

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

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Small group scripture study

A girls' small group at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center prepares for bible study time on June 11, 2025. **Page 18**



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Called to love

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Front page main photo by Riley Greif, The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Submissions

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. The Western Kentucky Catholic will take reader-submitted content into consideration but no submissions are guaranteed placement, due to space restrictions.

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

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

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A Word From Bishop Medley:

A campaign to thank those who have dedicated their lives to our Church

In the mid-1980s, the Diocese of Owensboro erected the Cotton Apartments on land adjacent to the Carmel Home in Owensboro. The building included eight efficiency apartments for senior retired priests. In the four decades since then, dozens of our senior priests have lived there, often transitioning in time to the Carmel Home when their independence was limited and they required the nursing support offered there. The apartments were named for Bishop Francis R. Cotton, the first bishop of Owensboro, well-known to that generation of senior priests.

When I came to Owensboro as the diocese's fourth bishop in 2010 there were still seven priests in residence there. Over the past few years, the Cotton Apartments have become a less desirable place for our retired priests. I recall the words of Bishop John J. McRaith, who oversaw the construction of the facility, when he moved there a couple years before his death: "I wish I had known then what I know now."

These small apartments were designed with little attention to the unique needs of aging people; even the bathroom for each unit was a small standard bath without any accommodations for someone with evolving disabilities.

For the last few years, we have had a conversation among our priests, especially those who might be coming up on retirement. After exploring the possibilities of a major and costly makeover, we came to realize it would be more economical to tear down this structure and erect a whole new building.

We propose to build a four-unit apartment building, each with about 1,000 square feet. They are designed to accommodate senior priests and will include an

attached garage, a handicap accessible bathroom, bedroom, small kitchen and living room. The four units will connect to a small chapel. Several of our priests looking to retire within the next decade have expressed an interest in living there.

We have titled this campaign Faithful Foundations. To finance this project, I first invited our priests to be the initial contributors, for themselves perhaps but certainly for their brother priests. Within a month we received pledges of over \$127,000 from 29 priests. Conversations with diocesan leaders have been encouraging. Many remark that they can think of few projects that would engender a more enthusiastic response than assuring our care for priests and religious as they age.

This month we begin to invite Catholics from across the diocese to express their gratitude to our priests for their years of ministry and service. We are currently working on raising \$1.5 million to demolish the old apartment building, construct the four-unit facility, and have funds for future maintenance. There is space to build additional units as the need presents, and we would like our modest campaign to raise enough money to make that possible.

In the coming weeks we expect to make appeals to several hundred people and by October to have invited every Catholic in the diocese share. This is a campaign to say thank you to those who have dedicated their lives to service and prayer.



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

BISHOP MEDLEY'S AUGUST 2025 CALENDAR

Aug 2	St. Jerome Parish Picnic – Fancy Farm
Aug 6-7	Bishops of the Province & Catholic Conference of Kentucky Meeting – Louisville
Aug 9	5 PM Confirmation – St. Michael Parish, Sebree
Aug 10	2 PM Sophia Awards – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Aug 13	6 PM Faithful Foundations Reception – Immaculate Parish, Owensboro
Aug 14	6:30 PM Faithful Foundations Reception – Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro
Aug 15	11 AM Mass for Inauguration of Brescia University President – Brescia University Chapel, Owensboro
	3 PM Investiture Ceremony for President of Brescia University – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Aug 16	4 PM Installation of Pastor, Fr. Daniel Dillard – St. Martin Parish, Rome
Aug 18	1:30 PM Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
Aug 19	6 PM Faithful Foundations Reception – St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
Aug 20	9 AM Mass with Parish Business Managers – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro

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BISHOP MEDLEY'S AUGUST 2025 CALENDAR CONITNUED	
	6 PM Faithful Foundations Reception – Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
Aug 21	6 PM Faithful Foundations Reception – Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville
Aug 23-Sept. 13	Pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal

Happy anniversary to our priests!

In August we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of:

Fr. Jerry Riney | Ordained 8/9/1975, Retired
Congratulations on 50 years of priesthood

Fr. Julian Ibemere | Ordained 8/6/1998, Pastor
of St. Michael Parish, Oak Grove

Fr. John Ighacho | Ordained 8/28/1990, Pastor
of St. Joseph Parish, Central City; and St.
Anthony Parish, Browns Valley

Fr. Jean Rene Kalombo | Ordained 8/19/1995
Pastor of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish,
Owensboro
Congratulations on 20 years of priesthood

Fr. Jude Okeoma | Ordained 8/22/2009,
Pastor of Rosary Chapel, Paducah; and St.
Mary Parish, LaCenter

Fr. Chrispin Oneko | Ordained 8/25/1990,
Pastor of St. Denis Parish, Fancy Farm; and St.
Charles Parish, Bardwell

Faithful Foundations

The Campaign for Senior Priest Apartments

DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

We invite you and your family to one of our receptions as we launch the Faithful Foundations campaign: the Diocese of Owensboro's three-year initiative to build new Senior Priest Apartments. Meet and chat with Bishop Medley, view renderings of the apartments, and learn how you can help honor the lifelong service of our senior priests.

August 13th at 6:00 pm
Immaculate Parish Hall

August 14th at 6:30 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall

August 19th at 6:00 pm
St. Thomas More Parish Hall

August 20th at 6:00 pm
Holy Spirit Parish Hall

August 21st at 6:00 pm
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Hall

RSVP by Friday, August 8 to
Janet Clancy or Kathy Doup
at (270) 683-1545 or
janet.clancy@pastoral.org.

A day for vocations: Two young people unite lives to Christ in 'supernatural' callings

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

May 31, 2025, marked a momentous day for the Diocese of Owensboro as two young people united their lives to Christ in their individual vocations.

That morning, Fr. Conrad Jaconette was ordained the diocese's newest priest at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. And in the afternoon, Sr. Bethany Marie, CP, formerly Hannah Bland, made her first profession of vows as a Passionist Nun of St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville.

Fr. Jaconette was co-sponsored by both the Owensboro diocese and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. This agreement means



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Newly-ordained Fr. Conrad Jaconette closes his eyes and smiles through tears during the Eucharistic Prayer at his May 31 Mass of Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood at St. Stephen Cathedral.

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RILEY GREIF | WKC

As friends and family look on, Sr. Bethany Marie, CP, smiles during her first profession of vows as a Passionist Nun at St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville in the afternoon of May 31.

that he will served for several years in parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro, followed by a period of time on loan to the military archdiocese to serve as

a military chaplain for the U.S. Air Force.

The young priest grew up in Alexandria, Ky., and joined the Catholic Church while a student at Western Kentucky University, where he became involved with the campus ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center.

In a January 2025 interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic, following his transitional diaconate ordination, the future Fr. Jaconette explained that a big question for his family was “Will the Diocese of Owensboro be able to love and support Conrad as much as we do?” And being there at my ordination that day, I think they were able to see that,” he said.

Sr. Bethany Marie, who grew up attending St. Mary of the Woods Parish and School in Whitesville, and graduated from Trinity High School in Whitesville

and Brescia University in Owensboro, discerned her call to religious life for several years before realizing that the answer was close to home.

It was, quite literally, just up the road at the Passionist monastery.

“It wasn’t something I’d naturally do. It was supernatural,” said Sr. Bethany Marie in an Aug. 7, 2023 interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

After visiting the Passionists for a weekend in March 2021, “It’s been explained that I became smitten after that,” she said in that interview, and mentioned the “peace” that comes when one recognizes their true calling.

“Once you actually find it, you realize this is that peace they talk about when finding your vocation,” she said. ■

A place of rest and refuge *Seminarians journey toward God while walking the Camino*

BY TOMMY RHODES, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“Blessed the man who finds refuge in you, in their hearts are pilgrim roads.” -Ps. 84:6

In our lives, we face moment after moment of decisions, challenges, and change. Each choice we make and each step we take creates a path that is unlike any other, a journey unique to the individual. No matter what words you use to describe it, we all enter into moments that extend beyond the plans we make or the paths we trek. This universal experience lies at the heart of human life and defines the idea of pilgrimage. Every person is a pilgrim navigating the foreign lands of life, traveling from one moment to another, unsure of where the next step may lead, trusting in the path, knowing there is a destination in which we may find rest and refuge from the journey. This is especially relevant in this Jubilee Year of 2025 as we are called to renew ourselves as “Pilgrims of Hope.”

At the close of my Propaedeutic Year of formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, I was blessed to embark on a pilgrimage to follow The Way of St. James, known as El Camino de Santiago, in Spain. With my backpack on, passport in hand, and no idea what I was setting out to experience, I left the Holy Hill of Saint Meinrad for Spain.



COURTESY OF TOMMY RHODES

Along with other pilgrims, Diocese of Owensboro seminarians Tommy Rhodes and Wes Wheatley stand in front of the Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, which is the concluding point of El Camino de Santiago, which they walked in summer 2025.

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The Way of St. James is one of the most popular pilgrimage routes, its destination being the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, where the tomb of the apostle St. James the Greater remains to this day. It became a destination for pilgrims to visit in a spirit of penance and devotion. As the tradition grew, routes began to develop and have now been well established, from Roman trade roads to well-marked paths.

We began our journey in Sarria, Spain, which is about 75 miles from Compostela. Setting out, we began walking through the Spanish countryside amidst hundreds of pilgrims from around the world. Each day consisted of 5-6 hours of walking with my fellow seminarians and pilgrims, visiting small churches in town after town, and going to Mass. Most of the time, however, was spent talking to other pilgrims about their experience as we walked.

Each person I spoke to had a different story and a different reason for taking part in this pilgrimage but some key components remained the same in these stories: a desire for change, clarity, escape from stress or pressure, a longing for growth. These reasons point to a deeper desire, a deeper need: the need for rest and refuge. Amid the stress of life, we seek out peace and safety just as a pilgrim seeks shelter during a long journey. As we trace our needs and desires deeper, we find that below the surface, every need and every desire is a need and a desire for God. God is the destination of our pilgrimage, the place of refuge that we seek amid the twists and turns of life. In God, we find our rest. In God, we take refuge. ■

Tommy Rhodes, a seminarian of the Diocese of Owensboro, will enter his first discipleship stage of seminary this fall. His home parish is St. Lawrence in Philpot.

