

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY



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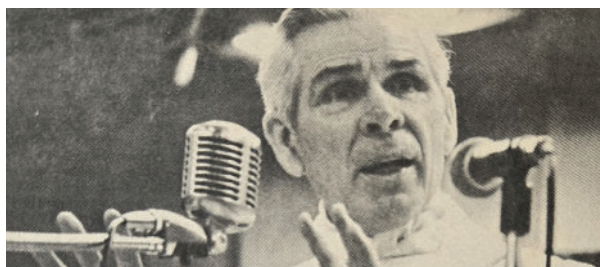
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Front page main photo by Rachel Hall, *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

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.

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A Word From Bishop Medley:

St. Vincent de Paul: Patron saint of works of charity

The feast of St. Vincent de Paul is celebrated in the Catholic Church on September 27 each year. In 2026 this date falls on a Sunday and thus the Church may quietly pass over his recognition in its liturgy. But Vincent cannot be passed over for his story and his heritage.

He was born in 1581 to peasant farmers in the village of Pouy in France. Sent by his father to a seminary at the age of 15, he was ordained a priest at the age of 19 in 1600. But the century before his birth, the Council of Trent had established a minimum age of 24 to be ordained. When he was assigned as pastor of a parish there was a protest of the validity of his ordination. Rather than appeal this protest before the Vatican, Vincent resumed his theological studies for four additional years.

There are accounts that Vincent was abducted by pirates and sold into slavery. While there are likely some remnants of fact in these accounts, there is almost no record that would verify these legends according to our historical standards today.

By 1607 Vincent was back in France and later in Rome where he continued his clerical education. Part of Vincent's story is that he had pursued the priesthood as a life of leisure for himself but that he experienced a profound change of heart after hearing the confession of a dying peasant.

In reviewing some sources I found an interesting assertion that Vincent de Paul is considered the patron of all works of charity. In the 21st century this identification makes great sense as his name has become attached to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with tens of thousands of chapters in diocese and



CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

St. Vincent de Paul is depicted in a stained glass window in St. Patrick's Church in Sydney, Australia. He was born in France in 1581 and dedicated much of his life to serving the poor. He founded the Confraternity of Charity, the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians), and, with St. Louise de Marillac, the Daughters of Charity. He is patron of all works of charity. His feast is Sept. 27.

parishes around the world. This group was founded by Antoine Frédéric Ozanam in 1833 and the name chosen as a deference to the great saint.

In his lifetime, Vincent established the Congregation of the Mission, to be known later as the Vincentians. In collaboration with St. Louise de Marillac he had a hand in the establishment of the Daughters of Charity, which continue to this day. Scores of the congregations of religious sisters venerate St. Vincent de Paul as their communities were modeled on that original foundation.

St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us. ■

Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

BISHOP MEDLEY'S SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR	
Sept. 6	7:30 AM Confirmation – St. John the Baptist Parish, Fordsville
	4 PM Mass for the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
	5 PM Dinner and Program in Celebration of the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral – Owensboro Convention Center
Sept. 9	8:30 AM Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro
Sept. 12	9:30 AM Right to Life Walk – Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro
Sept. 13	12 noon Gasper River Homecoming Celebration
Sept. 14	9:30 AM School Mass – St. Mary High School, Paducah
Sept. 16	10:30 AM Rainbow Mass – Owensboro Sportscenter
Sept. 17	11 AM Opening School Mass – Brescia University, Owensboro
Sept. 20	2 PM Marriage Anniversary Celebration – Cathedral
Sept. 22	10 AM Paducah Office
Sept. 27	2 PM Mass in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Myanmar Community – St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro
Sept. 28	4 PM Catholic Foundation Board Meeting

Sophia Award recipients celebrate with Bishop Medley



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

The recipients of the 2026 Sophia Awards are seen with Bishop William F. Medley following the Aug. 16, 2026 Sophia Awards Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

Editor's note: Every year, the Diocese of Owensboro hosts a Mass honoring the recipients of the annual Sophia Awards. These are individuals at least 65 years of age who received the highest number of nominations in their parish for this recognition and who embrace lives of stewardship by giving of their time, talent and treasure. To learn more about the Sophia Awards, contact Valeria Vessels, director of stewardship and development, at valeria.vessels@pastoral.org.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro: Mike & Karen Thompson
 Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro: Vivian Higgs
 Christ the King, Madisonville: Jennifer Hardesty
 Christ the King, Scottsville: Frank & Valerie Vargo
 Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington: Tim LaTondress
 Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson: Marti Vickers
 Holy Spirit, Bowling Green: Wayne & Mary-Anne Powers
 Immaculate, Owensboro : Diane Willis

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville: Marilyn McCaslin
 Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro: Michael & Stephanie Houtchen
 Precious Blood, Owensboro: Ray & Marianne Jones
 Rosary Chapel, Paducah : Howard Grief
 Sacred Heart, Hickman: Dianna Nerren
 Sacred Heart, Russellville: Denise Robey
 Sacred Heart, Waverly: Bruce & Jama Danhauer
 St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph: Mike & Tracy Cecil
 St. Ambrose, Henshaw: Steve & Sheree Sheffer

St. Ann, Morganfield: Wayne & Arletta Bickett
 St. Anthony, Browns Valley: David & Paula Hayden
 St. Anthony, Peonia: Norbert & Charlotta Soenneker
 St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers: Joyce Wilkinson
 St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel: Paul & Monica Jarboe
 St. Augustine, Grayson Springs: James & Sheila Clemons
 St. Augustine, Reed: Butch & Darlene Smithhart

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STEWARDSHIP

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St. Benedict, Wax: Louise Patterson
 St. Charles, Bardwell: Bobby Hodge
 St. Columba, Lewisport: Anita Cambron
 St. Denis, Fancy Farm: David Wayne Ellegood
 St. Edward, Fulton: Jerry & Mary Ann Hobbs
 St. Elizabeth, Curdsville: Anne Powers
 St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson: Richard & Mary Ellen Wygant
 St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis: Barbara Wells
 St. Francis de Sales, Paducah: Bill Roberts
 St. Francis of Assisi, Guthrie: Mary Charles King
 St. Henry, Aurora: Dcn. Randall & Peggy Potempa
 St. Jerome, Fancy Farm: Andy & Helen Elliott
 St. John the Evangelist, Paducah: Charles Kaufman
 St. Joseph, Bowling Green: Marilyn Feldkamp
 St. Joseph, Central City: Melinda Prunty
 St. Joseph, Mayfield: George & Emma Hayden
 Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro: Gary & Nadine Trogden
 St. Jude, Clinton: William Stump
 St. Lawrence, Philpot: Debbie Postlewaite
 St. Leo, Murray: Catherine Hart
 St. Mark, Eddyville: J.P. "Sonny" & Karen Finnegan
 St. Martin, Rome: Cheryl Clark
 St. Mary, Franklin: Kenny & Teresa Garrett
 St. Mary, LaCenter: Kenny & Norma Anselm
 St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho: Fred & Gloria McCarty
 St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady: Greg & Cathy Moore
 St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville: Frank & Connie Hagan
 St. Michael, Sebree: Hermila Mendoza
 St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove: Doris Bonnewell
 St. Paul, Leitchfield: Lynda Crawford
 St. Paul, Princeton: Mary Dearing
 St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley: Linnie Clary
 St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly: David & Nancy Wolfe
 Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville: Joseph Ritzheimer (posthumously)
 St. Pius X, Calvert City: Clem & Brenda Hinkebein (posthumously)
 St. Pius X, Owensboro: Carol Payne
 St. Romuald, Hardinsburg: Marie Rose
 St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport: Jim & Susie Camp
 St. Stephen, Cadiz: Jon & Bonny Prudhomme
 St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro: Barbara Jones
 St. William, Knottsville: Stanley & Barbara Roberts ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
 Bishop William F. Medley blesses the 2026 Sophia Awards plaques during the Aug. 16 Sophia Awards Mass.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
 The 2026 Sophia Award recipients stand to be recognized during the annual Mass, held Aug. 16 at St. Stephen Cathedral.



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Priests reflect on joy of ‘bringing God to the people’

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Priesthood Sunday is observed this year on Sept. 27, and The Western Kentucky Catholic recently reached out to several of the Diocese of Owensboro’s priests to learn what brings them joy as they live out their vocations.

Fr. Tom Buckman, the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Franklin and Christ the King Parish in Scottsville, said his “greatest joy is bringing God to people; bringing the Gospel to the people in their daily lives,” he said.

Many of his parishioners are Latino, and of those most are either Mexican or Guatemalan. He said he has gotten to know them through multiple aspects of parish life like weddings, baptisms, and quinceañeras.

