open, our dialogue be fruitful, and our actions reflect Christ’s call to hospitality.

-Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro

Celebrating his ordination anniversary as bishop, diocesan staff thanks Bishop Medley for his 15 years of service and leadership

BY MARTHA HAGAN, VICE-CHANCELLOR

Editor's note: On Feb. 10, 2025, the staff of the McRaith Catholic Center (the central offices for the Diocese of Owensboro) gathered for Mass and lunch in celebration of the 15th episcopal ordination of Bishop William F. Medley, observing the day he was ordained as the diocese's fourth bishop. Martha Hagan, vice-chancellor and administrative assistant to the bishop, shared a reflection about that memorable day, during which she was serving as the director of the Office of Worship. Her reflection is reprinted below.

I remember the day so vividly. It certainly does not feel like 15 years ago. It was such a joyful day, full of excitement and energy. There was a buzz in the Sportscenter as the presence of the Holy Spirit filled the place. The liturgy was a beautiful experience of church, with the Sportscenter filled with people – despite the snow outside.

It was an honor to be a part of the day itself and also the planning. The best comparison I can make is that it is much like planning a wedding for several thousand of your closest friends and doing it in less than 2 months. It was a tremendous amount of work, but I felt so honored to be doing it.

A blizzard hit the United States on February 9 and 10. Schools were closed, and so, many parents chose to bring their children. It would have been the first time any of them would have experienced anything like it. That may also be true for many of their parents. It is an event that does not occur often in one lifetime. The celebration itself is rich in ritual, tradition, and pageantry.

To further set the scene for you:

It was a Wednesday. A blizzard hit the United States on February 9 and 10 affecting the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and New England. In Owensboro we had a fresh snow total of more than seven inches on top of snow already on the ground. Because of 16 inches of snow on the ground in Washington, D.C., the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, was not able to make the trip to Owensboro for the ordination. It is tradition for the Nuncio to be present to read the proclamation from the Holy Father. In his absence, Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, OSU, chancellor at the time, read the proclamation.

The price of a dozen eggs on Feb. 10, 2010, was \$1.66. The #1 movie at the box office was Avatar. The #1 song was Tik Tok by Kesha. The most popular baby names for people born on that date were Isabella and Jacob. A 3.8 magnitude earthquake struck near Chicago on that day.

The time that has passed since Feb. 10, 2010 (the time that Bishop Medley has been our Bishop) consists of: 780 weeks; 5,475 days; 180 months.

For every one of those moments, you have been a gift to your staff and to the entire diocese – and we are very much looking forward to all the moments yet to come.

We always hold you in our prayer. However, as a sign of our love for you and support of you, we have engaged the past few weeks in a period of more intense and intentional prayer for you. We are very pleased to present to you today a spiritual bouquet – an accounting of at least some of the prayers, works



RILEY GREIF | WKC

On Feb. 10, 2025, Bishop William F. Medley reminisces about his ordination as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, which took place 15 years ago that day.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Staff of the McRaith Catholic Center, the central offices of the Diocese of Owensboro, surround and pray for Bishop William F. Medley on the occasion of his 15th anniversary of episcopal ordination on Feb. 10, 2025.

of mercy and sacrifices that have been offered for you and for your intentions.

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Now, we'd like to offer one more prayer of blessing of you, Bishop. I ask the entire staff to stand and join me in a prayer of blessing for you, composed by Valeria Vessels.

A Prayer for Bishop Medley's 15th Anniversary

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, celebrating the 15th anniversary of Bishop William Medley's faithful service to the Diocese of Owensboro. We thank you for his unwavering commitment, his deep love for Your people, and the strength of his faith that has guided us all these years.

Lord, we praise You for the many blessings You have poured upon Bishop Medley. Through his leadership, compassion, and steadfastness, we have grown closer to You and to one another. His example of love, humility, and service has inspired us to walk in faith, seeking Your will in all that we do.

As we look to the future, we ask You to continue to bless Bishop Medley with wisdom, strength, and courage. May Your Holy Spirit fill him anew each day, guiding his heart and mind as he shepherds Your flock. Grant him abundant grace, peace, and joy in his ministry, and may Your love surround him always.

We pray for his health, his peace of mind, and for Your continued guidance as he leads with a servant's heart. May he know the deep appreciation and love of the faithful he serves, and may You abundantly bless him for all that he has given in Your name.

We offer this prayer with hearts full of gratitude, trusting in Your never-ending love. In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen. ■

The above prayer was written by Valeria Vessels, director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Owensboro.

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Finding a place for Catholic men ‘to be real’

BY ANDY TELLI, WESTERN KENTUCKY
CATHOLIC

Many men today are isolated and alone, which makes them vulnerable to the devil and a host of addictions and vices, said John Edwards, the founder of Just a Guy in the Pew Ministries.

“A lot of men have been raised to be these one-man armies, to not be emotional or have feelings,” said Edwards, one of the featured speakers at the 10th Catholic Men’s Conference of Western Kentucky, held on Saturday, Feb. 8. “They’ve been told to put their heads down, work hard, never complain, never have feelings or emotions and do it by yourself.

“So a lot of men are isolated and alone,” he added. “The devil goes after them just like on the Discovery shows you see with the gazelles running and then one goes off to the side and the lions maul it. It’s the same thing with men. We isolate and we pull back, we become easy targets for the devil.”

To combat this danger, Edwards has launched an initiative to start men’s ministries in parishes across the country.

“If you don’t have a healthy place to go to be yourself, to be real, to have authentic relationships where you can share, then you’re always going to struggle, and you’re always going to try to do it by yourself,” he said. “And you wind up self-medicating or turning to something else other than Christ.”

During his talks at the conference, Edwards spoke about his own conversion story, in which he turned to Christ to help lift him from a life of drug addiction, and his ministry to help parishes organize men’s groups.

Edwards is coming back to the Diocese of Owensboro to lead an overnight Leadership Summit Men’s Retreat, April 25-26, at Rough River State Resort Park. During the retreat he will explain his program for launching men’s ministries.

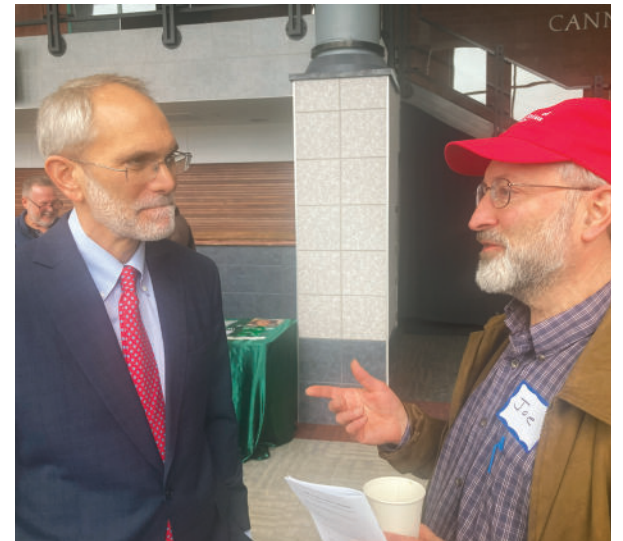
“This retreat is about how to form men’s ministries and how to make sure our lives are solid in our relationship with God and our prayer life,” said Dr. Jeff Andrini, director of evangelization and discipleship for the Diocese of Owensboro. “What are the pillars of men’s ministry. We have to have social, we have to have adoration and prayer, we have to have learning. So (Edwards) talks about how we develop those pillars so you’re not just having a social group cooking ribs, which are nice but that doesn’t give the guys what they really need in their lives.”

The retreat, which costs \$100, is open to any man interested. For more information, contact Dr. Andrini at jeff.andrini@pastoral.org or (270) 683-1545.

The men’s conference, like the retreat, was an opportunity for men to deepen their faith, Dr. Andrini said.

“It’s important that men gather together. So often we know we’re supposed to be in our homes being spiritual and leading our families. But often men don’t take that role,” he said. “So, here’s an opportunity to kind of really challenge men to be fully human by being connected to the divine, having a relationship with God.”

When it comes to one’s faith, there are different modes of knowledge, said Dr. David Anders, the other featured speaker at the conference and an author and the host of the EWTN program “Called



ANDY TELLI | WKC

Dr. David Anders, left, one of the featured speakers at the Feb. 8, 2025 Catholic Men’s Conference of Western Kentucky, speaks with Joe Wagner, a parishioner at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville. He is an author and host of the EWTN program “Called to Communion.”



ANDY TELLI | WKC

Andy McGill, left, a parishioner at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson, talks with John Edwards, right, one of the featured speakers at the Feb. 8, 2025 Catholic Men’s Conference of Western Kentucky.

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to Communion.”

“There’s propositional knowledge, which is the kind of knowledge that you can put in sentences and write in a book,” Dr. Anders explained. Another mode of knowledge is perspectival, “when you can take a certain perspective,” he said.

“A lot of what Catholic faith is about, is about coming to take the perspective of Christ, say with regard to the poor or one’s neighbor or one’s enemy,” said Dr. Anders. “It’s one thing to have the abstract knowledge that I should love my enemy. It’s another thing to actually be able to view him as an object of love.”

Participating in the life of the Church is a way a person can gain the perspective of Christ, Dr. Anders said. “That’s what the system of sacraments and teaching in Catholic life are meant to convey. They’re not there just to convey information. They’re there to change our character so that we fundamentally live life a different way.”