‘Thank you for all being the very best’ Sister Judith Nell Riney retires from Brescia

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

The last days of April 2025 could have been called “Sister Judith Nell Riney Week” at Brescia University, as the longtime librarian was honored twice for her service to the Catholic college.

On April 26, Sister Judith Nell, OSU, was awarded the Outstanding Alumna award from the Alumni Association during Brescia’s Laurel Awards. She received her award for “Outstanding service to the Alumni Association and/or Brescia University.” Sister Judith Nell is a 1971 graduate of Brescia, and has served as the director of Library Services at the Father Leonard Alvey Library for 45 years.

Sister Judith Nell has served longer in the same ministry than any current Ursuline Sister. With the conclusion of this school year, Sister Judith Nell is retiring from Brescia, which led to a celebration for her on April 29. Sister Helena Fischer, the registrar

at Brescia for the past 35 years, will now hold the title of longest serving Sister.

Sarah Cox, who has served as manager of Public Services in the Brescia Library, will take over as director. It will mark the first time in the 75 years since Brescia opened its doors that someone other than an Ursuline Sister will lead the library.

During a reception at 11 a.m. April 29 in the library, Amanda Morris, vice president of Academic Affairs and Academic Dean, thanked Sister Judith Nell for all she has done for Brescia.

Fr. Larry Hostetter, who recently stepped down as president after 18 years, said during his tenure, “It was nice to have someone you never had to worry about, who you knew was always going to do the right thing. That was Sister Judy.”

Sister Vivian Bowles, OSU, who served at Brescia for more than 30 years, including 12 as president, praised Sister Judith Nell for always studying the latest needs for a college library.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
Sister Judith Nell Riney, OSU, poses with Cameron Robinson, Brescia University's Alumni Association president. Sister Judith Nell was given the Outstanding Alumna award from the Alumni Association during Brescia's Laurel Awards on April 26. She served as the librarian at Brescia for 45 years.

Sister Judith Nell, known for her sense of humor and her efforts and pulling pranks, urged her coworkers to “keep on being crazy.”

“Thank you for all being the very best,” she said. “I can’t imagine not coming here every morning to unlock this library.” ■

Faithful: Senior priest apartments to provide community, support, for diocese's aged clergy

ADA-compliant complex to replace outdated facility

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

This summer, the Diocese of Owensboro launched a new campaign to give back to those who have given of their lives to serve Christ, his Church, and all people of western Kentucky.

With the title of “Faithful Foundations,” this campaign seeks to raise the funds needed to build a four-unit apartment building to house senior priests of the diocese who prefer to live in community.

Bill Blincoe, director of project and risk management for the diocese, has been involved with the initiative, which began several years ago in conversations about how to care for and support aging clergy.

He said the plan is to build on diocese-owned property up the hill from the Carmel Home in Owensboro, which is operated by the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus and offers assisted living, independent living, and memory care.

Currently, that area is occupied by the diocese’s Bishop Cotton Apartments, which were built in the 1980s and include eight small units intended for senior priests. Unfortunately, Blincoe explained, time has not been kind to the present building, which lacks the space and ADA-compliant accommodations for someone with physical limitations or mobility issues that can come with age. No retired priests currently reside at the Bishop Cotton Apartments due to these issues.

“The existing building is coming down,” said Blincoe, adding that the new structure will be ADA-compliant. The Carmel Home will continue a partnership with the diocese so that the sisters and staff can assist with any needs that arise among residents of the apartments.

“The Carmel Home has been so gracious in taking care of our priests and continue to be,” said Blincoe.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

The Bishop Cotton Apartments, which are located up the hill from the Carmel Home in Owensboro, are seen on June 19, 2025. The building, which is outdated and not suited to the accommodation needs of older adults, is set to be torn down so that an improved structure can be built for senior priests.

“They will be just a phone call away.”

He explained that the plan is to build one initial four-unit complex, but that there will be space to build additional structures as the need grows among senior priests. The diocese is currently working on a campaign to raise \$1.5 million that will include the demolition of the old building, the construction of the four-unit facility, and a fund for future maintenance.

Each apartment unit will be approximately 1,000 square feet, including a one-car garage with space for someone to maneuver with a walker or wheelchair.

Fr. John Vaughan, who recently celebrated his 51st ordination anniversary and retired from active ministry this past June, said he has long supported the construction of these apartments.

“This will be a place where priests can go, have companionship with each other and support each other as we get older,” said Fr. Vaughan, who said he could envision himself moving to the new apartments in years down the road.

“The new plans seem very nice, and more accessible (than the Bishop Cotton Apartments),” he said.

Fr. Jerry Riney, who retired from active ministry in 2021 and celebrates his 50th ordination anniversary this August, explained the need for these new apartments to be built.

He said the Faithful Foundations campaign will provide a space for older priests to be near resources and support at the Carmel Home, “but be as independent as they want.”

“At the moment I’m happy to live independently, but I can foresee a time where I may welcome living at these apartments,” said Fr. Riney.

He said the new apartments will have a small chapel, “which will be nice to concelebrate together the greatest prayer we have as priests – the liturgy – as well as pray the Divine Office, which is meant to be prayed communally.”

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FEATURES

Home for priests continued from page 7

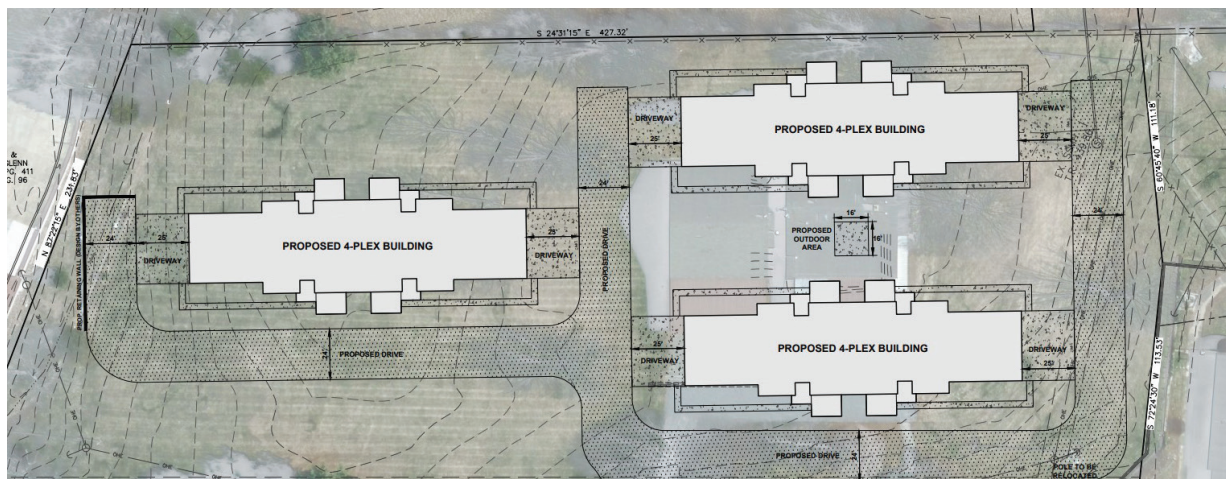
Fr. Riney said it is not uncommon for other dioceses to provide a shared home for their senior priests, but each diocesan facility is unique according to the needs of its clergy.

He credited chancellor Tom Lilly, director of stewardship and development Valeria Vessels, Bill Blincoe, and Bishop William F. Medley for coordinating Faithful Foundations.

"I've been reading a lot about the epidemic of loneliness - I would hope these apartments would bring an opportunity to come together and support one another (as senior priests)," he said.

As of this story's publication, 29 priests have already pledged \$127,000, and the campaign is now open to anyone who wishes to donate. This month, receptions are being held around the diocese to spread awareness about the campaign; all are welcome to attend.

These gatherings will be held Aug. 13 at Immaculate



COURTESY OF LEE MILLS, BRYANT ENGINEERING

Pictured is a preliminary drawing of the new senior priest apartments complex (far left). The drawing includes two additional buildings that may be constructed in the future as needs arise.

Parish in Owensboro; Aug. 14 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro, Aug. 19 at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah; Aug. 20 at Holy Spirit Parish in Paducah; and Aug. 21 at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish

in Hopkinsville. Registration information and more details about the campaign may be found at <https://owensborodiocese.org/senior-priests-apartments>. ■

Office of Communications, WKC, earn three Catholic Media Awards

BY WKC STAFF

During the June 24-27 annual Catholic Media Conference, the staff of the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Communications and The Western Kentucky Catholic earned three Catholic Media Awards.

This year's conference, which is presented by the Catholic Media Association, was held in Phoenix, Arizona. The Catholic Media Association provides professional development, networking, inspiration and support for the faith formation of Catholic media professionals as they seek to share the Good News. The awards program accepts work from the CMA's members over the past calendar year,

highlighting coverage and content produced by dioceses and organizations across the United States and Canada.

The awards received by the Office of Communications and The Western Kentucky Catholic were:

Second place for Best Annual Report - (Arch) Diocesan Finances, for editor Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, communications director Rachel Hall, and digital media specialist Riley Greif's work on The Western Kentucky Catholic's 2023-2024 diocesan annual report special issue in June 2024.

Third place for Hot Topic - The Eucharistic Revival, for communications director Rachel Hall's work on the Diocese of Owensboro's "You



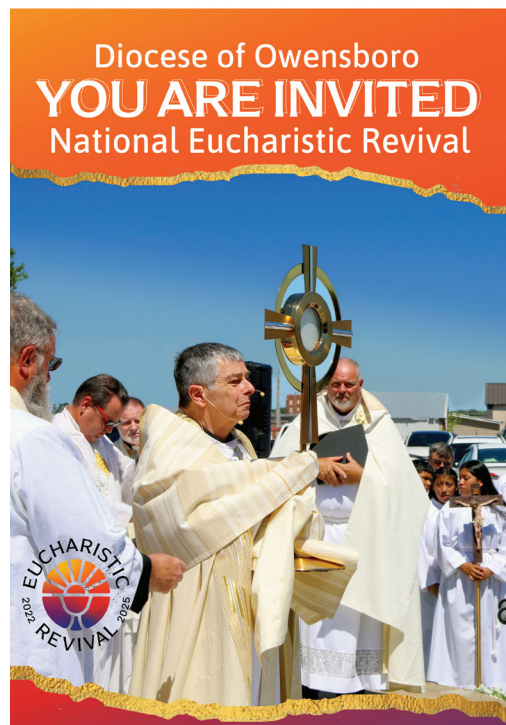
OSV NEWS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Phoenix Bishop John P. Dolan celebrates Mass in the pastoral center chapel June 24, 2025, during the Catholic Media Conference in Phoenix.