Fr. Buckman had “a good grasp of Spanish” before becoming pastor, since he had served for a year as a Salesian lay missionary in Mexico years before he entered seminary. Later, when studying to become a diocesan priest, he took Spanish classes to continue improving his language skills.

Fr. Buckman said that being present through “the sacramental life of the Church” and supporting “events and celebrations, customs and traditions that are important, and trying to accommodate and serve” his parishioners is crucial. This includes welcoming the growing number of people attending OCIA, as well as an increase in children receiving First Communion.

There is also particular emphasis placed on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December,



COURTESY OF ST. MARY PARISH

Fr. Tom Buckman, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Franklin, observes the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the evening of Dec. 11, 2025, during the annual tradition of starting celebrations on the vigil of the feast.

which “takes a lot of planning, meetings, and work, but it is a lot of fun,” he said.

“It’s a joy to see (my parishioners) grow in their Catholic faith,” he said, as well as “a great joy to help couples regularize their marriages” when couples who are civilly married seek to get married in the Catholic Church.

As a pastor of two parishes, it is a lot, but Fr. Buckman works to balance his routine so he can be the best pastor possible for his flock.

“Daily prayer, self-care, delegating responsibility, and inviting parish leaders to (help with) ministry are key,” he said.

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN, the pastor of St. Denis Parish in Fancy Farm and St. Charles Parish in Bardwell, has been blessed by the flourishing young adult community at his parishes.

“This was not an initiative on my part or even



COURTESY OF ST. MARY PARISH

In December 2024, Fr. Tom Buckman smiles for a photo with several of his parishioners in traditional dress for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Mary Parish in Franklin.

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COURTESY OF TYLER BYARS

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN, confirms a young adult during the Easter Vigil in April 2027 at St. Charles Parish in Bardwell

from my predecessor,” he said of the previous pastor, Fr. Chrispin Oneko. “It was an initiative on the part of the young adults themselves – they are really invested in the truth and history of the Catholic Church.”

Fr. Pynadath said the local young adults had been having conversations with Fr. Oneko about forming a community and even received his blessing to start a parish young adult group. The first meeting took place after Fr. Pynadath’s arrival in summer 2025.

He was delighted to see the fruits of Fr. Oneko’s leadership when settling into St. Charles and St. Denis, and encountering “so eager” young adult parishioners – several of which had just joined the Church at the 2025 Easter Vigil.

He said the young adult group meets every Sunday and begins with a simple meal and fellowship.

Then the young adults take turns leading different prayers each week, such as evening prayer, a Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or the rosary.

After prayer time, “we take a couple articles from

the Catechism of the Catholic Church” which they discuss with Fr. Pynadath’s pastoral guidance.

“That’s the structure,” he said, but added that conversations go in various directions as the young adults discuss different aspects of life and faith. Technically, their meetings are held from 5-7 p.m., but they often continue past the allotted time.

“Some days we play pickleball in the parish hall!” said Fr. Pynadath.

He is heartened to see that while the group originated out of St. Charles Parish, members have expanded from other parishes and cities like Murray and Paducah.

“We get people from all around,” he said. “We welcome non-Catholics, Catholics who don’t go to church. We don’t turn away anyone, but we try to present the truth of the Catholic faith.”

During Lent 2026, the young adult community hosted a praise and worship holy hour open to everyone, and other parishioners “came and appreciated it,” said Fr. Pynadath.



COURTESY OF TYLER BYARS

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN, confirms a young adult during the Easter Vigil in April 2027 at St. Charles Parish in Bardwell.

Today, the young adults regularly make a holy hour together at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Paducah.

With young adults often come young married couples, and little ones – which has resulted in hearing children during Mass for the first time in many years at these parishes.

Fr. Pynadath tells the parents, “When the kids cry, don’t be embarrassed about it,” emphasizing that children belong in church.

“It’s really encouraging,” he said of his young adults’ engagement and witness. “It supports my vocation, too! It’s really joyful to me, to be a part of it.”

Fr. Chris Kight, who serves as the parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, said that having two schools on the parish’s campus “brings so

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COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Fr. Chris Kight celebrates Mass on May 6, 2026, during the May Crowning celebration with St. Joseph School in Bowling Green.



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Fr. Chris Kight, parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, joins the students of St. Joseph School for recess on March 26, 2026.

much life to the parish” – and to his own vocation.

St. Joseph Parish is home to both St. Joseph School and Chesterton Academy of Bowling Green, a classical high school. As Catholic schools, both have an open invitation to Fr. Kight and his pastor, Fr. Ryan Harpole, to visit any time.

“I love being present to them,” said Fr. Kight, adding that visiting the classrooms shows the students how “priests are real people too” and that he will stop by recess to join the students in outdoor games.

“One of the things about the priesthood is that it requires you to be in relationship with people and just to be present,” he said. “Even though we represent Jesus in the person of Christ, we are someone they can trust, confide in, and joke with.”

Sometimes a teacher may invite him to visit and bless the class before a field trip, which Fr. Kight is happy to do: “The faith encompasses everything we

have and are,” he said.

When visiting the classroom, Fr. Kight has heard all manner of questions from “What’s it like being a priest?” to “really deep-level questions” about faith and God, he said.

“The administration and faculty work very hard to make the school Catholic,” he said. “They are on fire for their faith.”

He is also pleased to witness how the schools have provided a gateway for families to connect more with the Catholic Church: “Even if families are not the most active Catholics, they are getting more involved by virtue of the school.”

This strengthens his own vocation.

“It’s a great assignment; it’s a great place,” he said, which helps him continue “living out a vocation that’s joyful.”

“The Church is alive and well,” he said. ■

*Happy anniversary
to our priests!*

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

Fr. John Okoro
Ordained 9/9/1995
Pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish in St.
Joseph; and St. Elizabeth Parish in
Curdsville

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Sold-out Marian conference strengthens faith through prayer and witness

BY RACHEL HALL, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Four hundred faithful gathered at the Woodward Theatre in downtown Owensboro on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026 for “Spiritual Warfare & Our Lady,” a sold-out, daylong conference hosted by the diocesan Marian Shrine Committee.

The conference opened with the rosary led by Fr. Brandon Williams, pastor of Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro. Prayer, Mass, presentations and Eucharistic Adoration filled the schedule, inviting participants to deepen their relationship with Christ through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Featured speaker Fr. Dan Reehil, the pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Columbia, Tennessee, and an exorcist for the Diocese of Nashville, shared the story of his journey from a career in finance to the priesthood. He recalled working in New York

and living through the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, as well as a profound conversion and a period of discernment that involved a life-changing pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

“Ask God what he wants to do with your life,” Fr. Reehil told participants. “It’s never too late.” He

said that after 18 months of prayer and discernment, he heard the call, “Come, follow me.”

Fr. Reehil encouraged those gathered to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and to recognize the parish church as the spiritual heart of your community. “The most important

building in your town is your church,” he said.

Following his morning presentation, priests from the Fathers of Mercy in Auburn, Kentucky, concelebrated Mass with Fr. Reehil inside the theatre. Against the venue’s black backdrop and stage lighting, the liturgy placed the Eucharist at the center of the gathering.

The afternoon included presentations on



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Attendees listen to Fr. Dan Reehil, keynote speaker for an Aug. 1 conference on “Spiritual Warfare & Our Lady” hosted by the Diocese of Owensboro’s Marian Shrine Committee, held at the Woodward Theatre in Owensboro.

spiritual warfare and devotion to Our Lady; the Chaplet of Divine Mercy; and a closing Holy Hour with Benediction and a final blessing.

Ordained in 2014, Fr. Reehil serves as national director of Radio Maria USA and hosts the daily program Battle Ready with Fr. Dan Reehil. His ministry focuses on scripture, Church tradition, spiritual perseverance and bringing people closer to Christ through the Blessed Mother.

The Marian Shrine Committee sponsors several opportunities each year to foster growth in faith and devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Among them is the annual YOUTH 2000 Eucharistic retreat, co-sponsored with the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The retreat, which emphasizes encounters with Christ through Mass, confession and Adoration, is expected to mark its 30th year in March 2027. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Fr. Dan Reehil, the pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Columbia, Tennessee, and an exorcist for the Diocese of Nashville, speaks during the Aug. 1 conference on “Spiritual Warfare & Our Lady” hosted by the Diocese of Owensboro’s Marian Shrine Committee.

‘I’m looking at a miracle:’ Dad gives thanks for son’s transformation

BY THE CATHOLIC TIMES, DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

Editor's note: September is National Recovery Month. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988.

Ed Fowle can’t begin to express how incredibly grateful and relieved he feels that his son is still alive.