This year’s Catholic Men’s Conference of Western Kentucky was the first since 2019. It was suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Andrini reached out to some of the board members of the Men’s Conference to see if they were interested in organizing another conference: “They were like, ‘You know we’d like to, but we need more people. We just can’t keep doing this forever ourselves,’” Andrini said.

So Dr. Andrini recruited more people to help organize the conference and brought some resources from the diocese to the effort, he explained.

This year’s conference, held at the RiverPark Center in Owensboro, attracted about 350 men from around the diocese and beyond, said conference board member Randy Clemens, a parishioner at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

Clemens helped start the men’s conference after attending conferences in other cities. On the return trip from one of those conferences in Cincinnati, Clemens recalled, “I said, ‘We can do this in Owensboro. We don’t need to make this drive.’”

After getting approval from the bishop, Clemens, fellow St. Stephen parishioner John Kurtz and others launched the first men’s conference.

“Even if you can’t explain it to yourself, the people who have a stake in your life and you in theirs, know we all need to continuously improve. And that’s not just emotional, physical, intellectual, it’s spiritual,” Kurtz said. “I mean if you’re not honest with yourself and make yourself vulnerable, just like John Edwards said, then you’re not going to grow, because you’re just stifling your spiritual growth.” ■

Andy Telli writes from Owensboro.



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Faith in Travel Pilgrimages

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Is Catholic Social Teaching a ‘new theology’?

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

My uncle, who loves birding, gets so excited when migration happens, and he will travel across the country to add one species to his list of over 700 birds. I get so excited when our faith calls us to understand that we are not simply observers of God’s plan, but we are integral to its unfolding in our time!

Have you ever considered that our Catholic theology is a treasure of God’s revelation to the world from the beginning of time 13.7 billion years ago, most fully realized in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus? As human beings, we continue to learn about the height, depth, breadth and width of God’s love and our call to live as disciples of Jesus, making present the reign of God.

I am reading a book by one of my favorite professors, Fr. Stephen Bevans, SVD. It is titled “Community of Missionary Disciples: The Continuing Creation of the Church.” He states that “the church is constantly being created by the summons of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to embody, demonstrate, and proclaim the revolutionary intimacy that is the reign of God” (page 5).

The line, “the revolutionary intimacy that is the reign of God...” sends chills down my spine. As disciples of Jesus, we are invited into the communion of the Trinity and participate in intimacy with God and therefore embody God’s reign in our midst! How

are we called to embody this reign? In our actions and words, through a life of prayer and the Sacraments, we are called to live a joyful life of service and love, which is the fruit of union with God.

In the early Industrial Revolution, there were incredible abuses against humanity. Countries created child labor laws to protect young people and in 1891 Pope Leo XIII wrote “Rerum Novarum” (The Condition of Labor). The document speaks of the dignity of the human person and work, the right to property and the right to form labor unions. This document is the foundation for Catholic Social Teaching today.

In the past 130+ years, the Catholic Church has further developed this teaching, which has roots in the Early Church but has been more fully articulated late in our history. These seven themes were first articulated in 1998 by our U.S. bishops, and include 1) Dignity of the human person, 2) Call to family, community and participation, 3) Rights and responsibilities, 4) Option for the poor and vulnerable, 5) Rights of workers, 6) Care for Creation, 7) Solidarity. For more information on this check out <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching>.

Being a Catholic is a lifelong journey of growing in our relationship/union with God and reflecting God’s heart to the world. Sometimes Catholic Social Teaching may challenge Catholics to think bigger than their own context and to see through different eyes. Far from being a new theology, it is God’s ongoing revelation and call to be disciples of Jesus. ■

Peace,
Jeff

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



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The scrutinies: A call to reflect and transform

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

The Catholic scrutinies, an integral part of the initiation process for catechumens (those seeking Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), serve as a profound call to self-evaluation and transformation within the Catholic faith. Rooted in the belief that true conversion involves a deep examination of one's life, the scrutinies invite individuals to reflect on their actions, choices, and spiritual journey. In this article, I would like to explore how the scrutinies compel all, both catechumens and the broader Catholic community, to assess their lives and embrace a path of renewal and growth.

The meaning and purpose of the scrutinies: The scrutinies are a series of rites within the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) that take place during the Lenten season. They are specifically designed to assist catechumens in their spiritual journey. The word "scrutiny" itself implies a careful examination or investigation, and in the context of the Catholic faith, it signifies a soul-searching process.

A call to self-examination: At the heart of the scrutinies is the call to self-examination. Catechumens are encouraged to scrutinize their lives, acknowledging their weakness and sins, and seeking God's mercy. This process mirrors the broader invitation for all believers to engage in regular self-reflection. The scrutinies remind the faithful that spiritual growth requires a humble recognition of our shortcomings and a sincere desire for transformation.

The themes of light and darkness: The scrutinies are marked by a symbolic play of light and darkness. The imagery emphasizes the contrast between sin and the light of Christ. Through prayers, scripture readings, and rituals, the scrutinies challenge individuals to confront the darkness within themselves and, by God's grace, move towards the light of redemption. This metaphorical journey is not exclusive to catechumens but resonates with every believer striving for a deeper relationship with God.

Community participation and support: While the scrutinies are a personal and introspective experience, they are not undertaken in isolation. The Catholic community plays a crucial role in supporting individuals through this transformative process. The congregation, by witnessing and participating in the scrutinies, reaffirms its commitment to accompanying each member on their spiritual journey. This communal aspect underscores the universality of the call to self-evaluation within the broader Catholic context.

Integration into everyday life: The lessons learned during the scrutinies extend beyond the ritualistic context. The call to evaluate one's life becomes a continuous practice, integrated into everyday living. The Catholic faith encourages believers to carry the spirit of the scrutinies into their daily actions, fostering a conscious effort to align their lives with the teachings of Christ.

In essence, the Catholic scrutinies transcend their immediate purpose of preparing catechumens for sacramental initiation. They emerge as a powerful and universal call for all members of the faith to evaluate their lives, confront their weaknesses, and embrace a transformative journey toward God. Through self-examination, the interplay of light and darkness, community support, and the integration into daily life, the scrutinies beckon believers to embark on a lifelong pursuit of spiritual growth and renewal. ■

A Path of Grace: Spain & Portugal

led by Fr. John Thomas

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The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph congratulate **Brescia University** on its Centennial year! What began as Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women in 1925 has flourished into a wonderful university that continues to make the Brescia Difference in the lives of countless young people. Our Ursuline Sisters continue to serve at Brescia today.



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356
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You can find a brief history of Brescia here:
ursulinesmsj.org/brescia-university

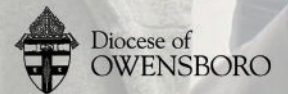
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Brescia University Owensboro, KY

For more information:
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Want to add some unique beauty to your home? Sign up for the Ursuline Sisters' Quilt Club!

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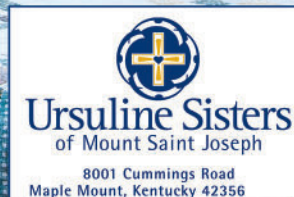
Sign up by April 3 to be entered into all 12 drawings.

Only 2,500 tickets will be sold, so don't delay!

Questions? Contact Carol Braden-Clarke: 270-229-2008
carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org

Tickets are
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Sign up online:
ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-club



License #0290

Catholic Schools Week 2025

BY WKC STAFF

Catholic Schools Week 2025 took place from Jan. 26-Feb. 1 and featured a variety of celebrations across the Diocese of Owensboro's 17 Catholic schools. Here are some highlights from the week.



COURTESY OF DAVID KESSLER, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF THE DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

(Left photo) Bishop William F. Medley is seen with Blessed Mother Parish's pastor, Fr. Brandon Williams, and Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus students who served as altar servers for Catholic Schools Week 2025 Mass. (Right photo) Bishop William F. Medley processes up the aisle during Catholic Schools Week 2025 Mass at Blessed Mother Parish for the Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus. The bishop visited to preside at the school's Mass that day.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

(Left photo) Students, staff and families of Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus participate in a pep rally for Catholic Schools Week 2025 in the school gym. (Right photo) Students, assisted by Owensboro Catholic Schools director of faith formation Matt Madej, participate in a pep rally activity at the school system's 4-6 Campus during Catholic Schools Week 2025.

Continues on page 13

EDUCATION

Catholic Schools Week continued from page 12



COURTESY OF OCS

Fr. Daniel Dillard, chaplain at Owensboro Catholic High School, raises the Eucharist during the consecration at school Mass for Catholic Schools Week 2025.



COURTESY OF ST. ROMUALD

Bishop William F. Medley presides at school Mass at St. Romuald Interparochial School in Hardinsburg during Catholic Schools Week 2025.



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL

Barney the Bearcat, mascot of Brescia University in Owensboro, visits with the Holy Name Cardinal, the mascot of Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson, during Catholic Schools Week 2025.



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL

Altar servers and Holy Name of Jesus students Issy Hurtt, Hallie Pirtle, and Micayla Pirtle are seen at Catholic Schools Week 2025 Mass at the Henderson school.



COURTESY OF ST. ROMUALD

A student choir leads music during school Mass at St. Romuald Interparochial School in Hardinsburg during Catholic Schools Week 2025.