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Are Invited” resource and inspiration booklet introducing parishioners to the National Eucharistic Revival.

Honorable mention for Best Coverage – Immigration, for editor Elizabeth Wong Barnstead’s stories “‘All women are great women’ says Afghanistan’s first female fighter pilot, now living in Owensboro” (March 2024); “‘God calls, and I will answer’ Sebree pastor reflects on 25 years of his vocation” (May 2024); and “Fullness and radiant faith: More than 300 Asian and Pacific Island Catholics inspired at national encounter” (July 2024). ■



SCREENSHOT

The front cover of the Diocese of Owensboro’s “You Are Invited” resource and inspiration booklet introducing parishioners to the National Eucharistic Revival, which earned communications director Rachel Hall third place for Hot Topic – The Eucharistic Revival in the 2025 Catholic Media Awards.

A multi-pronged approach: Marriage and family life office offers opportunities to help heal relationships

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When someone calls the Office of Marriage and Family Life in the Diocese of Owensboro to seek help for a struggling marriage, director Danny May starts by walking them through several options.

Depending on the situation, he might connect them with Dcn. Tony Carmona, whose years of doing marriage ministry support – especially in his role serving the Catholic military community at Fort Campbell – has given him a unique perspective on addressing marriage struggles.

Or, May might refer them to Karla Wagner, a certified CatholicPsych mentor through the CatholicPsych Institute, which offers guidance through the lens of faith, reason and science. Or he might connect them with Joe Bland of the Catholic Mindset Coaching program, which helps people address obstacles that are in the way of living life abundantly.

If a marriage is in an active crisis, Dcn. Carmo-na might help the couple consider Retrouvaille – a weekend retreat offering the tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship.

However, couples who are not experiencing a relationship crisis can still benefit from regular support and “maintenance,” said May.

“We do it for our physical health, our vehicles, and our houses,” he added. “(A strong marriage) takes maintenance, effort, and work.”

May said a new – and free – opportunity for



RILEY GREIF | WKC

A married couple holds hands during the Diocese of Owensboro’s annual marriage anniversary Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, on Aug. 18, 2024.

marriage strengthening is the Marriage Disciples coaching process offered by The Alexander House, a Texas-based organization that provides marriage education and enrichment.

With three trained Marriage Disciples couples in the Owensboro area, couples in the diocese now have access to this resource to reconnect, grow closer through prayer, and improve their communication skills.

The Marriage Disciples process offers “a little tune-up,” said May.

May emphasized that there is no shame in seeking help for one’s marriage: “Personally I think every marriage would benefit from a retreat and marriage coaching.”

“Every marriage needs work and has difficulties,” said May.

He also recommended the diocese’s Counseling

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Assistance Program, or CAP, which connects parishioners with counselors across western Kentucky who offer their services at a reduced rate for up to six sessions. Every therapist affiliated with CAP agrees to practice within the teachings of the Catholic Church; more information is available at owensborodiocese.org/counseling.

“If a husband and wife are both doing individual work (such as counseling) and also working together

(perhaps with a mentor couple), you can gain a lot of ground that way,” he said.

May said that according to a 1994 study by The Gottman Institute, (available on the institute’s website at gottman.com), the average couple waits six years before seeking help for marital problems.

He said his door is open for anyone seeking these resources or advice on what options to consider; in fact he started assembling this list of resources after

receiving multiple calls and emails for assistance.

“I wish every couple or their priest would call me!” he said. “That’s what we’re here for.” ■

May can be reached by emailing him directly at danny.may@pastoral.org or calling (270) 683-1545 and asking for Danny May. The full list of resources available through the Office of Marriage and Family Life may be accessed at owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life.

Meet the newest Marriage Disciples

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Two new Marriage Disciple coaching couples are now available – for free – to work with married couples in the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more about The Alexander House’s approach at www.marriedisciples.org, and meet these couples below.

Jill and Steve Hyland

How long have you been married and what parish do you belong to? We have been married for almost 35 years and are members of St. Stephen Cathedral.

How did you end up becoming local Marriage Disciples for The Alexander House? We did the program about seven years ago and benefited from it so much that when we were approached about training to become Marriage Disciples, we agreed and wanted to give back what we learned.

How do you hope this ministry will help couples in our diocese to grow in their marriages? Our hope is that couples will learn what the Church teaches about marriage and how to keep Christ at the center, no matter what struggles they are having.

Drew and Teresa Young

How long have you been married and what parish do you belong to? We have been married for 13 years. We go to Our Lady of Lourdes in Owensboro.

How did you end up becoming local Marriage Disciples for The Alexander House? We went through the program ourselves in 2020. Ever since, we have had it in

our hearts to give back to the ministry that helped us realize God’s plan for our marriage and provide hope and support for others.

How do you hope this ministry will help couples in our diocese to grow in their marriages? We are hopeful that this ministry helps couples to learn realistic and practical tools to build and strengthen their marriage. We believe in this ministry wholeheartedly, we have seen its fruits and know that combined with God’s grace this can truly transform your marriage and family. ■



COURTESY OF YOUNG FAMILY

Drew and Teresa Young, who were recently trained to serve as Marriage Disciples for The Alexander House, a marriage-supporting ministry, belong to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF HYLAND FAMILY

Jill and Steve Hyland, who were recently trained to serve as Marriage Disciples for The Alexander House, a marriage-supporting ministry, belong to St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

Reintroducing history: Immaculate Conception painting restored, celebrated, at Hawesville parish

BY NEENA GAYNOR, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 22, Bishop William F. Medley joined Fr. Terry Devine and the parishioners of Immaculate Conception in Hawesville (Hancock County) to celebrate holy Mass and the reintroduction of a remarkable piece of history: “*The Immaculate Conception*” by Johann Schmitt.

Schmitt was a devout German immigrant artist who helped shape Catholic art in the American Midwest. He painted this particular piece around 1865 as a visual hymn to Mary’s purity and role in God’s plan.

In the painting, Mary stands on a cloud, robed in white and blue: colors symbolizing her purity and closeness to the divine. A crown of twelve stars encircles her head, echoing the imagery from Revelation 12. She’s surrounded by golden light and cherub angels that invite contemplation. Schmitt modeled this piece after Murillo’s famous Spanish version, but infused it with his own quiet reverence.

At the beginning of this year, the parish community was approached with a fundraising goal of \$25,000. Within a couple weeks, the generous community of Immaculate Conception had met and exceeded its goal by almost double.

The restoration project included refiguring the existing mantelpiece which housed the crucifix and a curtain that had hidden the painting for over fifty years.

The mantelpiece was reworked, the wall repaired, and the crucifix suspended to be front and foremost in our worship space by Ricky Johnson and CTR Homes. Wiebold Studio of Cincinnati came in February 2025 to remove the painting, take it back to their studio, restore it to its original beauty, and frame it.



COURTESY OF NEENA GAYNOR
The painting of the Immaculate Conception by Johann Schmitt, which is displayed in its original home at Immaculate Conception Parish in Hawesville, is seen after it was recently restored.

away and rediscovered at just the right moment. It’s a gift to be cherished, a reminder of the past, and how easy it is to lose appreciation for what one has. ■

Neena Gaynor serves as the director of adult ministry for Immaculate Conception Parish in Hawesville and St. Columba Parish in Lewisport.

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

As part of this program, Owensboro Catholic School System, Mary Carrico Catholic School, St. Mary of the Woods/Trinity High School, St. Joseph School, John Paul II Catholic School, St. Romuald School, Sts. Peter & Paul School, St. Mary School System, and Holy Name of Jesus School will offer healthy meals every school day.

Students attending Christ the King School in Madisonville will receive meals at no cost due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2025-2026.



Scan the QR code to learn more!



Creating Faith:
The Spiritual Life in the Thought of
St. John Henry Newman

FR. DENIS ROBINSON, OSB
PRESIDENT-RECTOR, ST. MEINRAD SEMINARY

OCTOBER 9TH, 7 PM

Vacation Bible School summer recap

BY WKC STAFF

This summer, parishes across the Diocese of Owensboro hosted their much-loved Vacation Bible School programs. Here are some photo highlights from this year. ■



COURTESY OF AMBER BERRY

Children build paper airplanes during the July 7-10 Vacation Bible School at Sts. William and Lawrence Parishes in Daviess County.



COURTESY OF PAULA SCHMIDT

Liam Anderson smiles with his craft during Bible Craft Nights, a modified Vacation Bible School at St. Pius X Parish in Calvert City, which were held June 11 and 25 and July 9 and 16.



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS

A group photo is taken of the participants of the June 23-26 Vacation Bible School at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson.

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COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS



COURTESY OF TERRY MURPHY

(Left photo) Flower pots, decorated while learning about the Corporal Works of Mercy, are seen during June 23-26 Vacation Bible School at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson. The pots were painted with the instructions that the kids would give them away to those in need. (Right photo) The young participants and adult leaders of June 9-11 Vacation Bible School at St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Stanley smile for a group photo.



COURTESY OF ALLISON STEEN-BAKER

A girl plays an outdoor game during Holy Spirit Parish's June 2-6 Vacation Bible School, with the theme of "Jesus is Our True North."



COURTESY OF CLAIRE BIVINS

Young participants smile while standing in a kiddie pool during St. Mary Magdalene Parish and St. Martin Parish's joint June 30-July 3 VBS.



COURTESY OF CLAIRE BIVINS

Children of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Martin Parishes participate in an activity during their joint June 30-July 3 Vacation Bible School.

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YOUTH

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RACHEL HALL | WKC

Kids play on a rainbow parachute during VBS at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro during the week of July 14-17, which was attended by 32 children and had 18 adult volunteers and 17 teen volunteers. The days were spent making new friends, playing wild games, doing science, and experiencing bible adventures.



COURTESY OF SANDY FLEMMINGS

Several participants of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's July 14-17, 2025 Vacation Bible School smile in front of the grotto with a statue of the Blessed Mother. The week was spent learning that Jesus gives us hope, courage, direction, and love.