The devoted father was convinced that he would have lost his son, Charles, to drugs without the intervention of faithful Catholics who led them to Comunita Cenacolo, a Catholic-based community program in Florida that has helped thousands of young adults recover from addiction.

“I would say that the Holy Spirit was absolutely at work in Charles’ life,” Ed said. “I’m looking at a miracle now. My prayers are answered. I’m here to tell you that miracles do happen.”

Charles, an Ohio State University graduate and Columbus resident, had battled addiction for about 10 years. He’d get clean for a while and then relapse. None of the traditional rehabilitation programs worked. He estimated he tried “probably 12 times.”

He had moved back home to Columbus after being out on his own for several years as a working adult who was addicted to drugs, but after a while he decided he should leave his family home and attempt to gain some independence. He ended up in a homeless shelter in downtown Columbus.

Charles found himself with nowhere to go but the streets each morning after staying the night at the shelter. He ended up walking across the street to St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a place to relax.

He didn’t realize that St. Patrick has a 7 a.m. Mass each morning. The lapsed Catholic hadn’t been to Mass in 10 years, but suddenly found himself in a church with a Mass taking place.

One day after Mass, a parishioner approached and asked him to join a small group remaining in the church to pray the rosary. Feeling somewhat



COURTESY OF ED FOWLE
Ed Fowle (left) and son Charles (right) are embraced by one of the priests who come to minister at Comunita Cenacolo in the St. Augustine, Florida area.

overwhelmed, he initially turned down the offer. But Fran Kempf, who regularly attended the morning Mass, and Dr. Dennis Doody, another daily communicant, began talking to him.

“They came to me and they really wanted to help me,” Charles said. “I probably stuck out because I was all scraggly and was pretty rough looking.

“Looking back now, if I didn’t meet her, I don’t know where I’d be.”

Kempf recalled that the meeting came on the feast of the Archangels in late September.

“I noticed Charlie because he looked like he was homeless and figured he came from (the nearby) Faith Mission,” she explained. “So I went up and introduced myself. He seemed like a nice guy, and so I invited him to come up and say the rosary after Mass with us. He wasn’t ready to do that.

“But it did kind of strike up a little relationship between us. And then we just started talking after Mass, and he started bringing his dad with him.”

Charles opened up about his struggles with addiction. After hearing his story, Kempf recalled a visit years earlier to Comunita Cenacolo and thought it would be a good fit for him. Doody was also familiar with the program.

“I had listened to the stories of the women down there who had gone through so many rehab programs,” she said. “Some had been drug addicts since they were young girls. They had been through other programs and nothing worked, but they admitted it was their time before the Blessed Sacrament — and just the love that they had for that community — that

changed them.”

Charles expressed some reluctance at first. He was still addicted and the program house was far from home in Florida. The minimum three-year commitment also seemed a bit daunting, but his dad encouraged him to go there and Charles agreed.

“(Charlie) said, ‘This is what I need. This is what I want,’” Kempf recounted. “This is what I’m looking for. And so his dad just jumped right in on it. And they went down for a visit almost immediately.

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“I could tell that (Charles) was really a prayerful man. When you talk to people, you can kind of feel whether they’re receiving (your message) or not. You could see that in his face.”

Comunita Cenacolo was founded in Italy in 1983 by Mother Elvira Petrozzi, a member of the Sisters of Divine Charity order. Since then, it has expanded to 20 other countries, including the United States in 1993.

The unique Catholic program combines prayer and work for a community of individuals battling various addictions (mostly drugs) and issues that is detached from the outside world. There are two houses each in the U.S. for men and women, ranging in age from 18 into their 30s, in Florida and Alabama.

Parents of the individuals are required to participate as well to support their family members. Once a month, mandatory regional parent meetings are held around the country.

Ed traveled to Michigan monthly for a regional meeting with other parents while Charlie was in the program. Each spring and fall, parents are invited to Comunita Cenacolo for festivals.

“The things they’re doing there ... this is one of the best-kept secrets for Catholics in this country,” Ed said.

After Charles was accepted into Comunita Cenacolo at age 31, he began the process of radical transformation.

“The first moment I stepped out of the car to go I knew my life was going to be different,”

Charles said. “And I think at that moment my cravings were exchanged for the love of God.”

He described the community’s 10-acre property as “out in the middle of nowhere” in rural

Florida in the vicinity of St. Augustine. Between

20 and 30 men live there at a time. The program normally takes three years to complete.

Mornings began at 5 a.m. with prayer in the chapel. Each day was filled with prayer and work on the property. The community is self-sustainable, relying on older members to shepherd the newer arrivals. There is little contact with the outside world. Cellphones and TV are not allowed.

Charles compared the community to the Amish way of life.

“It was almost like the military,” he said. “It allows you to really detach and really focus on what you need to do.

“You had to get up and go to the chapel. And we would do Eucharistic adoration. That was the key to everything. That’s what made the difference.”

The rosary was prayed three times a day between work and meals. Work included gardening, beekeeping, kitchen duty, keeping the property in good condition, and a wood shop.

“We all had jobs we’d be responsible for and there was a head of the house who had been there for a couple of years who directed who would do which jobs,” Charles said. “It was real simple living.”

There was also time for recreation and, of course, the celebration of the Mass. The men were able to interact with many priests from all over the world who came in to offer Mass.

“So you really become connected to the Catholic faith,” Charles said. “That’s the difference between other rehabs. You really had to change your life.

“I started going to adoration and I wanted to go at night. That was where I felt connected to God. Jesus actually became alive in my mind.”

During the previous 10 years before entering Comunita Cenacolo while Charles was addicted to heroin and later crystal meth, God or the Church

were not on his mind.

“I prayed so hard so many times and I thought for sure I was going to lose Charles,” his father said. “There are so many stories about overdoses. He was just on the edge and it was heart wrenching to see him in pain with terrible withdrawals.”

Charles had tried heroin for the first time at age 21 when he was a student at Ohio State. He

became addicted to the drug but somehow managed to graduate from college.

After college, he landed a job and continued to work while using the drug. He began to try

rehab programs after several years, but nothing worked.

“I think the longest time I stayed sober was about a year,” he said. I struggled mentally while being addicted. I was maintaining a life. I lived with my parents and was able to live on my own at one point and had a girlfriend.”

Five years after college, he said he experienced a bad relapse and went to California to enter a rehab program. After a year there, he went to Hawaii, where his sister had moved, and he was sober for about a year before getting introduced to crystal meth.

“I tried it once and kept doing it because it gave me the energy to work hard and to be productive and organized,” he said. “But then I started getting hallucinations and I’d stay up for days. Very terrifying stuff was going on in my mind. It did some serious mental damage.”

He decided after about a year or so after becoming addicted to crystal meth to move back to Columbus.

“I still struggled,” he said. “I started using meth again. And that was the very bottom. I feel pretty hopeless. I was broke and didn’t have any way of getting it.”

Continues on page 12

Miracle continued from page 11

That's when he left home for the shelter and, providentially, found his way to St. Patrick Church.

"I don't know, there was just something inside that I felt like communicating with God and had an attraction to Jesus," he said. "My dad had taken us to Mass every Sunday as kids, but I didn't like it or understand anything then.

"When I was having my hallucinations, I was absolutely fascinated about seeing Jesus and God and talking to me. I know Jesus was a part of my life that I didn't understand and that's when I went to St. Patrick's and sat there for hours at a time.

"The Eucharistic Lord and adoration really made a profound difference. That was the turning point when I saw Jesus face to face like that. I knew my prayers had to be heard."

Today, seven years after spending three years at Comunita Cenacolo, Charlie said he finally

feels like he's fully recovered from the mental and physical devastation of drug use. He continues to meet with a counselor and attributes medication to helping with his hallucinations, depression and anxiety.

He now has a good job and continues to be a faithful, practicing Catholic as a member of St. Patrick Church. Earlier this summer, he helped bring a nephew who lost his father in a car accident into the Church, supporting him in the reception of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.

"He seems to be doing really great now," Kempf said. "Charlie's a great young man and he's got a good story to tell." ■

This story was originally published on Sept. 29, 2024 and was reprinted with permission from The Catholic Times, the official news source of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

Diocese of Owensboro selects American GOAL as scholarship granting organization partner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Diocese of Owensboro has selected American GOAL as its Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) partner to help implement the new federal scholarship tax credit program beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

Established through recently enacted federal legislation, the scholarship tax credit program will allow eligible taxpayers to receive a dollar-for-dollar federal income tax credit of up to \$1,700 annually for contributions to approved SGOs. Those contributions will be used to provide scholarships that help families access the educational environment that best meets the needs of their children.