Continues on page 14

EDUCATION

Catholic Schools Week continued from page 13



COURTESY OF ST. PAUL SCHOOL

Several students, along with St. Paul Parish's Dcn. Dale DePoyster, are seen at Mass for Catholic Schools Week 2025. Student Austin Clemons is dressed as a priest, and students Abel and Lucy Winn (Dcn. DePoyster's grandchildren) are dressed as St. Francis of Assisi and St. Lucy.



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

St. Joseph School students in Bowling Green, dressed up for Decades Day during Catholic Schools Week, stand in front of a colorful bulletin board proclaiming "I have called you by name and you are mine" from Isaiah 43:1. The school also celebrated the week with Jan. 29 Mass celebrated by Bishop William F. Medley; a parent versus student basketball game; color wars; and bingo.



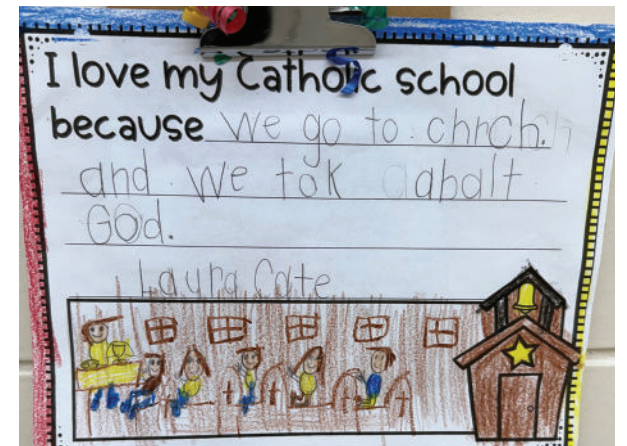
COURTESY OF ST. PAUL SCHOOL

Students and staff of St. Paul School in Grayson County dress as saints and priests or religious for Vocation and Saint Day during 2025 Catholic Schools Week.



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL

Holy Name of Jesus students Parker Hauser, Cruz Davis, and Moises Arroyo clean the school during Catholic Schools Week 2025.



COURTESY OF OCS

"I love my Catholic school because we go to church and we talk about God" writes Laura Cate, a student of Owensboro Catholic School K-3 Campus, during Catholic Schools Week 2025.

Buddy Bench gifted to Mary Carrico in honor of late alumna



COURTESY OF MARY CARRICO SCHOOL

Family members and friends of Jeanie Wedding pose for photo with Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara after the blessing of the Buddy Bench on Jan. 31 at Mary Carrico Playground in Knottsville.

BY MARY CARRICO STAFF

With the passing of Mary Carrico Catholic School alumna and local parishioner Jeanie Wedding, her family – including husband Joe Wedding, daughter Amanda Higgins, and son Joey Wedding – wanted to do something to honor her. They were looking for a project that would help reflect the love, warmth and friendship that Jeanie showed everyone she met. That project became a “Buddy Bench,” to be used to promote friendship and inclusion at Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville.

A Buddy Bench is a bench placed on the playground of a school. When a student has no one to play with or feels lonely or sad, they can go sit on the bench. That’s a signal to other students that a student needs a friend! It encourages kids to reach out to each other and support and include

everyone in play. We all need extra encouragement and friendship from time to time, and this Buddy Bench is a great playground tool to promote it.

On Jan. 31, MCCS held a special ceremony to bless the Buddy Bench, teach students how to use it, and then complete friendship activities to work together. Each student made colors of faith necklaces and colored paper butterflies decorated with ways to be a friend, to place on a bulletin board.

MCCS is so grateful to the Wedding family for this Buddy Bench. It was a great way to wrap up our Catholic Schools Week, reminding us, “Encourage one another and build each other up!” (1 Thessalonians 5:11) ■

This was originally published in the Sts. William and Lawrence Parishes bulletin.



COURTESY OF MARY CARRICO SCHOOL

A bulletin board at Mary Carrico Catholic School, featuring student-made butterflies bearing messages of how to be a friend, is seen during Catholic Schools Week. Volunteer Kay O’Bryan cut out all the butterflies and assembled the bulletin board, which was part of the school’s Buddy Bench ceremony.



COURTESY OF MARY CARRICO SCHOOL

Mary Carrico Catholic School students color paper butterflies with messages about friendship as part of the dedication ceremony for the school’s new Buddy Bench.

Holy Name student shines the light of hope for the jubilee

BY HOLY NAME OF JESUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

In anticipation of Jubilee of Hope 2025, Fr. Richard Meredith, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson, commissioned a young, up-and-coming artist, Maverick Hillyard, to create the artwork for a St. Lucy prayer card.

Hillyard is a sixth grade student and parishioner at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School/Parish. He has demonstrated an eye and talent for the arts in the past and was thrilled to be asked to assist on this

project. Fr. Meredith adapted the prayer for the card and gave Hillyard basic information as to St. Lucy's life and death.

Hillyard set to work researching the saint and, based on his studies, formulated a plan of action. The history that St. Lucy's eyes were gouged prior to execution combined with the jubilee year of pilgrimage moved Hillyard to illustrate eyes in the hands of St. Lucy and a shell representing pilgrimage in his creation. The final product is a moving image and excellent addition to the prayer card which will be used throughout the Jubilee 2025. ■



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL
A depiction of St. Lucy, drawn by Holy Name of Jesus sixth-grader Maverick Hillyard, is seen on a prayer card designed for the school.



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL
Maverick Hillyard, a sixth grader at Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson, illustrated a prayer card for the Jubilee of Hope 2025, depicting St. Lucy. He is seen holding his depiction of the saint.

Hope does not disappoint

Romans 5:5

Celebrating the Jubilee of Hope in the Diocese of Owensboro



In order to embrace the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope" for this Jubilee, six pilgrimage sites have been established in our diocese where one can gain a plenary indulgence.



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

Learn more about these pilgrimage sites and other ways to celebrate the Holy Year by scanning this QR code



‘They don’t care what you know till they know that you care’ Why the core of youth ministry is relational ministry



COURTESY OF ST. PIUS X PARISH
Steve Hollman, parishioner at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro, teaches middle schoolers how to build bed frames on June 6, 2023.

BY MATT KNIGHT, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“They don’t care what you know till they know that you care.” This is a saying I heard many years ago and this is the core of what youth ministry looks like here at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro. At the end of the day, everyone wants to be seen, known, and loved. Think back to your formative years. The person that influenced your life the most, more than likely saw you, got to know who you were, and then through that you felt a sense of belonging and love. I was thankful to have had many people in my high school years that did that for me at Holy Name in Henderson. They knew my name, they got to know me as an individual, and through that I felt loved. I feel that this is the

heart of what youth ministry is all about.

There can be a lot of pressures wanting you to teach scripture, the history of the church, all the rich amounts of prayers the Church provides, etc. While all of that is still what we are called to do, none of that can stick, if they don’t know that you care. Youth ministry is just a stepping stone on a long faith journey of our youth. One thing that we can do is make sure that our youth know that the Church is a safe place to be themselves and grow into a child of God.

The beauty of relational ministry is that it can be done in so many different ways. It can look like a fist bump on the way into Mass or making funny faces when you make eye contact with a kid. It’s finding out which of your youth are in band, sports, or dance and showing up to their event. If a youth has a job in the community, dine or shop where they work, and simply say hello. But at the end of the day, it is showing them that they truly matter. It’s listening to their stories and getting to know them for who they are.

When you look at the ministry of Jesus, this is exactly what he did. In the story of the Road to Emmaus, Jesus walked alongside them and listened to them. It wasn’t until after listening to them that he revealed who he was. Ministry can’t just be teaching the faith. It has to start with relationships and getting to know the people you are ministering to. This is why that saying is so important to me. I can have every answer ready for them in regards to faith, but “they don’t care what I know till they know that I care.” ■

Matt Knight is the youth minister for St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF ST. PIUS X PARISH
Renee Guinn and Melanie Wallace lead youth in a work project in Caruthersville, Miss., on July 8, 2024.



COURTESY OF ST. PIUS X PARISH
Matt Knight visits members of his parish youth ministry program attending Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center on June 26, 2024.

Ursuline Sisters honored at Brescia centennial event

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

Brescia University in Owensboro kicked off its centennial year by honoring the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph with a program and reception in Duffy Auditorium on Jan. 27, 2025. Several Ursuline Sisters traveled from their motherhouse in Maple Mount for Brescia University's 100th anniversary event that day, which happened to be the feast day of the Ursuline founder, St. Angela Merici.

The Ursulines founded the original Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women in 1925. It became a co-ed Brescia College in 1950. The school received university status in 1998. ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
Sr. Suzanne Sims, left, and Sr. Cheryl Clemons try to identify some other Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph from photos of the early days of Brescia then-College during an event on Jan. 27 celebrating the university's centennial.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
(Left to right) former Brescia University employee Sally Halbig, Sr. Susan Mary Mudd, Sr. Michele Morek, Sr. Ann Patrice Cecil, Sr. George Mary Hagan, and Sr. Nancy Murphy attend a Jan. 27 event celebrating the school's 100th anniversary. All of the Ursuline Sisters pictured were on the Brescia faculty or staff at one time, (with the exception of Sr. George Mary), and all of them earned degrees from Brescia.