COURTESY OF APRIL DICKENS

Young participants attend a "papal audience" in "St. Peter's Square" (in the parish hall) during the July 7-9 conclave-themed Vacation Bible School at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF CLAIRE BIVINS

Volunteers dress as biblical figures in a "marketplace" during St. Mary Magdalene Parish and St. Martin Parish's joint June 30-July 3 VBS.



COURTESY OF CHRIST THE KING PARISH

Young parishioners hold up signs with the seven sacraments during Vacation Bible School at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville, which was held June 9-11, 2025.



COURTESY OF TERRY MURPHY

On June 11, during June 9-11 Vacation Bible School at St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Stanley, volunteer Mia Paris explains the craft for that day reminds us that Jesus did not leave us but gave us the Eucharist.

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COURTESY OF BETSY CRITCHELOW

Participants of the Noah's ark-themed Vacation Bible School at St. Mary of the Woods Parish in McQuady and St. Anthony the Abbot Parish in Axtel play a game of tug-of-war on June 5.



COURTESY OF ALLISON STEEN-BAKER

Friends smile for a photo during Holy Spirit Parish's June 2-6 Vacation Bible School in Bowling Green.



COURTESY OF SELINA THURMAN

From June 16-20, St. Rose of Lima in Cloverport and Holy Guardian Angels in Irvington had over 20 kids each night, the most being 27 one night. The parish communities appreciate the families for sending their kids, and appreciate the families who volunteered their time or cooked. They also appreciate Fr. Michael Charles Abiero who came and spoke to the children, who learned to trust more in Jesus and build their faith. They already look forward to next year's VBS.



COURTESY OF ALLISON STEEN-BAKER

Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling speaks with young participants of Holy Spirit Parish's June 2-6 Vacation Bible School in Bowling Green.

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COURTESY OF MARY TURNER

(Left photo) A group photo is taken on July 10 on the final day of Sts. William and Lawrence's Vacation Bible School, with the theme of Radical Ride: On the Wings of Prayer. (Right photo) Fr. Carl McCarthy, pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro, demonstrates the opening of pretend "holy doors" for the Jubilee 2025 during June 23-25 Vacation Bible School. The VBS theme was "A Visit to the Vatican."



COURTESY OF PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH



COURTESY OF AMBER BERRY

Second and third graders participate in a group activity during the July 7-10 Vacation Bible School at Sts. William and Lawrence Parishes in Daviess County.



COURTESY OF APRIL DICKENS

Kids hold a "papal election" during the June 23-25 Vacation Bible School at Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro. The VBS theme was "A Visit to the Vatican."



COURTESY OF APRIL DICKENS

Children "paint" the "Sistine Chapel" during a conclave-themed Vacation Bible School at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro during the week of July 7-9.

Teen servant leaders honored in parishes

BY WKC STAFF

This summer, the Office of Youth Ministry announced the recipients of the annual Servant Leaders in Ministry (SLIM) awards. After receiving nominations from parishes, the youth ministry office team selects up to 18 youth from around the diocese who have made outstanding contributions to their parishes, communities, and diocese overall.

This year's 15 winners received an engraved plaque, and all nominated youth received a certificate of recognition. This year's winners and certificate of recognition recipients are listed below.

Award winners

Neely Clark; parents Bryan and Robin Clark; St. Mary Parish, Franklin; nominated by Fr. Tom Buckman

Collin Zellmer; parents Jason and Adrianna Zellmer; St. Leo Parish, Murray; nominated by Debbie D'Angelo

Daniel Laurent; parents Kevin and Colette Laurent; St. Mark Parish, Princeton; nominated by Susan Brinkley

Matthew King; parents Paul and Lynn King; St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah; nominated by Ann Morrow

Samantha Potter; parents Christopher and Ashley Potter; St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah; nominated by Ben Teer

Victor Vannatter; parents Mark and Janet Vannatter;



COURTESY OF ST. THOMAS MORE
Matthew King, a 2025 SLIM award winner, attends St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah.

St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah; nominated by Ben Teer

Jackelyn Arroyo-Patena; parents Moises Arroyo and Veronica Patena; Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson; nominated by Beth Probus

Benjamin Goldsberry; parents Ronald and Katie Goldsberry; Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson; nominated by Beth Probus

Hadan Horbovetz; parents Adam and Tammie Horbovetz; St. John the Evangelist Parish, Paducah; nominated by Lorie Brown

Calvin Padgett; parents Patrick and Suzanne Padgett; St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro; nominated by Karina Romero

Cendal Brown; parents Josh and Cesiley Bartley and Cody Brown; St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro; nominated by Karina Romero

Abby Fish; parent Rebecca Haynes; St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro; nominated by Matt Knight

Ethan Wimsatt; parents Brad and Alissa Wimsatt; Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro; nominated by Haley Dickens

Connor Drury; parents Callie and Jeremy Drury;



COURTESY OF ST. MARK
Daniel Laurent, a 2025 SLIM award winner, attends St. Mark Parish in Eddyville



COURTESY OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
Victor Vannatter (far left), a 2025 SLIM award winner; Fr. Gary Clark, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah; and Samantha Potter, a 2025 SLIM award winner, smile for a photo after the teens received their plaques.

St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm; nominated by Peyton Carrico

Josie Redden; parents Thad and Emily Redden; St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm; nominated by Peyton Carrico

Certificate recipients

Ella Ramsey; parent Charity Ramsey; St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm; nominated by Peyton Carrico

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Wyatt Mcleary; parents Chris and Shannon Mcleary; St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm; nominated by Peyton Carrico

Tori Thomasson; parents Eric and Mandy Thomasson; St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm; Peyton Carrico ■



COURTESY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
Hadan Horbovetz, a 2025 SLIM award winner, is seen second-from-left with his parents Adam and Tammie Horbovetz and brother Alex, as well as parish youth leader Lorie Brown (far left).

Growing, learning, and praying together at Gasper

BY WKC STAFF

Gaspar River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center's final day of summer camp 2025 was July 23 – press day for The Western Kentucky Catholic. Stay tuned for more coverage in a future issue, but for now, enjoy our favorite camp highlights from this summer. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Camp chaplain, Fr. Jason McClure processes through camp with a monstrance during a Eucharistic procession after Mass on June 11, 2025.

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RILEY GREIF | WKC

Middle school campers play Nine Square in the Air during the sports play track at Gasper River Youth Camp on June 11, 2025, during Quest 1 Camp.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A group of boys laugh as they play Gaga Ball during canteen time at Gasper River Youth Camp's Quest 1 Camp on June 11, 2025.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A group of boys work together at low elements on the labyrinth at Gasper River Youth Camp on June 11, 2025.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

A small group of girls study scripture together at a picnic table led by a summer staff member at Gasper River Youth Camp in summer 2025.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Three girl campers pose while at the giant swing activity at Gasper River Youth Camp on June 11, 2025.

St. Mary's in LaCenter welcomes, feeds, TEAMeffort youth mission trip



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHARON NAAS

(Left photo) Volunteers through TEAMeffort smile and enjoy a taco meal provided by St. Mary Parish in LaCenter. (Right photo) Several of St. Mary Parish's cooking volunteers are seen while preparing a meal for the youth visiting with TEAMeffort's mission trip to Ballard County. The volunteers who prepared the meal were Norma Alselm, Mary Margaret Higgins, Joan Hutchins, Keith Kleekemp, Patty Matuszewski, Chris and Sharon Naas, Harriet Rankin, Sondra Rankin, Jessica Riddle and Gengi Sullivan.



BY SHARON NAAS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Mary Parish in LaCenter, Ky., including our pastor, Fr. Jude Okeoma, recently fed a group of 120 students visiting our area.

These students, through the TEAMeffort organization, ranged from ages 13 through 20+ coming from all over the United States to help repair, build or help in any way the needy. This group came to Ballard County and stayed one week at the local First Baptist Church that had accommodations for them. This year our parish fed them a taco dinner and enjoyed meeting these youth. After the meal some stood up and reported on where they were from and what they were involved in during their week of mission work here. They also have certain responsibilities to complete before they can

participate, such as fundraising for travel, food and support for their group to participate. It was inspiring to hear their stories and see the love of Jesus so alive in their hearts.

TEAMeffort plans mission trips for youth; trips which are designed to be a mixture of hard work, spiritual growth and good clean adventurous fun. It is TEAMeffort's desire that at the end of each mission trip, the youth will return to their churches in more cohesive groups, sharing in memories that will last a lifetime and enjoying a renewed excitement about what Jesus Christ is doing in all of their lives. TEAMeffort supplies the projects and all the logistics so the youth can focus on growth. Since 1993, TEAMeffort has brought over 200,000 students and leaders from thousands of churches of different denominations. ■

To learn more, visit <https://teameffort.org>.

Memorial playground blessed, dedicated in honor of Georgia Claire Powell



COURTESY OF AVERY SHACKLETTE

A new playground for Wendell Foster's outpatient therapy services, dedicated in memory of Georgia Claire Powell, is seen on June 12.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On June 12, 2025, a new playground for Wendell Foster's outpatient therapy services was dedicated in memory of Georgia Claire Powell, who had entered the arms of the Lord on Sept. 29, 2024 at the age of seven.

The dedication took place during the week of the Nicky Hayden Memorial Foundation's annual Nicky Hayden Day Memorial Ride. The playground was unveiled alongside both the Hayden and Powell families, and blessed by Fr. John Vaughan, who prior

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Playground continued from page 20

to his recent retirement, was the pastor of Immaculate Parish in Owensboro, the home parish of the Powell family.

Wendell Foster is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit multi-service agency in Owensboro, annually serving more than 2,000 people across 34 counties in western Kentucky and southern Indiana. They are known for serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but also support an array of individuals in need by offering outpatient therapy, residential living, community living, an assistive technology lending library, transportation services, and various support programs. Learn more at <https://wendellfoster.org>. ■



COURTESY OF AVERY SHACKLETTE

On June 12, 2025, Fr. John Vaughan blesses a new playground for outpatient therapy services in memory of Georgia Claire Powell, and is assisted by Georgia Claire's brother, Andrew Powell.