Through this partnership, American GOAL will work with the Diocese of Owensboro and its Catholic schools to administer the program while supporting donor outreach, scholarship administration, regulatory compliance, technology, and stewardship. The partnership is designed to help Catholic schools maximize the opportunities created by the new federal program while allowing schools to remain at the center of their fundraising and financial aid efforts.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Diocese of Owensboro as they prepare for this exciting new chapter," said Ben Saylor, President and CEO of GOAL Scholarship Program, Inc. "The Diocese of Owensboro has a remarkable tradition of academic excellence and faith formation, and we look forward to helping the Diocese expand educational opportunities for more students and families through this historic federal initiative."

American GOAL was developed by the team behind Georgia GOAL, one of the nation's longest-standing and most successful scholarship tax credit organizations. For more than eighteen years, GOAL has helped administer scholarship programs with a strong emphasis on integrity, accountability, exceptional service, and school partnership. During that time, the organization has facilitated more than \$558 million in tax-credit contributions and awarded more than 94,000 scholarships to students seeking the educational setting that best fits their needs.

"The Diocese of Owensboro is committed to ensuring that Catholic education remains accessible for families throughout western Kentucky," said David Kessler, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Owensboro. "After evaluating potential partners, we chose American GOAL because of its proven experience, commitment to serving schools, and demonstrated ability to administer scholarship programs with excellence. We believe this partnership will position our schools and families to benefit from this important new opportunity."

As states begin implementing the federal scholarship tax credit program, American GOAL is building partnerships with Catholic dioceses, independent schools, and educational organizations nationwide to provide a comprehensive solution for administering the program while preserving each school's relationship with its donors and scholarship recipients. ■

To learn more about the federal scholarship tax credit or American GOAL, visit www.americangoal.org.

Teachers encouraged to help students reflect the light of Christ during annual in-service



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Kendal Williams, a first grade teacher at Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson, is seen with Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools superintendent David Kessler after Williams was announced as the 2026 Outstanding Catholic Educator of the Year on July 31.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Mary Katherine Wathen, local author and founder of West of Perfection, speaks at the July 31, 2026 Celebration of Catholic Schools event hosted at Christ the King Parish and School in Madisonville. The annual event brings together teachers and school administrators.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley receives the gifts from two teachers while presiding at Mass at the start of the July 31, 2026 Celebration of Catholic Schools in-service, which was hosted this year at Christ the King Parish and School in Madisonville.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

At the July 31, 2026 Celebration of Catholic Schools in-service hosted at Christ the King Parish and School in Madisonville, Bishop William F. Medley encouraged teachers and administrators to help students see themselves as the light of the world.

"If your students are reflecting the light of Christ, it is because you are reflecting the light of Christ," said the bishop in his homily, having presided at the Mass that began the professional development day.

The in-service was led by the Diocese of Owensboro's Catholic Schools Office, which coordinates the event each year.

Following Mass, teachers gathered in Christ the King's school gym for breakfast and discussion questions at their respective tables, which were organized by subject.

The keynote speaker for this year's gathering was Mary Katherine Wathen, founder of West of Perfection, an executive coaching and leadership development organization, and author of "Made for More." Wathen explained that when it comes to leading a team, the first and most important person to lead is yourself.

Following her presentation, faculty and staff were honored for their years of service, and the 2026 Outstanding Catholic Educator of the Year was announced: Kendal Williams, a first grade teacher at Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson.

The nomination, which was read by Catholic Schools Office superintendent David Kessler, explained that "what truly sets her apart is her unwavering belief that every child can succeed."

"She knows her students as individuals, celebrates their strengths, and works tirelessly to help them overcome challenges," the nomination stated. "Mrs. Williams is also the ultimate team player. She is the colleague everyone can count on, always willing to lend a hand, share ideas, or step in wherever needed. Her loyalty to Holy Name School is evident in her daily actions and in her unwavering commitment to the successes of our entire school community."

The day concluded with a commitment ceremony recited by all gathered, as they prepared for the new academic year. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Leadership from the Owensboro Catholic School System, including the new director of the Early Learning Campus, Kelly Heaton, participate in the ribbon cutting on Aug. 4, 2026.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

On Aug. 4, 2026, Fr. Larry Hostetter walks through the hallway blessing the newly developed Owensboro Catholic School Early Learning Campus, located on the campus of St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro.

Owensboro Catholic School System continues legacy of early child development with Early Learning Campus

BY RACHEL HALL, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fr. Larry Hostetter, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro, blessed the newly developed Owensboro Catholic Schools Early Learning Campus on Aug. 4, 2026.

During the blessing, Fr. Hostetter walked beneath brightly colored ribbons and past posters bearing

messages like, “you are fearfully and wonderfully made.” He entered classrooms filled with little chairs, alphabet rugs and other early learning materials. He prayed for the staff and children who would soon fill the space.

Following the blessing, the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce joined OCS leadership for a ribbon cutting and remarks. Guests were then able to tour the campus and its classrooms.

St. Pius X first became home to a Catholic school in 1957, under the leadership of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. In responding to the needs of local families, Sr. Mary Mercy Hayden, OSU, opened the daycare and kindergarten there in 1971. She was able to turn it into a thriving part of the community with more than 100 kids in the program, becoming a model for early learning programs throughout Owensboro, before she stepped away.

Seeking to continue the legacy of early development while adapting to a more sustainable structure, St. Pius X Parish, in collaboration with OCS, announced in spring 2025 their plans to introduce a preschool program beginning with a small cohort in fall 2026.

“Ultimately this provides us with the opportunity of participating in something really special and using our building for its original intent, as a school,” wrote Fr. Hostetter in the initial announcement to parishioners.

The Early Learning Campus follows the OCS calendar and operates from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with after-school care available. The schedule and the program’s connection to the wider school system are designed to ease families’ transition into kindergarten at the OCS K-3 Campus.

“Our Early Learning Campus is more than a place for children to learn and grow—it is the beginning of their journey within our school community,” said director Kelly Heaton. “Through nurturing relationships, engaging learning experiences, and a strong foundation in faith, we prepare our students with the skills and confidence they need for a smooth transition to our K-3 campus and continued success in the years ahead.” ■

For more information about the program, visit <https://owensborocatholic.org/early-learning-campus/>.

Mary Carrico celebrates growth, breaks ground on expansion

BY RACHEL HALL, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Aug. 14, 2026, Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville, Kentucky, broke ground for one of their largest campus expansions in the school's recent history.

Students donning bright blue hardhats gathered with members of the local community, public officials and other leaders to celebrate the milestone for Catholic education as new princi-

pal John Kirkpatrick thanked everyone for joining and addressed the students, "Kids, one day you'll remember when they broke ground on this addition."

The expansion will include four new classrooms, a dedicated preschool classroom, a secure main entrance and administrative office suite, new restrooms for students and staff, an enclosed corridor connecting the addition to the existing building, and the renovation of existing space

into a modern computer lab.

In a statement, the school said the nearly \$1 million project is the first phase of a broader, long-term campus improvement plan. It is the first step in a long-term vision to ensure Mary Carrico Catholic School continues serving families across eastern Daviess County for generations to come.

to continue investing in the future of this school for generations to come."

Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara, pastor of St. William and St. Lawrence Parishes in Daviess County, speaking at the groundbreaking, credited God's providence in moving the project forward: "God has sent us the right people to help us," he said.

Fr. Vadakumkara said, "This helps lay the foundation for our vision of the school and the church."

The expansion reflects the Catholic community's enduring commitment to education and the families it serves, "the vision to go make disciples for Christ, to send out better citizens



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Students of Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville wear blue hardhats while attending the school's Aug. 14 groundbreaking for a new expansion project.



COURTESY OF MARY CARRICO CATHOLIC SCHOOL

School leadership and supporters of Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville break the first shovelful of dirt for the school's expansion project during the Aug. 14 groundbreaking ceremony.

Also, as part of the statement, Tony Lanham, a benefactor who helped play a leading role in bringing the project to life and is overseeing construction, said the expansion is ultimately an investment in the future of the community.

"Schools like Mary Carrico are the heart of rural communities," Lanham said. "When you invest in children, you're investing in the future of families, businesses and our way of life. This is an important first step, and I hope it inspires others

out in the world," he added.

Bishop William F. Medley, participating in the groundbreaking, echoed a similar sentiment as he addressed the crowd: "Why do we do what we do here?" he asked.

"The answer is, we do it for Jesus Christ. He is the breath of this school," Bishop Medley said. "That missionary spirit that Jesus gave us: Go out and make disciples of all nations." ■

You're invited: Gasper River homecoming takes place Sept. 13



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Campers enjoy canteen time on July 15, 2026, at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green. This year, camp welcomed 530 campers who participated in Mass, outdoor adventure activities, small groups, bible studies, confession, Adoration, and more.