Christians join together to pray for unity



COURTESY OF CLAUDIA RAMISCH

Seen at the Jan. 26, 2025 Prayer for Christian Unity gathering are Rev. Dr. David Carletta (Trinity Episcopal Church in Owensboro); Bishop William F. Medley (Diocese of Owensboro); Rev. J. Chris Michael (First Christian Church in Owensboro); Rev. Karla Fullwood (Breckinridge Street United Methodist Church and Trinity United Methodist Church in Owensboro); Claudia Ramisch (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro); Rev. Jane Rothman (retired, Faith Lutheran Church in Owensboro); Bishop John Stowe (Diocese of Lexington); and Rev. Derek Cain (Third Baptist Church in Owensboro).

BY WKC STAFF

On Jan. 26, 2025, First Christian Church in Owensboro hosted the annual Prayer for Christian Unity.

Fr. Ray Clark, director of the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Ecumenism, said that those attending were not large in number, but that it was "a wonderful service." A special guest this year was Bishop John Stowe of the Diocese of Lexington, Ky.; other local clergy also spoke.

A meal afterwards provided time for fellowship. Next year's Prayer for Christian Unity gathering will be held on Jan. 25, 2026, on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. It will be hosted by Third Baptist Church in Owensboro. ■

A modern approach to adult faith formation: *The story behind ‘Catholicism 101’*

BY EMILY GIPSON, ST. MARY OF THE WOODS PARISH

“What about something like RCIA, but for cradle Catholics?” This idea has driven our efforts to meet the education and formation needs of adults at St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville. Based on my conversations with other ministers throughout the diocese, it’s clear that this is a common desire among people in our pews.

When I first came to Whitesville three years ago, the parish was considering how to meet these needs by creating small groups. However, the majority of people struggled to commit to a regular meeting time, so we decided to offer monthly sessions—what would eventually become “Catholicism 101: The Things You Wish You Remembered from Catholic School and CCD.” After a year of sessions with low attendance, our people began vocalizing that they were eager to learn, but couldn’t make things work with their schedule. Knowing we needed to pivot our approach again, but unsure of what to do, we took the matter to our parish council.

A few years ago, we received funding from the Disciples Response Fund to purchase podcasting equipment as part of an endeavor by our youth minister at the time, Jessy Bennett. “Finding Faith: Sharing Stories of Encounter and Questions,” was a hit among our parish family, and many were disappointed when the show ended after her departure. Hungry for adult education, and knowing that we already had the

resources, parish council suggested transforming the monthly “Catholicism 101” sessions into a podcast. So, in May 2024, “Catholicism 101: Forever Learning and Living the Faith” was born.

After a few YouTube tutorials on the recording equipment, some trial and error with the editing software, and getting used to hearing myself on the mic, we began releasing episodes. With topics ranging from the differences between Catholics and our Protestant brothers and sisters, to the occult, forgiveness, morality, and more, the positive feedback from parishioners has affirmed the success of our latest endeavor.

Majella Mills says, “I look forward to it. When another one comes out, I can’t wait to get home and listen. It brings up memories of what I learned in grade school that I had forgotten.” Cory Smith, a member of the parish council, says, “After graduating from Trinity, I found myself missing the ongoing faith formation we had, and ‘Catholicism 101’ has been the perfect way to fill that need. This podcast makes it easy to deepen my understanding of Church teachings and has truly been a blessing in my spiritual journey.”

One of my personal favorite aspects of “Catholicism 101” is getting to share the content with everyone who wants to listen, especially my folks back home at St. John the Evangelist in Paducah. It’s also interesting to see that people from Ireland, Canada, and beyond are tuning into a little Catholic education podcast from Whitesville, Kentucky.

Overall, it’s been beautiful to see how our effort to educate those in our little corner of God’s country has not only been successful, but also extended its reach, helping others in the diocese and beyond. “Catholicism 101: Forever Learning and Living the Faith” is available on all major podcast platforms, making it easy for listeners near and far to engage with the content. ■



COURTESY OF EMILY GIPSON

Emily Gipson, the director of catechetical formation for St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville, is seen recording an episode for her “Catholicism 101: Forever Learning and Living the Faith” podcast.

Tribunal Explains

Question: If my marriage is declared invalid by the Church, does it mean that my children are illegitimate?

Answer:

In addition to it being a sacramental union, a marriage is also a civil, legal reality, and children born of that legal union are legitimate. Nothing changes either of those facts. There are no civil effects to a Church declaration of invalidity (annulment). Children legitimately born of a civilly recognized relationship remain legitimate. 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.

Enhancing the sound of liturgy: Local music director shares wisdom with other parishes

PRESS RELEASE

For over 40 years, Matt Gray has dedicated his musical and technical talents to serving the Catholic Church. As director of music and liturgy at Immaculate Parish in Owensboro, Matt's role goes far beyond leading choirs or directing ensembles. From the hymns sung during Mass to the clarity of the spoken word, he works to create a worship experience that draws people closer to God. Founding Liturgical Sound Consulting was a natural step in continuing his mission.

“Over the years I became increasingly aware of the need for this type of service in many of the parishes in our diocese and felt called to help,” Matt shared. “Most pastors and parishioners are left by sound contractors to handle sound system problems on their own, which can lead to challenges for the assembly to fully participate in the celebration of Mass.”

When St. William Parish in Knottsville needed to replace their aging, 30-year-old sound system, Mike Bogdan, former diocesan director of music, reached out to Matt for assistance. Thanks to Matt's expertise, the church successfully upgraded their system, transforming it so that the music and prayer could be heard clearly and reverently. The parish was thrilled with the results.

“The people of St. William's parish were extremely grateful for my help and advice,” Matt said. “Modern technology calls for extra knowledge about audio/video systems and how they can support the ancient traditions of the

Catholic liturgy.”

Through Liturgical Sound Consulting, Matt helps parishes design and fine-tune sound systems that honor the sacredness of the Mass. For Matt, sound isn't just about technology – it's about creating an environment where the Word of God and sacred music resonate beautifully, helping worshipers connect more deeply with their faith.

Matt's work also includes overseeing major renovation projects. As chair of the renovation committee for Immaculate, he played a key role in the parish's \$3.8 million renovation. Drawing on his technical expertise and deep understanding of liturgical design, Matt ensured the updated space met both the aesthetic and practical needs of the liturgy, creating a worship environment that balances beauty and functionality.

Matt works closely with parish leadership, architects, and sound contractors to ensure every project runs smoothly. His knowledge of liturgical elements, shaped by years of working at Immaculate Parish and studying the Roman Missal and Church documents like the “Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy” (Sacrosanctum concilium), allows him to approach each project with reverence and care.

He conducts onsite evaluations, advises on purchases and installations, and oversees projects to ensure every detail aligns with the church's needs. Once systems are installed, he provides training for pastors, musicians, cantors, and choirs, ensuring they can use the equipment effectively.

For Matt, this work is not just a business – it's a calling. Whether he's helping a small parish





COURTESY OF NICOLE GRAY
Matt Gray explains sound techniques to a parishioner at St. William Parish in Knottsville.

improve its sound system or contributing to a large-scale renovation, Matt sees every project as an opportunity to serve God and his Church. For more information visit www.liturgicalsoundconsulting.com. ■

A 10-Day Pilgrimage to
IRELAND
with Fr. Christopher Kight & Fr. James Dennis

OCTOBER 7-16, 2025

For more details & to register, visit:
<https://stcharlespilgrimages.com/KIGHT-DENNIS>

Paducah celebrates fifth annual Walk for Life

BY TOM CLINTON, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On the blustery afternoon of Jan. 25, a small group of faith-filled people literally “stepped out in faith” in support of life from conception to natural death. As strong winds stirred up the leaves, Paducah’s fifth annual Walk for Life stirred a commitment to defend life in all phases.

Organized and sponsored by Knights of Columbus Divine Mercy Council 11591 and Holy Rosary Council 1055, the walk followed a path in downtown Paducah, from Dolly McNutt Plaza to a halfway point at St. Francis de Sales. There the walkers found a portable trailer that frequently travels throughout the area. Sponsored by West Kentucky Right to Life, the trailer is filled with small crosses, symbolic of the millions of babies whose lives ended through abortion.

The walk began at Dolly McNutt Plaza with an opening prayer led by Fr. Mike Clark, pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah. Holding high signs provided by Knights of Columbus Supreme Council with the entreaty to “Love Life, Choose Life,” the marchers chanted those phrases loud and clear along the way.

At the Right to Life display, a representative from the local Right to Life organization read a prayer in support of life. That was followed by recitation of the rosary, with each decade led alternately by Knights from each council.

As the gusts of wind continued, the marchers returned to Dolly McNutt Plaza, holding their signs



COURTESY OF DENNIS HERRICKS

Participants in Paducah’s fifth annual Walk for Life gather around a Right to Life display at St. Francis de Sales Parish on Jan. 25, 2025. The display featured crosses representing the millions of lives lost to abortion. In addition to a Right to Life prayer, the group prayed a rosary, with alternate decades led by members of Knights of Columbus Councils 11591 and 1055, co-sponsors of the walk.

and chanting their “Love Life, Choose Life” conviction. Those in attendance were reminded that though Roe vs. Wade has been overturned and returned to the states, the need to uphold life has never been greater. ■

Tom Clinton is the life director for Knights of Columbus Divine Mercy Council 11591.

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Join parishes across the diocese in equipping families to live porn-free.