COURTESY OF AVERY SHACKLETTE

Doug Hoyt (far right), Wendell Foster's CEO, speaks during the dedication of a new playground for outpatient therapy services in memory of Georgia Claire Powell on June 12.




Holy Family statue blessed in honor of family's legacy of faith

BY LAVIDA MISCHER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, gathered on a hot, steamy evening on June 22, 2025 for a Corpus Christi procession to the nearby church cemetery on Highway 56. While at the cemetery, pastor Fr. Jamie Dennis blessed the Holy Family statue that was recently donated to the cemetery by the Byrne family. The Holy Family statue was donated in honor of Joan and J.L. Byrne for their dedication to faith and family, by their daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ■

COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHER

(Photo on the left) A Holy Family statue was donated to the St. Mary Magdalene cemetery in honor of Joan and J.L. Byrne for their dedication to faith and family, by their daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.


St. Leo Catholic Church



Youth Jubilee WEEKEND

August 16-17
All Masses

Preparing our Youth for a Faith-filled Adulthood

Fr. Ricardo Pineda CPM

LEARN MORE

Fundraising campaign for Murray State Newman Center continues

BY SHAWN TOUNEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In the midst of a transformational fundraising campaign, St. Leo Parish and its Newman Catholic Center, through FOCUS ministries, continues to see significant, positive growth as recent student data and updates indicate.

A February 2025 report from FOCUS shared with St. Leo Parish in Murray revealed that students who are participating in bible studies are the highest total when compared with past Februarys, dating back to prior to 2020. Through bible studies, a variety of parish and campus programs, Mass attendance and more, student involvement and engagement has been steady throughout the academic year at Murray State, which began in August and concluded in May.

According to its website, FOCUS has a nearly 30-year history in helping college students seek meaning and purpose at a critical point in their lives. Based on the 2024-25 academic year, there were a total of 210 college campuses in the United States with which FOCUS has a presence, with its Catholic missionaries bringing the light of truth, and helping lead students on the path to a strong adult faith. This past academic year, St. Leo Parish had four FOCUS missionaries.

Three students who are involved with the Newman Catholic Center at St. Leo Parish in Murray entered the Catholic Church this Easter. Eight Murray State students attended the SEEK conference in Salt Lake City. And over the nearly 15-year relationship between FOCUS and Murray State's Newman Catholic Center, multiple students who are now alumni have been ordained to the priesthood, are

serving in religious life, or are currently serving in FOCUS capacities.

"So much of the good in my life has come from the Murray State University Newman Center. Not only did it provide me with a strong group of Catholic friends to practice my faith with, it has honestly been a major factor in helping me grow deeper in my faith through the opportunities of bible studies, student Mass, and a chapel where I can visit the Lord whenever I want," said junior Cecilia Broxon.



COURTESY OF MURRAY STATE NEWMAN CATHOLIC CENTER
The Murray State Newman Catholic Center's full daily Mass chapel is seen in this undated photo.

"Seeing the unprecedented growth of our Newman community this year has truly been one of the greatest highlights of my job as campus minister. I have seen students blossom from shy and quiet to true, virtuous, and faithful leaders of others. My greatest privilege, though, is watching students come to a realization of who the Eucharist truly is; to hear them speak, after a retreat, of their moment of recognizing and knowing Jesus in Adoration. That makes all the long days and late nights worth it for me," said Philomena Hempel, campus minister.

In 2023, the "All Things New" campaign to build a new Newman Catholic Center initiated, with a goal of raising \$1.75 million to construct a new building, as the existing

building has long outlived its service and has inadequate space to serve students.

The proposed new building will be a 5,000-square foot facility featuring a gathering space for approximately 100 students and a chapel that is 150% larger than the current one and will seat more than 70 students for Mass. There will be a library/reading room which can serve for bible study and is 65% larger than current space. Included will be a reinforced safe area in the event of severe weather, attractive study and meeting rooms, office space for the director and FOCUS staff, a modern kitchen for cooking meals, and larger, separate bathrooms.

Thanks to the abundant generosity of many, including the Diocese of Owensboro, St. Leo parishioners, parishes throughout the diocese and region, Knights of Columbus councils, Murray State alumni, and many more, the campaign has received \$1.25 million in pledges, including \$845,000 cash in hand as of July 2025.

An important fact: nearly every parish in the Diocese of Owensboro has a Murray State student, many of whom are part of the Newman Catholic Center. We're all in this together as we help support all of these students, as well as future students from your own home parish who will benefit from the many graces of the Newman Catholic Center.

We need your help in getting us to the finish line! Each parish or parishioner in our diocese is encouraged to prayerfully consider making a gift as we approach the goal amount. Give online at catholicracers.org/all-things-new, or by mail at St. Leo Catholic Church, 401 N. 12th St., Murray, KY 42071, Attn: All Things New Campaign.

St. John Henry Newman, intercede for us!

Individuals can learn more, view video testimonials, and make a gift to support "All Things New" at catholicracers.org/all-things-new. ■

New small group opportunity: In the Word with Bishop Medley

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, EVANGELIZATION & DISCIPLESHIP

“In the Word with Bishop Medley” begins in September. This new video series is an effort to offer faith formation across the diocese in the most effective format for adult learners – small groups!

This specific series will meet once a month running from September through May. The content is twofold. It covers basic scripture scholarship and the liturgical calendar, and Bishop Medley will offer a video reflection on the readings for the fourth Sunday of the month. Therefore, small groups will meet once in the first three weeks each month to hear the readings proclaimed and to learn from their bishop and one another.

While content is important and there are many small group series available, there is so much more than content to these groups. Adult faith formation needs to be holistic, rooted in community and a safe place to pray for one another and discuss the joys and sorrows of our lives.

Catholic parishes that offer small groups and encourage members to participate find several benefits. 1) Enhanced discipleship and spiritual formation. Beyond passive listening like a homily, small groups offer active discussion, reflection and application to daily life. The intimate setting encourages vulnerability, allowing individuals to share struggles, receive support and work on overcoming challenges and growing in

virtue. Through prayer, study and fellowship, participants often experience a renewed and deeper relationship with God. 2) Stronger community and belonging, which is evident in so many ways. 3) Growth in lay leadership and ministry. A couple priests have told Bishop Medley that the members of their parish Acts 2:42 groups are growing very close and are becoming more active in the parish. 4) Increased engagement and parish vitality.

Small groups are one of the best models for growing parish life and allow parishioners to active live out the Christian life together.

While you may have not heard about “In the Word with Bishop Medley,” you can still discuss your desire with parish leadership to be involved and see about forming your own group. All the materials are provided, and training is offered to help you lead the group. Are you feeling a “God nudge” to move out of your comfort zone and form a small group that will be a blessing in your own life and to every person who participates with you?

While the Acts 2:42 small group series came to an end last May, many of the current small groups plan to meet and use Bishop Medley’s new series. The prayer is that as we study God’s word and reflect on the readings for the fourth Sunday of the month, as a diocese, we will come to Mass on the fourth Sunday more disposed to hear God’s voice in our hearts through our preparation.

Prayerfully consider joining an existing group or creating a small group in your home to help your parish become a dynamic and attractive place of faith. Questions? Email me at jeff.andrini@pastoral.org

Peace,
Jeff ■

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship.



SCREENSHOT

Bishop William F. Medley gives a video reflection for Season 1 of the Acts 2:42 series. This fall, current Acts groups and others are encouraged to meet for the new upcoming video series “In the Word with Bishop Medley.”

IN THE WORD WITH BISHOP MEDLEY

ENCOURAGE YOUR ACTS 2:42 GROUPS TO CONTINUE OR START NEW GROUPS!

- **Meet monthly September 2025 - May 2026.**
- **Focus on Scripture, the Liturgical Year, and Fourth Sunday Readings.**
- **Watch video reflections from Bishop Medley each month.**



Office of Evangelization & Discipleship
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

Called to love: A Catholic invitation to dialogue on immigration

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

In today's polarized world, few topics stir more passionate debate than immigration. The United States faces complex challenges at the border, in our laws, and in our communities. Emotions run high: fear, frustration, compassion, and concern are all part of the conversation. As Catholics, we are not called to avoid these difficult issues. Rather, we are called to approach them in a spirit of charity, truth, and mercy, grounded in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The temptation to speak in absolutes or to vilify one another over political views is strong. But the Gospel offers us a better way. It calls us to see each person – regardless of legal status, nationality, or background – as a beloved child of God. We are reminded in Matthew 25:35, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Christ does not qualify His command by political affiliation or economic analysis. He simply commands us to love.

This does not mean ignoring laws or failing to address real problems in our immigration system. As citizens, we have the right and the responsibility to seek just and reasonable solutions. But as followers of Jesus, our discourse must reflect His heart. We must avoid language that dehumanizes. We must refuse to see migrants as threats before seeing them as people. And we must speak with humility, always aware that we may not fully understand another person's journey.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “the more prosperous nations are obliged, to the

extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin” (CCC 2241). This does not dismiss the role of law or order, but it places compassion at the center of our discernment. Love and prudence are not enemies – they are partners when guided by faith.

It is also worth remembering that the Catholic Church in the United States is itself shaped by immigration. Our parishes, schools, and communities were built by immigrants who came seeking freedom, safety, and opportunity. Many of us are descendants of those who were once viewed as “outsiders.” Today, new faces bring new gifts, and we are richer for it.

In this moment, the Church must be a bridge, not a battleground. We are called to model loving dialogue, where people of differing views can speak honestly without fear, and listen deeply without judgment. This means we must listen to the voices of migrants, border communities, law enforcement, and policymakers – always with the Gospel as our guide.

Let us move forward with courage and compassion. May we speak the truth in love, and act with justice shaped by mercy. And may our witness as Catholics always reflect the One who welcomed the stranger, defended the poor, and broke down the barriers that divide. ■

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



OSV NEWS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ
Women hold a U.S. flag as they lead a pro-immigrant march following a Spanish-language Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Riverhead, N.Y., June 22, 2025, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. St. John's parish social ministry organized the event, which drew about 300 participants.

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.



Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

The 40 Martyrs: Fr. Robert Gipperich (Part 1)

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

The 40 Martyrs is the moniker given to the first priests of our diocese. They were given this title because they were displaced from their home, the Diocese of Louisville. Without warning, they were bound to a newly created rural diocese. Though many of these priests doubtlessly felt it a great honor to become the first to serve in the newly created spiritual frontier, there were others that felt as if they had been torn from the arms of their mother. This is the story of one such priest.