BY BEN WARRELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

You and your family are invited to our first-ever Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp Homecoming, kicking off our 20th year! If you've ever been a summer staffer, camper, camp family, donor or involved with camp in any way, you are more than welcome to attend.

It will be held on Sept. 13, starting at 1 p.m. We will have Mass with Bishop Medley at 2 p.m., followed by activities and free time and ending with a cookout at 5 p.m. prepared by our local Knights of Columbus Council 1315. The zip-line and vertical playground will be open for all to enjoy along with disc golf, corn hole, basketball, soccer, gaga ball and more!

Please go to our website, www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org to get signed up. There

is no cost to attend but you must register to come and enjoy the day.

In July we completed our 19th summer at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center and it was another amazing summer at camp! This was our biggest summer ever with 530 campers and 23 on our waiting list that we didn't have enough room for them to attend. The American Camp Association released a survey saying that 60% is the magic number. This means if you had 60% rate of return campers, that you are running an exceptional program. Our number for this summer was 65%!

Our theme for the summer was "Life with Christ is a Wonderful Adventure," which is a quote from St. John Paul the Great. We talked about the hero's journey and living our lives as an adventure. On Mondays we discussed the "Invitation," that Jesus is always inviting us into a deeper relationship with Him. On Tuesdays we talked about preparing for



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A sign on the wall of Boone Lodge is seen tying into Gasper River's 2026 camp theme: "Life with Christ is a Wonderful Adventure!"

the journey and the tools that we will need for the adventure. Wednesdays were "Living a life with Christ," being yoked to Him and how to do that. Thursdays explained how the adventure is more fun with friends that help and support you along the way. On Fridays, campers were challenged to go live out their adventure and to continue to allow God to write the story of their lives.

The camper evaluations were again off the charts with many saying, "This was the best week of my life." "I've never felt closer to Jesus." "Adoration was life changing for me."

You can visit all our social media sites and our website for more information and feedback from campers about this summer. Thank you all so much for the prayers and support for the ministry at Gasper River. We could not do what we do without your support. Please be assured of our prayers for you all. ■

God is closer than you think

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

Editor's note: This column is part two in a monthly WKC series, "Ten Matters of Faith Every Catholic Should Know: A Journey From Belief to Discipleship."

Have you ever found yourself wondering, "Where is God?" Perhaps it was during a difficult diagnosis, the loss of someone you love, or a season when prayer seemed to echo back in silence. Maybe you have looked around at a world marked by division and suffering and questioned whether God is paying attention at all.

If you have ever asked those questions, you are not alone. The men and women of Scripture asked them too.

Yet one of the great truths of our Catholic faith is this: God is almost always closer than we realize.

The challenge is not that God is absent. More often, it is that we are looking for Him in the wrong places.

Many of us expect God to reveal Himself through dramatic miracles, unmistakable signs, or extraordinary spiritual experiences. Sometimes He does. But throughout salvation history, God more often chooses to make Himself known in quieter ways.

The prophet Elijah expected to encounter the



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A boy closes his eyes and folds his hands in prayer while participating in an activity at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green on July 15, 2026.

Lord in the wind, the earthquake, and the fire. Instead, God came in a tiny whispering sound. The disciples walking to Emmaus believed they were alone in their grief, only to discover that the risen Christ had been walking beside them the entire journey. Mary Magdalene stood only a few feet from the risen Jesus in the garden but did not recognize Him until He spoke her name. God had never been far away. They simply needed new eyes to see Him. The same is true for us.

God is present in the quiet moments of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. He speaks through Sacred Scripture when a familiar passage suddenly touches our hearts in a new way. He strengthens us through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, where Christ is truly present – not symbolically,

but Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

He is present in the kindness of a stranger, the forgiveness offered by a friend, the laughter of children, and the peaceful assurance that somehow carries us through days we never imagined we could endure.

The Catechism teaches that God is infinitely greater than we can imagine, yet He is also nearer to us than we are to ourselves. He is not a distant observer watching creation from afar. He is Emmanuel – "God with us."

Perhaps that is why Jesus spent so much of His ministry helping people notice what had been there all along. He opened blind eyes, not only physically but spiritually. He invited people to recognize God's kingdom already breaking into their lives. That invitation remains today.

One simple way to grow in faith is to ask yourself each evening, "Where did I encounter God today?" At first, the answer may not come easily. But over time, you will begin to notice His fingerprints in ordinary conversations, unexpected blessings, moments of grace, and even in the challenges that draw you closer to Him.

God has not stopped speaking. He has not stopped loving. He has not stopped pursuing His people.

The question is not whether God is near. The question is whether we will slow down long enough to recognize that He has been walking beside us all along. ■

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.

Acts 2:42 – The very first Catholic small groups



COURTESY OF KATHY MCENANEY

An Acts 2:42 small group belonging to St. Paul Parish in Princeton meets in April 2026 in the home of parishioner Kathy McEnaney.

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, EVANGELIZATION & DISCIPLESHIP

We read in the Acts of the Apostles how the followers of Jesus in the First Century gathered to live their newfound faith. Acts 2:42 expresses this well: “The devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread and prayer.” Fast forward 2,000 years and adult Catholics are encouraged to participate in ongoing faith formation and the communal life of their parish.

The documents of Vatican II exhort all the baptized to realize their mission as part of the Body of Christ. Each baptized member of the Church is “priest, prophet, and king,” meaning as children of God, we are each to live lives that reflect Jesus to the world.

Catholic culture in the past couple centuries has focused on orthodoxy: right believing. Additionally, orthopraxy (right practice), has also been important.

Recently, the word *orthokardia* (right heart), has been presented as important concept for adult Catholics. It describes having the correct motives, affections, and proper spiritual or emotional alignment toward God, complimenting right belief and right action.

Adults learn best when the information has immediate, practical relevance to their personal or professional lives, solves real-world problems, and respects autonomy. Effective adult learning relies heavily on active participation rather than passive listening. Additionally, adult learning connects new concepts to a lifetime of accumulated knowledge and past mistakes.

In combining the critical need for adult faith formation today, the way adults learn best, and the addition of *orthokardia* (spiritual and emotional alignment with God), adult faith formation should be rooted in community, discussed from the personal perspectives of group members, and rooted in prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit.

While true that we are all so busy, it is also essential that we keep growing and maturing in our Catholic faith. How are you making time for this in your life? How can the diocese and/or your parish help?

Our Acts 2:42 Small Groups begin this month in parishes across our diocese. We encourage you to seek out a group or invite your neighbors and friends to come to your home once a month to participate in a small group. Participant booklets are available to be mailed to you and are accessible on our website, along with Bishop Medley’s monthly video reflection, agenda, and a song for each session. Check it out here: <https://owensborodiocese.org/in-the-word/>.

These small groups meet once a month September

through May and cover the readings for the Fourth Sunday of the Month. Additionally, they will also cover the important topic of understanding the genre of Gospel writing from the four evangelists. As we will learn, each evangelist was writing to a different audience, and they tailored their message to that group. We too can learn to do the same as we share the Good News with all the various people we meet in our lives.

If you have any questions on how to get started, email me at jeff.andrini@pastoral.org.

Peace in Christ,

Jeff ■

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

U.S. Bishops encourage us to...

WALK WITH ONE

AN ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENT

Have you ever felt called to reach out to someone in need? "Walk With One" is an engaging workshop designed to help us accompany others on life's journey. This practical and inspiring training will equip you to live out your faith and care for someone in need—one person at a time. Join our presenter, Dr. Jeff Andrini, as we learn practical ways to share our lives in a personal and meaningful way. Mark your calendar!

Saturday, September 19, 2026
9:00am - 12:00pm
Sis. Joseph & Paul Parish Hall
 Register with Parish Office at 270.683.3641

Join us as we gather to pray, reflect, and grow in how we Walk With One another on the journey of faith. We will conclude the day with Mass at noon. All Are Welcome! No registration fee. Open to the Owensboro Diocese.

Presented by
Dr. Jeff Andrini
 DIRECTOR OF
 EVANGELIZATION
 DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

Two seminarians accepted into candidacy



BY WKC STAFF

On Aug. 1 during the Saturday evening Mass at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, diocesan seminarians Hunter Dickens and Hoan Tran participated in the Rite of Candidacy, which is the next milestone in their formation and discernment process.

Dickens' home parish is St. Thomas More, and his family attended the Mass to witness this next step on his discernment journey. Tran's family resides in Vietnam and was unable to attend in-person, so the liturgy was livestreamed so that they could watch along.