Download the free Ebook **Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture**

CLEAN HEART INITIATIVE'S
SPOKES OF CHARITABLE

St. Gianna
CRISIS PREGNANCY HOME

JOIN US FOR

An Evening In Italy

BENEFITING
ST. GIANNA CRISIS PREGNANCY HOME

05.10.2025
6:00 PM | LA GALA
BOWLING GREEN, KY

COCKTAIL HOUR | APPETIZERS | DINNER
SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS
SPECIAL GUEST HOST

TICKETS GOING ON SALE MARCH 5!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores remain beacons of hope

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is proud to operate some of the oldest thrift stores throughout western Kentucky. The Society continually works to maintain an up-to-date, pleasing and modern atmosphere in their retail spaces.

This past year, the two SVdP superstores saw significant renovations to their retail spaces. After many years of planning, the Paducah store was able to expand its retail space to include a designated furniture area by moving its Helpline Assistance Program into a separate building. The Owensboro location saw significant renovations last year to both the exterior and interior. Through the generosity of donors, they now have new flooring and more than 350 LED lights installed.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is also proud of the many changes made at the Henderson thrift store. Their Vincentians are excited to offer a greater shopping experience. The Madisonville thrift store recently celebrated its 50th year. The Lewisport store continues to offer low-cost items and assists neighbors in need throughout Hancock County. The Whitesville store continues to grow and will soon need additional retail space to serve the needs of shoppers and donors.

All stores offer new and gently-used clothing, home décor, kitchenware, small electrical appliances, bedding, and furniture at reduced prices.

“I love shopping at St. Vinnie’s; I always can

stretch my dollars here,” said one shopper.

“By donating new and gently used items, you are allowing us to pass on these cost savings to our shoppers,” said diocesan council president, James Dale.

Currently, this Catholic lay organization, founded in 1833, operates six thrift stores in western Kentucky. Each thrift store is locally operated and governed by its local volunteer-led conference or council.

Diocesan council CEO, Richard B. Remp-Morris, said, “Every day, on average we have four hundred people donate goods to our six thrift store locations. Every year, we serve approximately 15,000 customers throughout western Kentucky. With that said, we believe our thrift stores are a vital part of who we are, allowing us to carry out our mission. On the opposite side of every purchase is an individual or family struggling to make ends meet. Whether you are donating items or purchasing them you are fighting homelessness and food insecurity because 100% of the proceeds support our programs and services.”

Remp-Morris added, “We are extremely grateful for our donors and shoppers we are humbled they trust St. Vincent de Paul.”

To learn more about our thrift stores and SVdP, visit svdpwky.org. ■

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

‘Revive – Renew – Rebirth’

Lenten mission series for the Jubilee Year of Hope with Catholic evangelist Richard Lane



Mission dates:

**At St. Pius X Parish,
3418 KY-144, Owensboro:**

Sunday, March 16: 6 p.m., Opening Night of Revival
Monday, March 17: 6 p.m., Renewal Through Prayer & Reflection
Tuesday, March 18: 6 p.m., Rebirth in the Fire of the Holy Spirit
(Light meal in parish hall from 5-5:45 p.m. each evening before mission. Childcare available during mission.)

**At Blessed Sacrament Chapel,
602 Sycamore St., Owensboro:**

Wednesday, March 19: 6 p.m., Moving in Hope
(Light meal in parish hall from 5-5:45 p.m. before mission.)

Questions:

St. Pius X location: (270) 684-4745
Blessed Sacrament location:
(270) 926-4741

www.richardlaneministries.com

Women's retreat attendees learn to make God their foundation

BY BETH HENDRICKSON, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary.” (Isaiah 40:31)

As we enter the Jubilee Year of Hope, all who attended the Joy, Laughter, and Holiness Women's Retreat on Feb. 8 had an opportunity through prayer, song, story and fellowship to soar on wings like eagles because they hope in the Lord and their strength was renewed.

As women arrived to St. Ann Parish Hall in Morganfield, you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit dancing from one friend to the next, lifting spirits, rekindling old relationships, and sparking new ones. Guests were treated with a light breakfast and coffee to begin their day. Guests also had an opportunity to visit vendors this year: Pax Rosa, Louisville, Ky.; Saint Meinrad Books and Gifts, St. Meinrad, Ind.; Into the Deep, Owensboro, Ky.; Cursillo of the Diocese of Owensboro; Mother's Gift Shop, Morganfield, Ky., and coffee provided by Iron Stein Coffee in Morganfield. Lunches were provided by OT's Café in Dixon.

After opening prayer and music by Michelle Crider and Adam Guess, speaker Olivia Watson Burke began to share a chapter of her life with everyone. Olivia's initial connection to Joy, Laughter, and Holiness began with her mother-in-law, Lisa Burke, who was one of the original team members to begin this retreat. Lisa, who died of cancer on Jan. 7, 2024, had opened the very first retreat in 2023 with her journey story and her relationship with Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Olivia's chapter was much deeper than the loss



COURTESY OF BETH HENDRICKSON
(Left to right) Retreat speaker Olivia Watson Burke; organizers Linda Baird, Kelly Joiner, Jill Utley and Beth Hendrickson; and fellow speaker Sarah Lilly Malone are seen at the Feb. 8 women's retreat.

of her mother-in-law: her grandmother, Rose French died about a month later on Feb. 8, 2024; followed by the death of Olivia's own mother, Cathy Watson, on March 3, 2024. Olivia shared her story of her own growth as a person – a story of how each of these important women, through their love, compassion, and faith in God, formed a strong foundation for Olivia to carry her into her chapters as a wife and a soon-to-be mother of Lisa Catherine (named after her mother-in-law, Lisa, and her mother Cathy).

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” The next speaker, Sarah Lilly Malone, said these words from the Serenity Prayer carry her through every moment of every day. Sarah shared many small chapters of her life, allowing all to peek into her life raising and homeschooling five children with her husband, Jarrod. Through laughter, through sorrows, through tears, through dancing, and through the many talents of her young family, the Serenity Prayer sustains her and provides



COURTESY OF BETH HENDRICKSON
Jackie Francois Angel serves as the keynote speaker for the Feb. 8, Joy, Laughter, and Holiness Women's Retreat in Morganfield.

her the strength she needs to be the wife and mom that God intended her to be.

The keynote speaker, Jackie Francois Angel, raising her five children with husband Bobby, shared a glimpse of her chapters of her life. Catholic musician, singer, songwriter, guitarist, speaker, and youth minister, Jackie helped guests dig deep into their own hearts, reminding all that the devil loves for us to keep things in the dark: she encouraged everyone to bring their wounds to the light to be healed by Jesus Christ. Referring to the book “Be Healed” by Bob Schuchts, Jackie reminded the guests of the various “roots of sin” (abandonment, shame, fear, powerlessness, hopelessness, rejection, and confusion), breaking each one down to allow guests to reflect on their own journey.

Guests were also reminded of some of the three most important prayers to seek Jesus' aid: Calling out the name of Jesus, for he will come to your aid; the rosary, a powerful sword; and “Come Holy Spirit.” Jackie reassured everyone that the devil has no power over us. We are all called to be a light to the world. ■

MARCH 2025 BULLETIN BOARD

Mass and confession times in the Diocese of Owensboro

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

Catholic Sisters Week is March 8-14

Catholic Sisters Week, celebrated on March 8-14, shines a light on the spirituality, mission, and community building of women religious around the world. The "Celebrating Traditions, Changing the World" has become a perpetual theme. If you see a Catholic Sister, tell her "Happy Catholic Sisters Week!" You can find out more here: www.catholicsistersweek.org. In recognition of this week, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.), and a few Ursuline Associates are making some fleece blankets with knotted edges on March 10-11 to donate to a women's shelter. "This is the same week that we have quilters coming to make quilts for us," Sister Amelia Stenger explained. "We thought it would be good for the Sisters and Associates to make some fleece blankets for the women to give them warmth and comfort." Catholic Sisters Week is celebrating its 10th anniversary. It is organized by the Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) and is an official component of Women's History Month. Also in March, follow the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph on Facebook for a special series during Lent beginning March 5. Ursuline Sisters contributed to the Lenten posts. You can follow the posts here: www.facebook.com/ursulinesmsj.

Wednesday Lenten small community discussions: Walking with Mary to Jerusalem

Mary: Our life, our sweetness, and our hope. As we embrace this Jubilee year of hope, come walk with others entering into the hope and heart of Mary as she accompanies Jesus to Jerusalem. Each day, in a few short pages, Fr. Toups provides aids to help guide

your prayer: A word ~ focus on a single word daily to help you enter more deeply into the theme of the week's readings; A reflection ~ read a short reflection and meditate on Scripture; A prompt ~ journal daily, writing down your thoughts and the stirrings in your heart as Our Lord and his Blessed Mother speak to you this Lent. And on Lenten Wednesdays beginning March 12 join in one of two small community discussions at Immaculate Parish, 2516 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY. Discussions from 12 noon-1 pm or 6-7 p.m. in the Parish Family Center classroom A. Email Steve Garvin, sgarvin@immaculateparish.org to reserve your \$6 copy of the journal today.