On Dec. 9, 1937, the creation of the Diocese of Owensboro was announced. One week later, on Dec. 16, it was declared that Fr. Francis R. Cotton, the highly respected chancellor of the Diocese of Louisville, would be installed as its first bishop. That same day, Fr. Robert Gipperich sat down and penned a congratulation to his friend and brother priest. The letter began, “Most Rev dear Bishop Elect: Heartiest congratulations on your appointment to the Bishopric of Owensboro.” Following this cordial congratulation, Fr. Gipperich asked one simple thing of his old friend: he requested to be released from the Diocese of Owensboro and allowed to return to his service in the now Archdiocese of Louisville.

Fr. Gipperich seemed to think it was a simple enough request. Not only were he and the newly-announced bishop friends, but before accepting the assignment in Owensboro, he had also received the word of the archbishop that he would be returned to Louisville in a reasonable amount of time. However, to all their surprise, within a few short years of Fr. Gipperich’s assignment to the western portion of

the Louisville diocese, the Diocese of Owensboro was created. Fr. Gipperich also sent a copy of the letter to the archbishop, boldly reminding him of his promise. The priest was in for a rude awakening and Bishop Cotton was about to encounter one of his first struggles as bishop.

Bishop Cotton only had two options: let the priest return or have him stay. Sadly, neither of these seemed to present a promising result. If he told Fr. Gipperich that he could not leave, he would be separating a priest from his family, who resided in Louisville, and forcing him to stay in a place that he very specifically said would negatively affect himself and his vocation. However, letting him leave would set a precedent and possibly open a floodgate of priests who also wished to return to Louisville.

How the bishop-elect chose to handle this situation would set the tone for his leadership of the new diocese.

This article is the first of a three-part series. This situation continued to play out for over 20 years. Though the 40 martyrs and their ordeal are mentioned occasionally when speaking of our history, the true weight of their sacrifice cannot be fully appreciated without their very own words giving life to their struggle. Hopefully, this small series will serve to illuminate some of the silent sacrifices made by our priests from the very foundation of our diocese. ■

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.



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Seen is Bishop Francis R. Cotton, the first bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, in this undated photo. Bishop Cotton encountered one of his first struggles as a bishop as he assigned priests in the newly-formed Diocese of Owensboro.

Tribunal Explains

The myth: Only my pastor can help me pursue a declaration of invalidity (annulment).

The truth: All priests and deacons in the diocese are trained to be advocates for those who are seeking a declaration of invalidity. In addition, there are many lay advocates trained throughout the diocese to assist with the process. It is your preference and with whom you would be most comfortable walking this journey towards healing. While supporting the permanence of marriage, the Church bears in mind the needs of divorced individuals. The Diocesan Tribunal 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.

Looking back: Panic among 3,000 at 1907 parish picnic

BY GRADY EBELHAR, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

As picnic season is in full swing in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, let us look back at an odd occurrence that took place many years ago.

In July 1907 a big storm swept across Daviess County. The most disastrous electrical and wind storm for years swept the county shortly after noon and as a result one person died and 18 were injured.

The greatest amount of damage in the county was at Haynes Station near Whitesville, where a picnic was being given by St. Mary Parish. Over 3,000 people were in attendance that Saturday. There was no shelter and when the rain and electrical storm came through, the bulk of the crowd was forced to remain out in the open, becoming thoroughly drenched. Some 300 persons found shelter in a barn a short distance away and about 20 people crowded into a booth on the picnic grounds.

It was those in the booth that suffered more severely. The wind that came with the rain blew a tree down and it fell across the booth, crushing it to the ground. The persons who had taken shelter there were caught in the debris and four of them were severely injured.

Those who had remained on the picnic grounds went to the assistance of the injured immediately after the tree fell. Ben Hardesty was found unconscious and his only visible injury was a broken ankle. On examination by a doctor, it was found that he sustained serious internal injuries and a fractured skull.

H.G. Sapp and his 12-year-old son were both

injured. The boy was taken from the debris in an unconscious condition. One of his arms was severely hurt and he appeared to have been struck by lightning. Anna Mattingly had one of her arms crushed and had severe bruises about the head and face after she was struck by the falling tree. Two other people, Willie Drury and Mrs. Elijah Stietler, were shocked by lightning and were injured slightly.

Most had come to the picnic either by horse and buggy, walked, or took a train from Owensboro.

Parish picnics were for years a big homecoming for former parishioners, who would come home every year to see old friends of the past. The big part of the picnics

was the dinner stands, ice cream stands, drink stands and the gaming stands. Most would top off the picnic visit by stopping to play bingo.

The picnic of today's time is different because most parishes have a school building or a parish hall in case of bad weather. Several small parishes have stopped having picnics due to the shortage of help, and several parishes have gone with drive-thru picnics.

I am sure in the next 50 years it will be quite different. In 2015, when the Daviess County Bicentennial celebrated 200 years, a time capsule was placed back in the ground at the Daviess County Courthouse. I placed approximately 40 pictures of the St. Mary Magdalene's 2015 picnic in the capsule. It will be opened in the year 2065 so people will be able to see what an old-fashioned picnic looked like. ■

Grady Ebelhar belongs to St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 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.

2025 western Kentucky two-day Jubilee of Hope pilgrimage

Aug. 30-31, 2025. Life is a pilgrimage, a journey of journeys, toward eternal life in heaven. The two-day pilgrimage starts at St. Francis de Sales in Paducah on Saturday morning, Aug. 30 and concludes on Sunday evening, Aug. 31 at Holy Redeemer in Beaver Dam. Pilgrims will journey across the diocese encountering Christ, our hope, in each of the six Diocese of Owensboro jubilee sites and amidst fellow pilgrims with an overnight stay Saturday at Gasper River Retreat Center. Inviting every person, family, small faith community, and parish across the diocese to come pilgrim with one another this Labor Day weekend. For more information and to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/202508wkyjubileepilgrimage>. Questions: contact Robin Murphey, pilgrimage facilitator, at asimplesmilejourney@gmail.com

Gennesaret Retreat Sept. 26-28

Are you or anyone you know living with chronic, serious, or terminal illness? The Diocese of Owensboro Gennesaret Retreat may be a blessing for you. This retreat is structured to accommodate individual needs. Each guest is provided with a private room and bathroom. The schedule allows for choice and time for rest. Special dietary needs can be planned for. Team members are available and ready to assist with your needs. The Gennesaret Retreat is at retreat is offered at no cost for guests or volunteer team members. Funding is provided through grants and generous donations. Applications are being accepted for this year's retreat the weekend of Sept. 26-28, 2025 at the Abbey of Gethsemane retreat center, Trappist, KY. Guests will be accepted on a first come basis. When the retreat filled up, we will start a waiting list for next year. To apply to be a guest

or to volunteer as a host team member contact coordinators Amy or Tom Payne at 270-316-0403 or email apayneat2251@hotmail.com. Please keep us in your prayers.

Sept. 27 Springs of Love Mass & Picnic for Catholic foster and adoptive families

Hosted at Christ the King Parish, 1600 Kingsway Dr., Madisonville, Ky. Mass is on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m., celebrated by Fr. Chris Kight, with a picnic to follow. For more information: danny.may@pastoral.org.

Thirty-fifth annual Marian Congress Oct. 4

"Pilgrims of Hope through Mary." Oct. 4, 2025, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green. Featured speaker: Fr. Peter Stryker, CPM. Mass at 8:30 a.m. Opportunities for Jubilee indulgence, brunch, May crowning, rosary procession, Divine Mercy chaplet, confessions, Adoration and Benediction. Questions: Patricia Hicks at (270) 943-1812.

Fourth Day Annual Cursillo Retreat Oct. 11

Hello all Cursillistas! Please save the date for Oct. 11, 2025 for the 4th Day annual retreat. It will be held at Christ the King in Madisonville from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., beginning with Mass. Lunch will be potluck. The Fall Encounter will be Sept. 19 with more info to follow. Contact: Michelle Sandheinrich michelle.sandheinrich@gmail.com.

Praying the rosary for the U.S.

Please join us in prayer for our nation at a rosary rally on the Owensboro Riverfront in the shelter at East Veterans Boulevard and Daviess Street. We gather on the second Saturday of every month at 12 noon. Contact David Woeste at davewoestesoccer@yahoo.com for any questions.

Director of religious education in Monett, Missouri

Director of religious education (part-time) – St. Lawrence Catholic Church – Monett, Missouri. St. Lawrence Catholic Church is seeking a faith-filled, organized, director of religious education (DRE) to coordinate and lead religious education programs for children, youth, and families within our vibrant Catholic community. The DRE will oversee all parish religious education efforts, including sacramental preparation, faith formation for children not attending Catholic school, and collaboration with our parish school (pre-K through sixth grade). This role requires a strong commitment to multicultural ministry,

serving both our Anglo and Hispanic populations. Applications should be a practicing Catholic, have experience in catechesis, ministry leadership, or educational programming, and hold a bachelor's degree (or working towards one) in theology, religious education, or a related field (or equivalent work experience). Bilingual (English/Spanish) is a benefit but not required. Interested applicants can submit inquiries and/or a cover letter and resume to the parish office at stlawrence1892@gmail.com.

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.

Dynamic Parish Culture – Living As a Community of Missionary Disciples *with Dr. Jeff Andrini*

Come explore a vital truth: every single one of us is called to be actively engaged in the mission of Jesus Christ. This isn't just for a select few; it's a universal call. And it doesn't mean you need to be in everything at the parish! What does this look like in practice? A vibrant parish is welcoming, attractive, and deeply mission-focused, where parishioners are fed and sent forth to proclaim the Gospel in their daily lives. We'll delve into what makes our parish dynamic, celebrate our strengths, and prayerfully consider areas where we can continue to grow and improve as a community of missionary disciples.