Please continue to keep all of the diocese's seminarians in your prayers as they continue to discern God's will in their lives. Learn more at owensborovocations.com. ■

RILEY GREIF | WKC
Seminarians Hoan Tran and Hunter Dickens stand before Bishop William F. Medley during the Rite of Candidacy, which took place at the Aug. 1 Saturday vigil Mass at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah.



RILEY GREIF | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley greets two of the altar servers at the Aug. 1 Mass at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, where seminarians Hunter Dickens and Hoan Tran were accepted into candidacy.



RILEY GREIF | WKC
(Foreground) Fr. Chris Kight, Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than, and Fr. Corey D. Bruns listen during Bishop William F. Medley's Aug. 1 homily during Mass at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, during which seminarians Hunter Dickens and Hoan Tran were accepted into candidacy. In the background to the left, seminarian Adam Clark looks on.

In the Know

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Hitchhiking to evangelize: Paducah-raised Poor Friar shares vocation testimony

BY FRIAR CHRISTOPHER OF THE LITTLE FRIARS AND LITTLE NUNS OF JESUS AND MARY,
SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

My name is Friar Christopher of the Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary, otherwise known as the Poor Friars. However, many of you may know me as Noah Watson, from St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah. I have been asked to share how I became a friar!

During high school, seeds of a vocation were planted in me, while I was attending a Youth 2000 retreat hosted at Brescia University. There, I first saw friars in real life, and at the time, I was especially struck by their joy and desire to help others.

After high school, I attended college at the University of Mississippi, eventually receiving a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. While I worked hard on my studies to gain knowledge, I lacked the fullness of peace that my heart desired, and so began studying more intentionally what God wanted for me. This, it turns out, was truly intelligent, since it's written, "My son, do not forget my teaching... peace, will [it] bring you." (Prov. 3:1-2)

In 2023, as a junior in college, I attended the SEEK conference, where I met the community which I am a part of today. One of the friars, Fr. Antonio, explained that they often hitchhiked in order to evangelize (cf. Luke 10:1-9; Acts 8:26-31), which intrigued me! Most deeply, though, I was impressed by his knowledge and love of the scriptures.

After that meeting in 2023, I visited them in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, where I later began my initial six-month experience in 2024. During this time, I was taught by the community, especially the founder Fr. Volantino Verde, how God speaks with exceptional clarity.

In April 2026, I received the tan habit, the "crown" haircut, and a new religious name: Friar Christopher.

I am currently 23 years old, and still in formation as a religious brother. According to the charism of my community, I now spend much time in prayer, like the early Carmelites, but I also go out into the world – often by hitchhiking two-by-two with another brother – to evangelize, like the early Franciscans. All this is in the imitation of Christ and his Apostles (cf. Matt. 10:9-10), as we strive to bring souls back to the sacraments, especially confession and Holy Communion. With the grace of God, I also hope to one day become a priest.

I thank God for the priests (most recently Fr. Gary Clark at St. Francis de Sales) and all the faithful of the Diocese of Owensboro who helped form me, as well as those who walked with me during college, and especially to the members of my community who have formed me as a friar. I am also thankful to my parents, siblings, and parish family at St. Francis de Sales for their support.

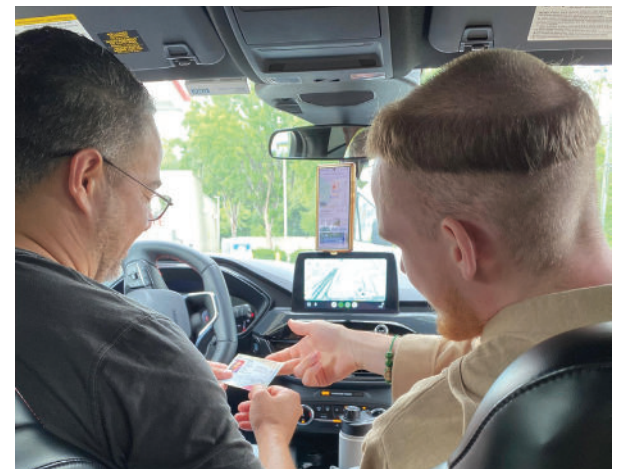
If you ever see us hitchhiking along the road, stop and give us a lift! We look forward to meeting you! ■

Learn more at <https://poorfriars.org/>.



COURTESY OF PFSGM

Friar Christopher, formerly Noah Watson, who grew up at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, kneels during his novitiate investiture on April 14, 2026.



COURTESY OF SR. SOPHIA VAN BRUNT

Friar Christopher, formerly Noah Watson of Paducah, evangelizes during a car ride in April 2026.

A legacy of compassion: A lifetime of Vincentian service

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

At the Whitesville St. Mary of the Woods – St. Vincent de Paul Conference, a remarkable Vincentian continues to demonstrate that a life dedicated to serving others knows no retirement.

At 92 years old, Clara McDaniel has devoted more than four decades to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Her service represents her answering Christ's call to care for neighbors in need through friendship, compassion, and practical assistance. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, founded in 1833, is a Catholic lay organization founded on person-to-person service, where members, known as Vincentians, grow spiritually by serving those in need.

Throughout the years, McDaniel has witnessed countless changes in the community, yet one thing has remained constant – her unwavering commitment to helping others. Whether visiting families, offering encouragement, working at the thrift store, assisting with food and financial needs, or simply listening with a caring heart, she has embodied the Vincentian spirit of seeing Christ in every person.

McDaniel's dedication has inspired generations of fellow Vincentians and parishioners. The Vincentians at Whitesville's St. Mary of the Woods SVdP have shown that true service is not measured by recognition, but by faithfulness, humility, and

love put into action day after day.

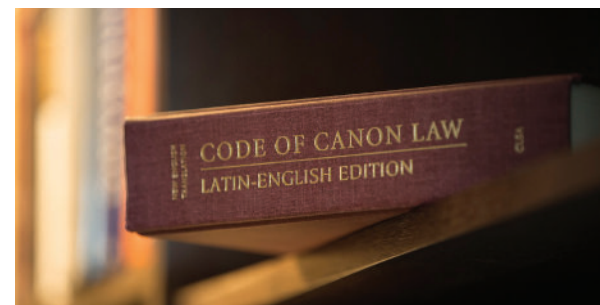
Even today, McDaniel continues to be a daily active Vincentian. Her wisdom, experience, and gentle example remind everyone that serving others is not just a ministry – it is a lifelong vocation.

She says, "I joined reluctantly after a fellow Vincentian asked me to. I told her I didn't have time but finally agreed to a half day. You kind of get addicted to being a Vincentian. We see all kinds of people and I enjoy helping them. I especially enjoy the friendships and camaraderie with my fellow Vincentians. We need more Vincentians, but we don't need lazy ones – we need caring ones who are willing to work."

As the St. Mary of the Woods SVdP Conference celebrates this extraordinary milestone, the Conference also celebrates the life that has made an immeasurable difference. McDaniel's decades of service has touched countless individuals and families, bringing hope, dignity, and the comforting presence of Christ to those facing difficult times.

The members of the St. Mary of the Woods Conference are deeply grateful for Clara McDaniel. Her legacy is one of compassion, perseverance, and unwavering faith. She reminds us all that a caring heart, willing hands, and a lifetime of service can leave an enduring impact on a community. ■

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



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC
A Latin-English edition of the Code of Canon Law is pictured on a bookshelf.

Tribunal staff attend provincial meeting

BY TRIBUNAL STAFF

Several of the Diocese of Owensboro's Tribunal staff attended their annual provincial meeting on July 29-31, 2026, which was held at Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park in Burkesville, Kentucky.

This year's presenter was the Rev. Dr. Scott Hedges, the Chief Medical Officer with Seven Counties Services, Inc., and the Medical Director for St. Luke's Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, who serves as peritus (expert) in the Metropolitan Tribunal of Louisville, among other offices. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Louisville in 2020 and is assigned to the Shrine of St. Martin of Tours in Louisville.

The topic for the three-day conference was "Custodes Iustitiae et Misericordiae: Flourishing in Tribunal Ministry Amid Secondhand Trauma." The staff found the topic to be valuable as was networking with the other staffs of the seven dioceses in Kentucky and Tennessee, which make up the province. ■

Pro-life musical festival/fundraiser to be held in October

PRESS RELEASE

Catholics will lead the way in raising awareness of and funds for life-affirming pregnancy care centers in western Kentucky when they host the 13th annual “Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear” charity music festival on Saturday, Oct. 10. The Pickin’ Life Project, a 501(c)(3) established by Owensboro diocese parishioners Jeff and Laura Smith, organize and host the event at their home on Lake Beshear, near Dawson Springs.