Pilgrims of Hope: Lenten 5 p.m. Sunday Vespers & Friday noon Stations at Immaculate

What hopes do you have for Lent this year? In what ways will you embrace encountering God's Word, mercy, and love this season? The Lenten season is of hope found in the transformation of our lives through the many ways of encounter. Lent is so much more than fasting, penance, and almsgiving. It is an invitation to step away from the routine way of experiencing daily activities and bring a new and holy attention to them and all spiritual practices. May you discover the extraordinary in the ordinary this Lenten season. Come worship in community at Immaculate Parish, 2516 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY, during Lent on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. for Vespers & Fridays at 12 noon for Stations of the Cross.

Immaculate Conception announces parish mission experience

Immaculate Conception Parish in Hawesville will celebrate a four-day parish mission experience from March 16-19 in the parish church at 6 p.m. The preacher for the mission will be Fr. John Mark Etensohn, a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Fr. John Mark has given parish missions or retreats in over 25 states and Canada. The Missionary Oblates are a religious community of priests and brothers founded in 1816 by St. Eugene DeMazenod, who later became Bishop of Marseilles, France. The principal focus of their ministry is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor, in every sense of that word. Today some 3,000 members carry on their mission in 68

countries and on every continent. The theme of the Parish Mission will be: "No Ifs, Ands, or Buts, God is with us... Now What?" What does God's presence with us really mean for us? What is its purpose? How are we to respond? How might the Mystery of this presence unfold in the routine of our daily lives? Why does it seem like God is so distant, especially when there is a critical need? In all of this is it okay just to be me when what is at stake is eternity? All interested persons are invited to attend this parish mission. For more information, call the parish office at (270) 927-8419.

Sts. William and Lawrence Lenten mission

St. William and St. Lawrence Parishes in Daviess County, Ky., gladly welcome everyone to our Parish Lenten Mission on April 6-8, 2025, 6-7:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church. Fr. Wade Menezes of the Fathers of Mercy will be leading the Parish Mission. The theme will be the Holy Eucharist. On April 6, at 7:15 p.m. we will also have opportunities for confession. Questions: director of religious education Amber Berry at (270) 281-4802.

Nominate a pastoral minister or volunteer for the 2025 catechetical leader award

The Offices of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry are asking for nominations for the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award. The recipient of this award will be announced sometime this spring. Anyone from the Diocese of Owensboro may nominate an individual for this award. Nominees should be (or have been) professional ministers or volunteers, working for a minimum of 5 years in the Diocese of Owensboro in the field of catechetics. Some ministerial roles to be considered are Director of Faith Formation, Coordinator of Faith Formation, Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister, etc. The recipient of the award is a role model as an outstanding human being; committed to Diocesan, Parish and Community service; shows a deep sense of spirituality; is knowledgeable, and committed to continuing their intellectual, spiritual and collaborative growth. The deadline for nominations is April 14, 2025. The Core Committee for Religious Education, consisting of the Diocesan Directors of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry will discern

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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and select the recipient. All nomination forms should be submitted online (online is preferred) or mailed to the Youth Ministry Office, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130 or emailed to robin.tomes@pastoral.org by April 15, 2025. Online nomination link (preferred method): <https://owensborodiocese.org/catechetical-leader-award/>.

Visit the Ursuline Sisters' Rosary Walk and Shrine Walk

Since the day it was blessed and dedicated in 2006, the Rosary Walk on the grounds of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph has offered people a chance to express their spirituality among the beauty and splendor of the "holy ground" at Maple Mount (8001 Cummings Road, 12 miles west of Owensboro, Ky., on Hwy. 56). The Rosary Walk is located on the front of the grounds (northwest corner) and includes the Christ the King statue. Visitors can use their cell phones to reach this webpage and listen to an audiotape of the rosary (recorded by Sr. Elaine Burke, OSU) to accompany their walk: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/rosary-shrine-walk/> Or visitors can stroll to see the inspiring shrines on the grounds of the Motherhouse. They can visit this webpage to find a list of the shrines and to hear a recording about them (recorded by Sister Nancy Murphy, OSU): <https://ursulinesmsj.org/shrine-meditation-walk/> People can also listen to these recordings on their computers. No appointment is necessary to see the Rosary Walk or the shrines. There are new sidewalks on the west side of campus available for anyone to use.

Bricks still available from former Mount Saint Joseph Academy/Retreat Center

Those who would like a keepsake of Mount Saint Joseph history may wish to obtain one of the "miracle bricks" that Father Paul Joseph Volk created to build Mount Saint Joseph Academy in 1874, which was later converted into the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center in 1983. Five hundred bricks were saved for posterity before the building was deconstructed in 2023. For a suggested donation of \$25, a brick will be reserved in your name. The bricks must be picked up in person and cannot be shipped. The bricks will come with a certificate of authenticity. You can order a brick by writing a check to the Ursuline Sisters and mailing it to: Academy Brick, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. Or order bricks online at this link: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/mount-brick/>

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.

Diocese offers training programs on detecting suspicious behavior, planning for emergencies

BY WKC STAFF

Scott Ingram, the Diocese of Owensboro's director of disaster prevention, preparedness, and emergency operations, is offering free training programs for all Catholic schools and parishes, as well as their respective staff.

One program is focused on detecting suspicious behavior and the other program helps with parish planning and emergency preparedness. Information is drawn from Catholic Mutual, the diocese's insurer, and includes resources to prepare organizations in the occurrence of tragic events.

The parish planning and emergency preparedness program includes church security planning with awareness and prevention, usher/staff training in church security, and active threat and course of action information.

Parishes and schools interested in having a training may contact Scott Ingram at scott.ingram@pastoral.org. ■

All are invited to attend an
ecumenical
Taizé
prayer service

with Bishop William F. Medley

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025
6 PM**

**St. Stephen Cathedral
610 Locust Street
Owensboro, KY**

For protection and
healing of victims of
sexual abuse and those
who care about them

Sponsored by the
Diocese of Owensboro's
Office of Safe Environment

**Learn more at:
owensborodiocese.org/safe**

‘Fr. Paul Volk, founder of the Mount, murdered?’

How a case of mistaken identity caused temporary international confusion



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Fr. Paul Joseph Volk is seen in Central America in this undated photo.

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

In the midst of a brutal three-year rebellion in Columbia, a priest is pulled from his home in the middle of the night. The rebels take the holy man to the middle of a dark road, have him kneel, and, in front of several crying captives, six shots break the

peaceful silence of the cool Central American night. Following this, a headline breaks the hearts of many across multiple continents: “In Central America the Rev. Missionary P. J. Volk was attacked and shot. The victim is a native of Fulda. For more than twenty-five years the so unmercifully and cruelly assassinated missionary worked as pastor under the most trying conditions in the region.”

Born in Hünfeld and ordained in Fulda, in what is now Germany, Fr. Paul Joseph Volk arrived in the United States, then a mission territory, to serve the Diocese of Louisville. Through most of the 1870s, Fr. Volk famously served the German and English-speaking Catholics of Daviess County, completing Mount Saint Joseph in 1874. The good priest was then sent to Lincoln and Boyle Counties to minister to the German communities there for nearly a decade. After nearly 20 years serving in Kentucky, he was granted permission to mission to the priest-poor people of Ecuador.

He labored with great success throughout Central America. For years, Fr. Volk’s adventures captured the attention of Catholics in the United States and Europe. His letters and articles were often published in newspapers in the U.S. and Germany. His observations of the customs and scenery of Central America fascinated his western audience. But in 1902, an unwelcome headline came.

For years, Columbia had been in the throes of rebellion. No one was safe. This was especially true for priests. The news of Fr. Volk’s murder rocked the Kentucky diocese and his native Germany.

But perhaps the most shocked person to read the news was Fr. Volk himself. He mentioned that he read the news of his death in a German newspaper with the “greatest surprise.”

It turned out the report was a mistake. The Louisville Courier-Journal later dispelled the story, reporting that they had spoken with Mother Augustine Bloemer at Mount Saint Joseph, and she confirmed she had recently corresponded with Fr. Volk and he was alive.

Fr. Volk later explained that another priest in a nearby village had been tragically killed, Fr. Ruso. However, Fr. Volk recounted what he did “During that dangerous night.” Amidst the gunfire and bloodshed echoing through the jungle, Fr. Volk proceeded to the church, had a long adoration, consumed the Host for what he thought would be the last time and awaited his martyrdom. The night passed and troops arrived to protect the village. As the last boat was departing from Panama, Fr. Volk’s parishioners begged him to flee. He refused, later stating “no power on earth could have induced me to abandon my people.” He also convinced two other priests to stay their posts. Fr. Volk continued missioning for over another 10 years, into his 70s, until finally returning to Mount Saint Joseph to spend his final years. Fr. Volk, pray for us! ■

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

March 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 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th 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

Dennis & Gloria Ramage, 63
John & Sharon Bell, 52
RC & Margaret Keith, 68

Christ the King, Madisonville

Bill & Bonnie Burns, 55

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Charles & Karen Nunley, 61
Lonnie & Dee Kennedy, 56
Paul & Mary Wilder, 56
Paul & Nina Drury, 66

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Larry & Marie Wilson, 55
Lian Pau & Ciin Mang, 57

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Craig & Rose Mauzy, 51
James & Marilyn Young, 57
William & Sarah Kemper, 63
Precious Blood, Owensboro
Dennis & Sonja Jewell, 51

Sacred Heart, Russellville

James & Ruth Dauley, 56
St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
Harold & Tricia Murphy, 40