Saturday, September 13

Coffee	9:00 am
Presentation ...	9:30 - 12:00
Lunch	12:00

August 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

Brandon & Ashley Brocato, 25
Charles & Nola Courtney, 54
Drew & Jeannette Ward, 57
Harold & Rhonda Staples, 54
James & Alma Topper, 55
Jerry & Cecilia Wilkerson, 52
John & Rose Meister, 54
Joseph & Geraldine Jarboe, 52
Larry & Mary Ann Mattingly, 50
Marvin & Martha Hayden, 57
Raymond & Theresa Payne, 65
Ron & Mereda Hicks, 53
Stephen & Diane Hoffman, 40
Steve & Brenda Hagan, 56

Christ the King, Madisonville

Darren & Rosa Chapman, 40
David & Ellen Waters, 66
Doug & Patricia Pilson, 57
Frank & Barbara Schnapf, 57
James & Judy Donley, 57
Paul & Gwen Bergman, 59
Ron & Marsha Segebarth, 57
Tommy & Carol Richardson, 59

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Andrew & Patricia Wynne, 50
Armando & Holivia Sandoval, 54
Bill & Judy McClellan, 62
Danny & Debbie Bullock, 52
Danny & Janie Jacobs, 61
David & Gayle O'Nan, 40
Dorin & Betsy Luck, 50
Jim & Denise Roethemeier, 50
Jim & Elizabeth Davis, 40
Jimmy & Debbie Hagan, 54
Joe & Cathy Schuelke, 40
Keith & Diane Utley, 56
Keith & Tammy Hobson, 40
Mike & Kay Smith, 53
Scottie & Cynthia Long, 52
Thomas & Mary Duncan, 59
Thomas & Sandra Rugg, 53
Thomas & Yvonne Drury, 51
Zeb & Kelsey Hargis, 10

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Huge Langh & Lucy Vung Mung, 10
Jack & Carole Hoeft, 53
John & Jocelyn Knepler, 56
Joseph & India Martinez, 10
Robert & Barbara Pollock, 40

Steve & Ann Bolt, 52

Holy Trinity, Morgantown

Larry & Mary Martin, 63
Teddy & Margie Seiler, 55

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Johnny & Elizabeth Wix, 57

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Dallas & Margaret Powers, 55
Dan & Shirley Hagman, 65
James & Brenda Adkins, 57

Immaculate, Owensboro

Al & Rose Clark, 69
Edward & Nannette Parish, 55
Gary & Bonnie Roberts, 58
James & Sharon Murphy, 60
John & Margie Wathen, 70
Neil & Kim Corley, 25
Rollie & Christina Rhodes, 25

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Al & Judy Mattingly, 54
Austin & Monika Peay, 10
Brian & Molly Howard, 10
Kenneth & Johanna Boarman, 63
Michael & Kerry Hamilton, 25
Mike & Linda Todd, 57
Thomas & Cindi Reisz, 55
Wayne & Laura Edge, 55

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Bill & June Johnson, 65
Larry & Donna Kamuf, 53
Matthew & Stacy Royalty, 25
Paul & Tancy Payne, 57
Roger & Linda Haynes, 52

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

Mike & Julia Ward, 56

Sacred Heart, Hickman

Gerald & Mary Harris, 58
Jimmy & Barb Blanton, 60
Jimmy & Pat Cooley, 65

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Charles & Nancy Clements, 54

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Bill & Lora Lee Duncan, 56
Damon & Cathy Dayberry, 58

Dennie & Robin Brown, 25
Jason & Kristin Thomas, 10

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Brent & Breanna Dant, 25
Charles & Sarah Dant, 60
Randy & Elaine Blandford, 53

St. Ann, Morganfield

Anthony & Judy Moore, 51
Charles & Elizabeth Acker, 58
Fred & Bonnie Hooper, 58
James & Dorothy Buckman, 68
Jim & Debbie Peak, 40
John & Donna Greenwell, 50
John & Yvonne Davis, 59
Kenny & Judy Willett, 58

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Dan & Cindy O'Brien, 55
Paul & Diane Quayle, 58

St. Anthony, Axtel

Jason & Lori Martin, 5

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Jacob & Carla Wink, 5

St. Anthony, Peonia

James & Donna McLemore, 56

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

David & Mary Doris Simon, 67
Joseph & Jody Ziegler, 54

St. Augustine, Reed

Ben & Stanette Blair, 57
Bill & Connie Williams, 51

St. Columba, Lewisport

Eddie & Rachel Gray, 53
Harry & Pat Roberts, 53

St. Edward, Fulton

Jerry & Mary Ann Hobbs, 65
Tommie & Melinda Briggs, 54

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Allen & Rhonda Clemons, 51
Charlie & Brenda Stinson, 53

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Bobby & Faye Greenwell, 67
Michael & Rosanne Thornsbury, 52

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Daniel & Linda Quinlan, 50
Darrell & Cindy Boyd, 52

Geoffrey & Holly Newton, 25
Jim & Judie Bonner, 55
William & Judith Hayden, 66

St. Henry, Aurora

Ray & Ann Davis, 58
Ty & Nancy Thill, 57

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Benny & Ruthie Wood, 52
Daniel & Sarah Burgess, 10
David & Emmalene Hayden, 54
Grant & Claudette Mills, 58
Joseph & Paula Elliott, 54
Norris & Elexie McNutt, 53
William & Angela Higdon, 52

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

David & Elizabeth Goewert, 57
Frank & Kay Kern, 62
Richard & Susan Durbin, 55
William & Heidi Ballard, 62

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Antoine & Lauren Raynaud, 5
Bob & Paula Baysinger, 56
Dan & Jennifer Murphy, 58
Jay & Katie Beard, 5
Jerry & Diana Webb, 50
John & Catherine Fox, 53
Joseph & Mary Murphy, 58
Malcolm & Susan Cherry, 50
Pedro & Cruz Alfaro, 10
Phillip & Maria Hinkle, 50
Ralph & Mary Wilken, 55
Richard & Rosemary Wiesemann, 55
Ronnie & Paula Miller, 56
Tom & Peggy Cahill, 65

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Bill & Carolyn Thomason, 60
Eric & Charla Lambert, 10
Ryan & Beth Bratcher, 25

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Charles & Christie Henson, 53
Doug & Barbara Pickett, 25
Gerald & Pam Brooks, 57
James & Judy Hobbs, 57
Jerry & Teresa Griffith, 25

Joey & Nancy Wilson, 55
John & Kelly Motheral, 40
Julian & Pascuala Baten, 10
Larry & Rose Seay, 55

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Steven & Kathy Bickett, 40

St. Leo, Murray

Andy & Lou Ann Conklin, 55
Dan & Cheryl Earles, 58
Doug & Anne Walton, 53
James & Susan Koegel, 55

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Bill & Judi Head, 58
PJ & Sarah Ebelhar, 40
Ryan & Haley Richeson, 5

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Bill & Hope Brey, 50
Frank & Connie Hagan, 51
Gene & Brenda Hamilton, 53
James & Krista Hamilton, 40
John & Kadie Riney, 10
Lewis & Jeanie Jean, 56
Ron & Julie O'Bryan, 25

St. Mary, Franklin

David & Glenda Duncan, 50
John & Paula Herrmann, 58

St. Mary, LaCenter

Jerry & Julie Owsley, 57
Joe & Betty Lane, 53

St. Michael, Sebree

Bobby & Susie Blanford, 62

St. Paul, Princeton

Conner & Whitney McEnaney, 5
George & Sharon Barber, 54
Tommy & Kay Cotton, 57

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Jack & Vicki Stogsdill, 51
Steve & Sally Moss, 54

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

John & Gwynn Royster, 54

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Larry & Judy Krouse, 55
RJ & Diane Witowski, 17

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Al & Jane Johnson, 60
David & Jennifer Brown, 52

Continues on page 29

PARISH PICNICS 2025

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Greg & Marion Bates, 52
Madison & Amy Silvert, 25
Richard & Mary Coy, 64
Thomas & Mary Payne, 51

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Larry & Patti Mattingly, 63
Mark & Kate Metcalfe, 5
PJ & Martha O'Donoghue, 57
Raymond & Margie
Wethington, 65
Ron & Jamesetta Whitfill, 53

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Donald & Cindy Durbin, 59
Jerry & Mary Abney, 66

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Ed & Gloria Cecil, 56
Ed & Mary Riney, 58
Elmo & Dora Thompson, 63
Mike & Susan Fulkerson, 61
Raymond & Barbara Trogolo,
68
Zachary & Alex Gilles, 5

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Gerald & Sandra Allen, 50
Gus & Carol Puth, 60
Wayne & Nancy Gundry, 54

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Anthony & Cecilia Toren, 62
Gary & Linda Whitelock, 55
Harry & Julie Brigance, 57
James & Jeanine Taylor, 54
James & Julia Harper, 63
Jerry & Diane Stoverink, 53
Jimmie & Kathy Golden, 50

Larry & Tena Payne, 50
Rich & JoAnne Miller, 64
Richard & Pat Heflin, 55

St. William, Knottsville

Charles & Ann Roby, 59
Charles & Susie Hamilton, 51
Robert & Karyl Millay, 53

St. William, Marion

Gordon & Carole Guess, 55
Lynn & Kathy Bechler, 57

Sts. Joseph & Paul,

Owensboro

Carl & Terry Working, 51
Chad & Mary Moseley, 10
David & Iona Clark, 56
Donnie & Connie Clark, 52
Edward & Mary Haynes, 58
John & Davena Cecil, 50

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Alex & Brianna Smith, 5
Cory & Kimberly Bush, 5
James & Patricia Goode, 50

2025 Parish Picnic Schedule in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: Parish picnics and cooking teams are a longstanding tradition in the parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike gather to celebrate with food, games and community during the warmest months of the year. All questions about the individual picnics should be directed to the parishes at the numbers provided with each listing.

Aug. 2

Blessed Sacrament
Chapel, Owensboro
Street address: 602 Sycamore St, Owensboro
Drive-thru only; serving
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Contact: Parish office
(270) 926-4741

Aug. 2

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Street address: 20 State
Route 339 North, Fancy
Farm
Serving 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Contact: Andy Hayden
(270) 705-4312

Aug. 5

St. Martin, Rome
Street address: 5856
State Route 81, Owensboro
Drive-thru only; serving
4 p.m.
Contact: (270) 685-0339

Aug. 16

St. Ann, Morganfield
Street address: 304
South Church St., Morganfield
Serving 5-9 p.m.