Eleven Knights of Columbus councils, their family members and one Fourth Degree Assembly provide all support at the venue. During its 12-year history, “Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear” has raised more than \$345,000 for pro-life pregnancy care centers in western Kentucky. In 2025, the music fest raised \$62,352. The Knights of Columbus provided an additional \$12,400 for the pregnancy centers through its national Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program.

The organizers defray all event costs up front and a benefactor will match the first \$15,000 in donations and purchases. The Pickin’ Life Project donates 100% of money raised at “Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear” to Alpha PCC (Hopkinsville), Door of Hope (Madisonville), H.O.P.E. Clinic (Benton and Eddyville) and Pathway of Hope (Greenville). The pregnancy centers are faith-based and depend on private donations to remain open. They receive no government funding because the centers will never refer clients for abortion.

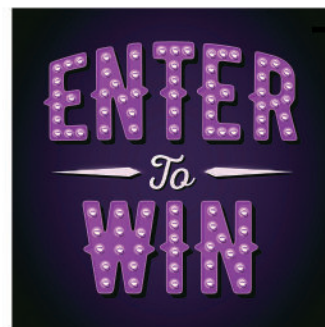
The music festival will be held, rain or shine, at 307 Island Cove Lane in Dawson Springs, on the shore of Lake Beshear. Grounds open at 11 a.m. Attendees should bring lawn chairs and are welcome to bring coolers. Volunteer staff members will direct parking and use golf carts to help make the short trip to the venue and back to cars. Five bands will perform bluegrass, country, gospel, rock and blues music beginning at 11:45 a.m. Hot food and cold drinks are available for purchase all day, with the addition of gourmet ice cream this year. There will be a raffle with many prizes, 15 winners and a \$1,000 cash grand prize.

More information about the event and ways to donate can be found on www.bluegrassonbeshear.com, facebook.com/bluegrassonbeshear or (270) 399-5018. All donations go to the pregnancy care centers and are tax deductible. ■



COURTESY OF PICKIN’ LIFE

The logo for this year’s “Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear” music festival, to take place Oct. 10, reflects America’s 250th anniversary.



ENTER TO WIN the Mount Saint Joseph \$10,000 Raffle!
You can also win \$5,000 • \$2,000
• Handmade queen-sized Quilt
Drawing at 4 p.m. on Sept. 13, 2026



License 0290

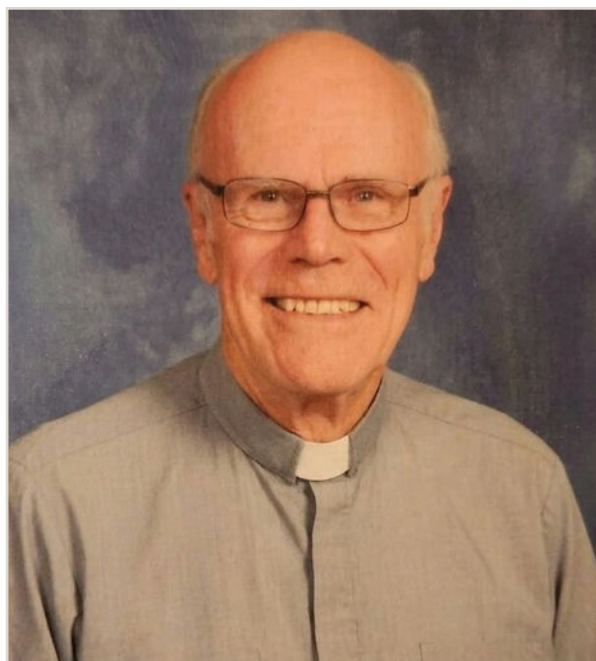
Order \$5 raffle tickets online:
ursulinesmsj.org/mountraffle

Thank you for your support!



This code will take you to our raffle web page. Use your phone camera to scan.

Questions? Contact Dan Heckel 270-229-2009 • dan.heckel@maplemount.org



COURTESY OF BACH FAMILY
Dcn. Bill Bach, 1936-2026

Dcn. William “Bill” Bach, 1936-2026

Dcn. William (Bill) George Bach, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, physician, and permanent deacon for the Diocese of Owensboro, passed away on July 26, 2026.

Dcn. Bach served the Catholic Church faithfully as a member of parish councils, the Owensboro Diocese Review Board, a peritus for the Diocesan Tribunal, a member of the Serra Club, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, prayer group leader, active participant in the Charismatic movement, and a regular attendee of Eucharistic Adoration.

Both he and his wife, Joy, became Oblates of the Passionists in 1996, living and reflecting the spiritual life of the Passion of Christ. One of his most cherished honors was his ordination as a permanent deacon in 2012, serving at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro.

A funeral Mass was held Aug. 3 at Blessed Mother, and Dcn. Bach was laid to rest in Resurrection Cemetery in Owensboro.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Passionists Nuns, 8564 Crisp Rd, Whitesville, KY, 42378; the Carmel Home, 2501 Old Hartford Rd, Owensboro, KY, 42303 or Blessed Mother Church, 601 E 23rd St, Owensboro, KY 42303. ■

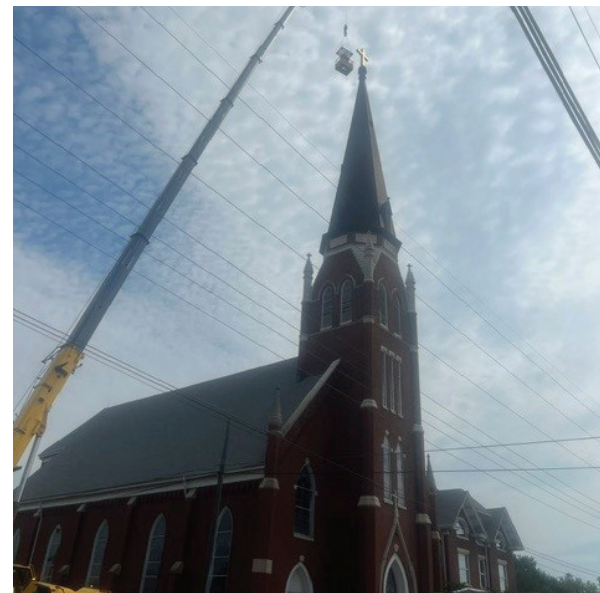
Repaired cross returns to top of Sts. Joseph and Paul

BY WKC STAFF

On Aug. 7, 2026, the life-sized golden cross was returned to the top of the steeple at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro. The cross and steeple were damaged by significant hailstorms that struck the region in March 2025. Kelly Ward, parish director of maintenance, oversaw the project with assistance from Bill Blincoe, Diocese of Owensboro director of project and risk management. ■



COURTESY OF KELLY WARD
Kelly Ward, maintenance director of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, is seen with the cross to be placed back on the steeple of the church.



COURTESY OF KELLY WARD
The life-sized cross is placed back on the steeple of Sts. Joseph and Paul Catholic Church in Owensboro on Aug. 7, after being repaired following spring 2025 hail damage.

‘To honor the Blessed Sacrament’ Archbishop Fulton Sheen and Owensboro’s Corpus Christi celebration of 1970

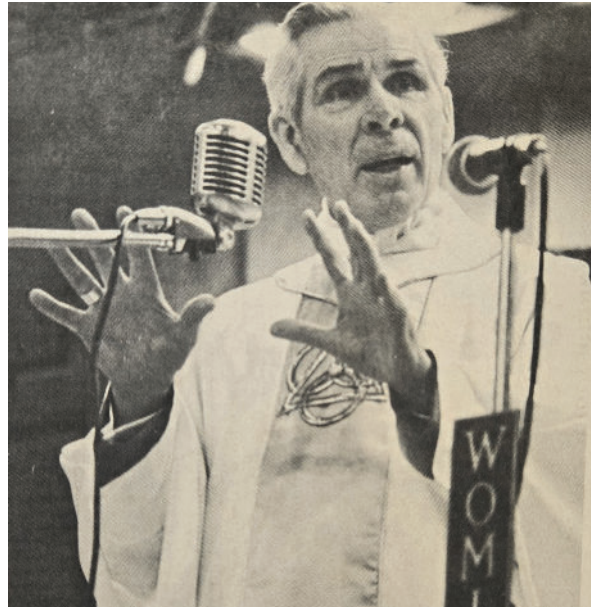
BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

“The priests and people are enthusiastic about your coming to Owensboro...” This is how Bishop Henry Soenneker, the second bishop of Owensboro, began a letter he was writing on May 4, 1970. The recipient of the letter was none other than Archbishop Fulton Sheen and Bishop Soenneker was not exaggerating about the priest’s and people’s enthusiasm.