St. Ann, Morganfield

Alvin & Mary Austin, 54
Randy & Becky Greenwell, 41

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Dan & Gail Dailey, 56

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Charles & Ann Hamilton, 60
Dale & Leslie Wink, 25
Gary & Elaine Strain, 56

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Jack & Rose Riggs, 68
Jerry & Barbara Hayden, 59

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Tony & Lita Pfingston, 58

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Joe & Veronica Skees, 51
John & Lynda Oldham, 60
Rob & Ann Utley, 50

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Marvin & Patricia Puryear, 52

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Aubrey & Monselle Willett, 54
George & Doreen Gates, 55

St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish

Tom & Sherry Pohlman, 52

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Hector & Lidia Guillen Escobar, 10

St. Joseph, Central City

Phillip & Linda Wells, 52

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Jason & Allyson McClellan, 5
Roger & Stella McClure, 54

St. Mark, Eddyville

Terence & Susan Carlin, 57

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Fred & Connie Greenwell, 52

Jim & Barbara Pinkston, 63

Terry & Sabrina Ebelhar, 40

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Derek & Carrie Mills, 25

Jimmy & Stacey Kimmel, 40

Mike & Judy Howard, 52

Norman & Mary Lou Howard, 52

Vince & Barbara Brown, 63

St. Pius X, Calvert City

David & Donna Carr, 55

St. Pius X, Owensboro

David & Paula Aud, 40

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Gary & Sherry Hicks, 51

Roger & Ashley Adams, 10

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Richard & Donna Flaherty, 40

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Joe & Louise Doyle, 55

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Jeff & Arris Brownfield, 25

Michael & Christine Canella, 53

Tom & Beverly Largent, 58

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

William & Donna McDaniel, 53

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Joe & Jennifer Chaudoin, 56

Jorge & Alma Valdez, 25

Ken & Carol Gillingham, 40

Richard & Patricia Abell, 10

Rodrigo & Martha Onate, 10

Schedule of 2025 fish fries in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: Canons 1250 and 1251 state that all Fridays are days of penance in the Catholic Church. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requests that Catholics abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent, and practice some form of penance on the other Fridays throughout the year. Due to fish being a popular Lenten Friday option in this part of the world, the tradition of Friday fish fries has become a common activity for many communities. Below is information for the 2025 fish fries offered within the Diocese of Owensboro, provided by the parishes and local community organizations. All questions about the individual fish fries should be directed to the parishes and organizations. Unless otherwise noted, all times are Central.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro

Address: 602 Sycamore St., Owensboro

Dates: April 11

Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 5-7 p.m.

Contact: (270) 926-4741

Christ the King Parish, Scottsville

Address: 298 Bluegrass Dr., Scottsville

Dates: March 14

Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 5-7 p.m.

Contact: Joe Witt (270) 834-9885

Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Irvington

Address: 301 High St., Irvington

Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11

Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 4-7 p.m. Eastern Time

Contact: Donna Butler (270) 801-3489

Holy Name of Jesus Men's Club, Henderson

Address: 628 2nd St., Henderson

Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11

Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 5:30 p.m.

Contact: (270) 926-6959

Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus, Bowling Green

Address: 4754 Smallhouse Rd., Bowling Green

Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11

Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Contact: Billy Mills (270) 784-0935

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FISH FRIES

Fish fries continued from page 27

Knights of Columbus Council 817

Address: 3540 East 10th St., Owensboro
Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 5-6:30 p.m.
Contact: (270) 926-6959

Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council 1055

Address: 3028 Jefferson St., Paducah
Dates: Feb. 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11
Format: Drive-thru only
Serving time: 4-7 p.m.
Contact: (270) 443-4380

Knights of Columbus Council 11132, Madisonville

Address: 1600 Kingsway Dr., Madisonville
Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11
Format: Dine-in and drive-thru
Serving time: 5-7 p.m.
Contact: Jim Donley (270) 339-7244

Mary Carrico Catholic School, Knottsville

Address: 9456 Hwy. 144, Knottsville
Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4
Format: Drive-thru, carryout and dine-in
Serving time: 4:30-6 p.m.
Contact: (270) 314-0221

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro

Address: 4029 Frederica St., Owensboro
Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11
Format: Drive-thru, carryout and dine-in
Serving time: 5 p.m.
Contact: (270) 684-5369

Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro

Address: 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro
Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11
Format: Carryout and dine-in
Serving time: 5:30 p.m.
Contact: Danny Triplett (270) 993-2866

St. Alphonsus Parish, St. Joseph

Address: 11028 St. Joseph Ln., Owensboro
Date: March 21
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 5 p.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 229-4164

St. Ann Parish, Morganfield

Address: 304 South Church St., Morganfield
Date: March 7, 21; April 4
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 5 p.m. (following 4:30 Stations of the Cross)
Contact: Parish office at (270) 389-2287

St. Charles Parish, Bardwell

Address: 6922 State Route 408, Bardwell
Dates: March 7, 14, 21
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Contact: During serving time (270) 642-2596;
contact at other times (270) 642-2491

St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm

Address: 161 Picnic Blvd., Fancy Farm
Dates: March 28; April 4, 11
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Contact: (270) 623-8181

St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield

Address: 700 West Broadway, Mayfield
Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 4-7 p.m.
Contact: (270) 247-2843

St. Martin Parish, Rome

Address: 5856 State Route 81, Owensboro
Dates: Feb. 28; March 14
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 5 p.m.
Contact: Daven Edmonds at (270) 543-6442

St. Mary Parish, Franklin

Address: 403 N. Main St., Franklin
Dates: March 28; April 11
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 5 p.m.
Contact: (270) 586-4515

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Address: 81 Church St., Owensboro
Dates: March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 5:30 p.m.
Contact: (270) 764-1983

St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Council #10988, Calvert City

Address: 777 E. Fifth Ave., Calvert City
Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11
Format: Dine-in and carryout (call for pickup)
Serving time: 4-7 p.m.
Contact: (270) 395-5747

St. Romuald Catholic School, Hardinsburg

Address: 394 N Hwy. 259, Hardinsburg
Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 4-7 p.m.
Contact: Lori Carwile (270) 756-5504

St. Sebastian Parish, Calhoun

Address: 180 Hwy. 136 W., Calhoun
Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 5 p.m.
Contact: (270) 273-3185

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Address: 610 Locust St., Owensboro
Dates: March 14
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 5 p.m.
Contact: (270) 683-6525

Whitesville Lions Club

Address: Whitesville Senior Center, 10345 KY-54, Whitesville
Dates: Feb. 14, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 11, 18
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 5 p.m.
Contact: To order to go (270) 233-4332

Just Need to Talk?



Catholic Charities collaborates with several counselors who offer their services at a reduced rate for parishioners of the Diocese of Owensboro.

For a list of counselors ready to speak to you, visit owensborodiocese.org/counseling.

Confidentiality assured.



Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley: *¿Quién es nuestro prójimo?*

“La familia de Nazaret en exilio, Jesús, María y José, emigrantes en Egipto y allí refugiados para sustraerse a la ira de un rey impío, son el modelo, el ejemplo y el consuelo de los emigrantes y peregrinos de cada época y país, de todos los prófugos de cualquier condición que, acuciados por las persecuciones o por la necesidad, se ven obligados a abandonar la patria, la amada familia y los amigos entrañables para dirigirse a tierras extranjeras”.

Se podría suponer que la cita anterior es del Papa Francisco al referirse a la difícil situación de decenas de millones de refugiados y migrantes en movimiento en nuestro siglo actual. Pero esta cita es del Papa Pío XII en su Constitución Apostólica “Exsul Familia”, del 1 de agosto de 1952. El año 1952 fue apenas siete años después del final de la Segunda Guerra Mundial y todavía había refugiados vagando por el mundo como consecuencia de esa guerra. Es posible que esta época haya presenciado el mayor desplazamiento de personas en la historia del mundo. Se ha dicho que nuestros días, esta tercera década del siglo XXI, a lo mejor estamos presenciando el segundo mayor desplazamiento de ese tipo.

La cita del Papa Pío XII fue incluida en una reciente carta pastoral del Papa Francisco dirigida a los obispos de los Estados Unidos. Desde el comienzo de su papado, que ya lleva doce años, el Papa Francisco ha reconocido la urgencia de llamar a la Iglesia y a las sociedades de todo el mundo a reconocer la crisis en todo el mundo de pueblos que huyen de la guerra, la persecución y la pobreza aplastante. Aunque su preocupación se extiende por todo el mundo, ha sido particular al desafiar a las naciones estables de Europa

a abrir sus fronteras y sus corazones a los refugiados de Ucrania, Medio Oriente y África.

Al dirigirse especialmente a los obispos estadounidenses, el Santo Padre constata una “importante crisis” con el inicio de un programa de deportaciones masivas.

Sé que ha habido un coro de protestas de todo nuestro país y de los católicos estadounidenses que afirman que el Papa no debería criticar a los Estados Unidos. Su preocupación por la difícil situación de los migrantes y refugiados es muy anterior a nuestra actual agitación política. Como he señalado, el Papa Francisco se ha dirigido continuamente a las naciones de Europa.

En cuanto al derecho legítimo de un país a proteger sus fronteras y brindar seguridad a su gente, el Papa escribe: “se debe reconocer el derecho de una nación a defenderse y mantener a sus comunidades a salvo de aquellos que han cometido crímenes violentos o graves mientras están en el país o antes de llegar”.