Contact: (270) 389-2287

Sept. 6

Christ the King, Scottsville
Street address: 298 Bluegrass
Dr., Scottsville
Serving 3-7 p.m.
Contact: Valerie Vargo (270)
943-7892

Sept. 6

St. Agnes Parish & Knights of
Columbus, Uniontown
Street address: 504 Mulberry St.,
Uniontown
Serving 5 p.m.
Contact: Steven Gough (270)
952-3071 or Travis Hancock
(270) 952-2500

Sept. 6

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Street address: 6705 Old Hwy
45 South, Paducah
Serving: 8 a.m. (meat stand); 12
noon-5:30 p.m. (dinner)
Contact: Parish office (270) 554-
3810

Sept. 13

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Street address: 394 N Hwy 259,
Hardinsburg
Serving 4-7 p.m.
Contact: (270) 756-2356

Sept. 20

Christ the King, Madisonville
Street address: 1500 Kingsway Dr., Madisonville
Serving 4-8 p.m.
Contact: Lesley Mills (270) 821-8271

Sept. 20

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson
Street address: 306 Clifty Ave., Clarkson
Serving 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Contact: (270) 242-4414

Sept. 21

Mary Carrico Catholic School, Knottsville
Street address: 6119 St. Lawrence Rd.,
Philpot
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: Joe Schepers (270) 929-5522

Sept. 27

Immaculate, Owensboro
Street address: 2516 Christie Pl., Owensboro
Pick-up only; serving 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Contact: John Jones (270) 316-2214

Sept. 28

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Street address: 10534 Main Cross St.,
Whitesville
Serving 11 a.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 233-4196

Retiring business manager named Duchess of Paducah



COURTESY OF TIM BRAY

Ellen Anderson, who retired as business manager of St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah on May 30, receives the Duchess of Paducah award from Mayor George Bray.

BY TIM BRAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Ellen Anderson, business manager at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, retired on May 30, after 25 years of service to the Paducah Catholic community. Ellen received the award of Duchess of Paducah from Mayor George Bray, and a very special retirement blessing from pastor, Fr. Mike Clark. The parish community wishes Ellen all the best in her retirement. ■

Una campaña para agradecer a quienes han dedicado su vida a nuestra Iglesia

A mediados de la década de 1980, la Diócesis de Owensboro erigió los Apartamentos Cotton en un terreno adyacente al asilo de ancianos “Carmel Home” en Owensboro. El edificio incluía ocho apartamentos pequeños para sacerdotes mayores jubilados. En las cuatro décadas transcurridas desde entonces, decenas de nuestros sacerdotes mayores han vivido allí, a menudo trasladándose con el tiempo al Carmel Home cuando su independencia era limitada y necesitaban el apoyo de enfermería que allí se ofrecía. Los apartamentos recibieron su nombre del Obispo Francis R. Cotton, el primer obispo de Owensboro, muy conocido por esa generación de sacerdotes mayores. Cuando llegué a Owensboro como cuarto obispo de la diócesis en 2010, todavía había siete sacerdotes residentes allí. En los últimos años, los Apartamentos Cotton se han convertido en un lugar menos deseable para nuestros sacerdotes jubilados. Recuerdo las palabras del Obispo John J. McRaith, quien supervisó la construcción de las instalaciones, cuando se mudó allí un par de años antes de su muerte: “Ojalá hubiera sabido entonces lo que sé ahora”. Estos pequeños apartamentos fueron diseñados con poca atención a las necesidades únicas de las personas mayores; incluso el baño de cada unidad tenía una pequeña bañera estándar sin ninguna adaptación para alguien con discapacidades cambiantes. Durante los últimos años, hemos tenido una conversación entre nuestros sacerdotes, especialmente aquellos que podrían estar próximos a jubilarse. Después de explorar las posibilidades de una remodelación importante y costosa, nos dimos cuenta de que sería más económico derribar esta estructura y erigir un edificio completamente nuevo. Proponemos construir un edificio de apartamentos de cuatro unidades, cada una con aproximadamente 1,000 pies cuadrados. Están diseñados para acomodar a sacerdotes mayores e incluirán

un garaje adjunto, un baño accesible para discapacitados, una habitación, una pequeña cocina y una sala. Las cuatro unidades se conectarán a una pequeña capilla. Varios de nuestros sacerdotes que buscan jubilarse dentro de la próxima década han expresado su interés en vivir allí. Para financiar este proyecto, primero invité a nuestros sacerdotes a ser los contribuyentes iniciales, quizás para ellos mismos, pero ciertamente para sus hermanos sacerdotes. Dentro de un mes recibimos compromisos de donaciones de más de \$127,000 de 29 sacerdotes. Las conversaciones con los líderes diocesanos han sido alentadoras. Muchos comentan que pueden pensar en pocos proyectos que susciten una respuesta más entusiasta que asegurar nuestro cuidado a los sacerdotes y religiosos a medida que envejecen. Este mes comenzamos a invitar a los católicos de toda la diócesis a expresar su gratitud a nuestros sacerdotes por sus años de ministerio y servicio. Prevemos que la construcción de estas primeras cuatro unidades, incluyendo la demolición de la estructura actual, costará alrededor de \$1.5 millones de dólares. Hay espacio para construir unidades adicionales según sea necesario, y nos gustaría que nuestra modesta Campaña Fundamentos Fieles recaude suficiente dinero para que esto sea posible. En las próximas semanas esperamos hacer invitaciones personales a varios cientos de personas y para octubre haber invitado a todos los católicos de la diócesis a participar. Esta es una campaña para agradecer a quienes han dedicado su vida al servicio y a la oración.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY AGOSTO DE 2025	
2 de agosto	Picnic parroquial de San Jerónimo – Fancy Farm
6-7 de agosto	Reunión de los Obispos de la Provincia y la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky – Louisville
9 de agosto	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Miguel, Sebree
10 de agosto	2 p.m. Misa de entrega de los premios Sofia – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
13 de agosto	6 p.m. Recepción de Fundamentos Fieles – Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Owensboro
14 de agosto	6:30 p.m. Recepción de Fundamentos Fieles – Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Owensboro
15 de agosto	11:00 a.m. Misa de inauguración del presidente de la Universidad de Brescia – Capilla de la Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro
	3 p.m. Ceremonia de investidura del presidente de la Universidad de Brescia – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
16 de agosto	4 p.m. Investidura del párroco, P. Daniel Dillard, Parroquia San Martín, Roma
18 de agosto	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
19 de agosto	6 p.m. Recepción de Fundamentos Fieles – Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

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20 de agosto	9 a.m. Misa con los administradores parroquiales – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
	6 p.m. Recepción de Fundamentos Fieles – Parroquia Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green
21 de agosto	6 p.m. Recepción de Fundamentos Fieles – Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville.
23 de agosto - 13 de septiembre	Peregrinación a España y Portugal

La comunidad diocesana celebra los 25 años de ministerio de las Hermanas Ad Gentes

POR EL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ, OFICINA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO/LATINO

El 28 de junio de 2025, los fieles de la Diócesis de Owensboro se reunieron para agradecer y celebrar los 25 años de presencia y ministerio en nuestra diócesis de las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús ad Gentes. Un agradecimiento especial al Padre Mike Clark, al Padre Basilio Az Cuc y a toda la familia de la Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah por ser anfitriona y por su acogida. También estamos agradecidos al Obispo William F. Medley por presidir esta hermosa celebración. Fue una bendición especial también que la Hna. Leopoldina Carmona Romano, actual Superiora General de la orden, pudo viajar desde México para estar presente en esta memorable celebración. Fue realmente un

Continúa en la contraportada



POR CORTESÍA DE FULGENCIO GARCÍA
Una mujer habla con una hermana durante la celebración del 28 de junio en Santo Tomás Moro, en honor a los 25 años de servicio de las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús ad Gentes en la Diócesis de Owensboro.



POR CORTESÍA DE FULGENCIO GARCÍA
Miembros de las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús ad Gentes ingresan en procesión a la iglesia Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah durante una Misa el 28 de junio de 2025 en honor al 25° aniversario de servicio de las hermanas en la Diócesis de Owensboro.



POR CORTESÍA DE FULGENCIO GARCÍA
El Obispo William F. Medley sonríe para una foto grupal con las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús ad Gentes, durante una Misa el 28 de junio de 2025 en honor al 25 aniversario de servicio de las hermanas en la Diócesis de Owensboro.



POR CORTESÍA DE FULGENCIO GARCÍA
El Obispo William F. Medley saluda a los miembros de las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús ad Gentes, antes de una Misa el 28 de junio de 2025 en honor al 25° aniversario de servicio de las hermanas en la Diócesis de Owensboro.



POR CORTESÍA DE FULGENCIO GARCÍA
La Hna. Yessica Vázquez organiza los programas para la Misa del 28 de junio de 2025 en honor al 25° aniversario de servicio de las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús ad Gentes en la Diócesis de Owensboro.

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día memorable, ya que allí estaban presentes hermanas y hermanos de varias parroquias y que también pudieron estar presentes hermanas de la misma orden, pero que sirven en otras tres diócesis de Estados Unidos.

Durante su homilía, el Obispo Medley hizo algunas observaciones sobre la expresión latina “Ad Gentes”, que se traduce como “a todas las naciones y pueblos”. Esto es parte del nombre y del carisma de las hermanas. Expresó en nombre propio y de toda la diócesis su gratitud por haber sido receptores de las bendiciones que estas misioneras han traído al oeste de Kentucky.

A lo largo de los años, cerca de 20 hermanas diferentes han venido y servido en el ministerio hispano/latino en cinco parroquias en nuestra diócesis. En diciembre de 2024, el Obispo Medley pudo viajar a México para celebrar con ellas los 75 años de la fundación de la orden religiosa. Para nosotros aquí en la Diócesis de Owensboro, las hermanas continúan siendo fundamentales en el servicio de las necesidades pastorales de muchos, especialmente de los inmigrantes hispanos/latinos. Particularmente en este momento tan difícil para las comunidades inmigrantes, la presencia de las hermanas y el acompañamiento a los migrantes es reconfortante y una bendición para muchos.

Además, recordemos con gratitud al Obispo John J. McRaith, quien inicialmente hace 25 años vio con buenos ojos invitar a esta orden religiosa.

Que Dios continúe bendiciendo nuestra diócesis con los trabajadores necesarios de la mies: hermanas, sacerdotes, diáconos y misioneros laicos para continuar la obra de Dios en esta hermosa misión de la Diócesis de Owensboro. ■