Estas cuestiones están cargadas de mucha emoción y tendemos muy fácilmente a unirnos a un bando y a cuestionar los motivos de cualquiera con quien no estemos de acuerdo. Lamentablemente, incluso hay quienes rápidamente tocan la fibra del racismo para incitar a la gente.

¿Quiénes son los refugiados y los migrantes? Los refugiados son personas que han sido investigadas y en muchos casos han esperado años y años para ingresar legítimamente a los Estados Unidos. Nuestra propia oficina de Caridades Católicas había sido aprobada para recibir y reasentar a cien refugiados en

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MARZO DE 2025	
1 de marzo	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Francisco de Sales, Paducah
2 de marzo	2 p.m. Rito de Elección – Parroquia San Jerónimo, Fancy Farm
4 de marzo	8 a.m. Misa Escolar – Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville
5 de marzo	12:05 p.m. Misa de Miércoles de Ceniza – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
9 de marzo	2 p.m. Rito de Elección – Catedral de San Esteban
	6 p.m. Rito de Elección – Catedral de San Esteban
10-11 de marzo	Instalación del Cardenal McElroy – Washington, D.C.
12-14 de marzo	Conferencia El Camino a Seguir – Universidad de Fordham, Nueva York
16 de marzo	10:45 a.m. Misa de clausura del retiro Youth 2000, Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro
	2 p.m. Misa de los Scouts – Parroquia San Antonio, Browns Valley
17 de marzo	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
	4 p.m. Reunión de la Junta de la Fundación Católica - Owensboro
18 de marzo	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith
20 de marzo	9 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Secundaria Católica de Owensboro

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CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MARZO DE 2025 CONTINUADO	
22 de marzo	4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pedro de Antioquía, Waverly
23 de marzo	11 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah
24 de marzo	9 a.m. Conversaciones con los “Seniors” – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro
25 de marzo	10 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Secundaria Santa María, Paducah
26 de marzo	10 a.m. Reunión del personal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
27 de marzo	8 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson
29 de marzo	4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa Ana, Morganfield
30 de marzo	1:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San José, Mayfield

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Para denunciar una sospecha de abuso, llame a la Línea Directa de Protección Infantil de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su Fiscal Local del Commonwealth.

Para reportar abuso, actual o pasado, a la diócesis por parte de cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a Scott Ingram, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinadoras de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270-880-8360. También puede visitar la

Oficina de Ambiente Seguro (owensborodiocese.org/safe) para obtener más información. Para hacer un informe de abuso sexual de un menor de edad o conducta inapropiada relacionada por parte de algún obispo, visite <https://reportbishopabuse.org/es>.

Kentucky occidental este año, pero todo eso ha quedado suspendido por el momento.

En los últimos años muchas personas más han llegado a nuestro país como migrantes y muy a menudo no han entrado al país legalmente o han permanecido más tiempo de su permiso legal. Pero el Papa Francisco desafía a los obispos de los Estados Unidos a guiar a nuestro pueblo a reconocer que muchos de ellos “han dejado su propia tierra por motivos de pobreza extrema, de inseguridad, de explotación, de persecución o por el grave deterioro del medio ambiente”.

La inmigración no es un problema que no tenga solución, pero nuestra política fallida siempre parece evitar soluciones genuinas. El Santo Padre recuerda que el desafío que suponen decenas de millones de refugiados y migrantes en el mundo actual exige que las naciones trabajen juntas. Nos llama, como cristianos, a fundamentar nuestro debate y nuestras soluciones afirmando la dignidad infinita de todas las personas,

todas creadas a imagen y semejanza de Dios.

El marco de nuestra consideración es la parábola del Buen Samaritano que se encuentra en el capítulo décimo del Evangelio de Lucas. Presenta un ideal muy alto. El samaritano no tenía ninguna obligación legal hacia el hombre que había sido robado y golpeado. Podría haber “pasado al otro lado” como lo hicieron el sacerdote y el levita. Pero la parábola dice que el samaritano, al verlo, tuvo compasión de él.

Jesús contó esta parábola en respuesta a la pregunta: “¿Quién es mi prójimo?” Después de relatar la historia, Jesús preguntó: “¿Quién de estos demostró ser prójimo del hombre?”

Esa pregunta es para cada uno de nosotros y para nuestra nación: “¿Quién es nuestro prójimo?”

+ William F. Medley

Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Una oración por el 15° aniversario del Obispo Medley

La siguiente oración fue escrita por Valeria Vessels, directora de Corresponsabilidad y Desarrollo de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Padre Celestial, venimos ante ti con corazones agradecidos, celebrando el 15° aniversario del fiel servicio del Obispo William Medley a la Diócesis de Owensboro. Te damos gracias por su compromiso firme, su profundo amor por tu pueblo y la fortaleza de su fe que nos ha guiado todos estos años.

Señor, te alabamos por las muchas bendiciones que has derramado sobre el Obispo Medley. Gracias a su liderazgo, compasión y firmeza, nos hemos



RILEY GREIF | WKC

El 10 de febrero de 2025, el Obispo William F. Medley recuerda su ordenación como el cuarto obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro, que tuvo lugar 15 años antes de este día.

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RILEY GREIF | WKC

El personal del Centro Católico McRaith, las oficinas centrales de la Diócesis de Owensboro, rodean al Obispo William F. Medley y rezan por él en la ocasión de su 15° aniversario de ordenación episcopal el 10 de febrero de 2025.

acercado más a ti y a los demás. Su ejemplo de amor, humildad y servicio nos ha inspirado a caminar en la fe, buscando tu voluntad en todo lo que hacemos.

Mientras miramos hacia el futuro, te pedimos que continúes bendiciendo al Obispo Medley con sabiduría, fortaleza y valentía. Que tu Espíritu Santo lo llene de nuevo cada día, guiando su corazón y su mente mientras pastorea tu rebaño. Concédele abundante gracia, paz y alegría en su ministerio, y que tu amor lo rodee siempre.

Oramos por su salud, su paz mental y por tu continua guía mientras él lidera con un corazón de siervo. Que conozca el profundo aprecio y amor de los fieles a quienes sirve, y que lo bendigas abundantemente por todo lo que ha dado en tu nombre.

Ofrecemos esta oración con corazones llenos de gratitud, confiando en tu amor eterno.

En el nombre de tu Hijo, Jesucristo,
Amén. ■

Retiro de padres e hijos

POR SUSANA SOLORZA

Durante el mes de febrero, la oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino llevar a cabo retiros para padres e hijos y madres e hijas. El primero de ellos se celebró un hermoso sábado en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper con padres e hijos de toda la diócesis. El tema del retiro fue Hombres extraordinarios, en el que hablamos de cómo Dios da a los hombres comunes la extraordinaria tarea de convertirse en padres. Hubo oración y juegos abundantes y la lluvia se detuvo hasta que la mayoría de los participantes pudieron volar en la tirolesa. Padres e hijos oraron unos por otros y aprendieron una mejor manera de comunicar sus necesidades en oración y conversación. Esperamos invitar a padres e hijos a este retiro anual el próximo febrero. Si está interesado en obtener más información sobre nuestros retiros familiares, comuníquese con ■

Susana Solorza, coordinadora de Pastoral Juvenil de la Diócesis de Owensboro: susana.solorza@pastoral.org, (270) 577-6907.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE SUSANA SOLORZA
Padres e hijos sonríen mientras asisten al retiro para ellos del 8 de febrero de 2025 en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE SUSANA SOLORZA
Padres e hijos conversan bajo una imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe durante el Retiro para Padres e Hijos del 8 de febrero de 2025 en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE SUSANA SOLORZA
Padres e hijos participan en una actividad durante el Retiro para Padres e Hijos del 8 de febrero de 2025 en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper.

This Lent, compare your life to a migrant's, pope says

BY JUSTIN MCLELLAN, CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) ~ Pope Francis urged Christians to examine their consciences in Lent by comparing their daily lives to the hardships faced by migrants, calling it a way to grow in empathy and discover God's call to compassion.

"It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father," the pope wrote in his message for Lent 2025.

The message, signed Feb. 6, before the pope was hospitalized Feb. 14 for treatment of double pneumonia, was released by the Vatican Feb. 25.

Reflecting on the theme "Let us journey together in hope," the pope said that Lent is a time to confront both personal and collective struggles with faith and compassion.

Comparing the Lenten journey to the Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt, he recalled "our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones."

"A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life," he wrote. "Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone?"



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis blesses Mbengue Nyimbilo Crepin, a migrant from Cameroon whose wife and daughter died in July crossing the North African desert, during a meeting in the Domus Sanctae Marthae at the Vatican in this Nov. 17, 2023 file photo.

Pope Francis also emphasized the importance of journeying together, saying Christians are called to walk "side by side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded."

Christians, he said, should reflect on whether they are open to others or focused only on their own needs.

The pope called on Christians to journey together in hope toward Easter, living out the central message of the Jubilee Year: "Hope does not disappoint."

Another Lenten call to conversion, he said, is to embrace hope and trust in God's promise of eternal life, made possible through Christ's resurrection.

Pope Francis encouraged Christians to consider whether they truly live in a way that reflects hope, trusting in God's promise of eternal life, seeking forgiveness and committing themselves to justice, fraternity and care for creation.

"Christ," he wrote, "lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph, and the faith and great hope of Christians rests in this: the resurrection of Christ!" ■