By this time, Archbishop Sheen, famed for his Catholic television programs, was an utmost beloved Catholic authority, second only to the pope. The archbishop had agreed to give the homily at the Corpus Christi celebration on June 1 that year. This announcement captured even the attention of non-Catholics.

The preparation leading up to the event was frantic. Everyone involved was well aware of the draw and attention Archbishop Sheen was bringing to the little western Kentucky town. Ads were taken out for every newspaper, radio station, and television channel within the diocese and surrounding areas. Flight times, venues, accommodations, transport all had to be seen too. The event was shaping up to be as large as the consecration of a new bishop.

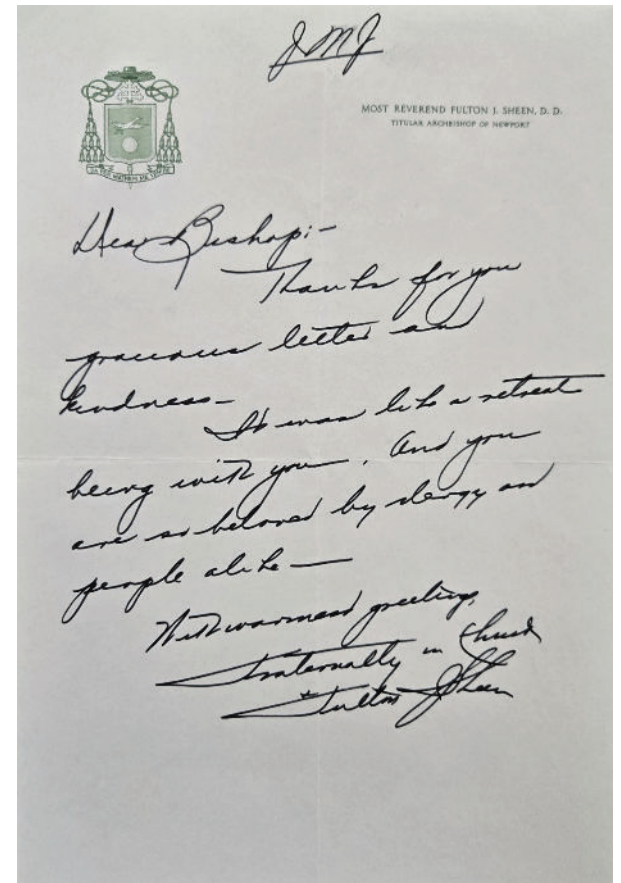
Bishop Soenneker sent his recommendations for the best way for Archbishop Sheen to make his way to Owensboro. Archbishop Sheen was given a list of flight times and advised to land in Louisville, at



COURTESY OF BILL KYLE/MESSENGER-INQUIRER
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen speaks during a Corpus Christi celebration on June 1, 1970 while visiting Owensboro, Kentucky.

which point a generous Catholic doctor had loaned his Cadillac for the purpose of transport.

Invitations and itineraries were sent out to the diocesan priests and bishops from the surrounding dioceses. Before the Corpus Christi celebration, a “meal in common” was to be had with Archbishop Sheen and the priests of the diocese at Gabe’s Steakhouse at 5:30. At the meal’s end, Archbishop Sheen was to deliver “A word of encouragement” to the priests. Though most were very excited, one young priest, in the spirit of the times, wrote a letter



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES
Shown is the letter from Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen to Bishop Henry Soenneker thanking the latter for his hospitality during Archbishop Sheen’s visit to Owensboro in 1970.

informing the bishop that he would attend the meal but would eat beforehand. He graciously declined the lavish provided meal on the account of social justice.

The day of the event arrived and everything went as planned. The Owensboro Sportscenter was filled to compacity. Among those in attendance were Archbishop Thomas McDonough, archbishop of Louisville; Bishop Charles Maloney, titular bishop of Bardstown and adjunct bishop of Louisville; Bishop Joseph Durick, bishop of Nashville; and

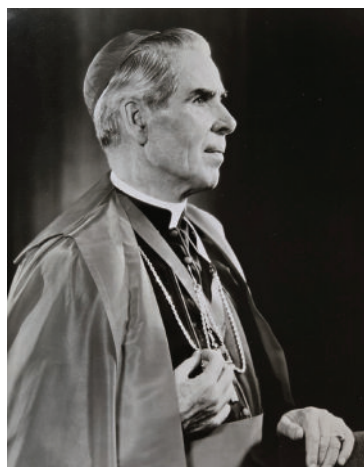
Continues on page 25

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sheen continued from page 24

Bishop Francis Shea, bishop of Evansville, as well as 87 priests of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Though many were doubtlessly excited about the presence of Archbishop Sheen, the celebrant, concelebrants and most of those in attendance did not forget what the celebration was about: the Blessed Sacrament. When someone absentmindedly called it a “celebration for Sheen,” Fr. George Boehmicke set him straight, stating, “We together with Bishop Sheen are to honor the Blessed Sacrament,” noting that he would hate to think that anyone else would “take first place” on such an occasion.



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES
Press photo of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who will be beatified on Sept. 24, 2026.

After the event Bishop Soenneker wrote Archbishop Sheen a letter thanking him and wishing him many more years in the service of Our Lord. Archbishop Sheen replied with a handwritten letter graciously thanking him for the opportunity and hospitality.

As many of you know, on the 24th of this month, we celebrate the beatification of Venerable Fulton Sheen in St. Louis. Let us celebrate, with the entirety of the Church, this one step closer on his journey to sainthood – a path that lead him right through 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.

2026 Parish Picnics Schedule in the Diocese of Owensboro

Sept. 5

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

Sept. 12

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Street address: 6705 Old Hwy 45 South, Paducah
Serving: 12 noon-7 p.m. (8:45 p.m. closing Mass)
Contact: Tim Stewart (270) 994-6156 or Hazel Wurth (270) 554-3810

Sept. 12

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Street address: 394 N Hwy 259, Hardinsburg
Serving: 4-6:30 p.m.
Contact: Fr. Tony Jones (270) 756-2356

Sept. 12

St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown
Street address: 504 Mulberry St., Uniontown
Serving 5 p.m.
Contact: Parish office (270) 822-4416

Sept. 19

Blessed Mother, Owensboro
Street address: 601 E 23rd St., Owensboro
Drive-thru only; pickup 2 p.m.
Contact: Cyndi Vaughan (270) 683-8444

Sept. 19

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

Sept. 19

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson
Street address: 306 Clifty Ave., Clarkson
Serving: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (Honeyfest Chicken & Barbecue Dinner and Silent Auction)
Contact: (270) 242-4414

Sept. 20

Mary Carrico Catholic School, Knottsville
Street address: 6119 St. Lawrence Rd., Philpot
Serving: 11 a.m.
Contact: Joe Schepers (270) 281-5526

Sept. 26

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

Sept. 26

St. Joseph, Central City
Street address: 109 S 3rd St, Central City
Serving: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Contact: Erin Hopper (270) 841-9242

Sept. 27

St. Leo, Murray
Street address: 401 N 12th St., Murray
Serving: 12 noon-4 p.m.
Contact: Kevin D'Angelo (270) 753-0466 or (270) 293-7061

Sept. 27

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026 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.

An Evening of Chamber Music at Brescia University

Kirsten Ahnell, clarinet; Mary Stuckemeyer, bassoon; and Sharon Hudson, piano. Sept. 24 at 7 p.m., Taylor Lecture Hall, Roberts Center for the Sciences, Brescia University, Owensboro. Free admission. Suggested donation: \$10. All proceeds support the Brescia University Music Department. Questions: sharon.hudson@brescia.edu.

'Unveiling the Mystery of the Holy Family' Diocesan Marian Congress

You are invited to the 36th Diocesan Marian Congress, "Unveiling the Mystery of the Holy Family" on Saturday, Oct. 10 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 502 Church Ave., Bowling Green, KY. Speaker: Fr. Christopher Kight. We will begin with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 8:30 a.m., and end with Benediction by 1 p.m. Questions: (270) 303-9437 or (270) 842-2525

Holy Name Fall Festival Oct. 23-24

Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson will hold its Fall Festival Oct. 23-24. All are welcome to join Holy Name for Casey's Carnival Rides, family bingo, games, food, a haunted house, auctions, and more! To learn more, call the school office at (270) 827-3425.

October retreat for healing from abortion

Come join us for a weekend of emotional healing and spiritual renewal. Rachel's Vineyard offers post-abortion healing retreats for women and men who are suffering from the lingering effects of abortion. A Catholic retreat will be held Oct. 23-25, 2026 in the Whitesville/Owensboro, KY, area. Contact Rita: (270)

474-4707, ext. 1; retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com; or visit <http://hopeafterabortionky.com>.

The Journey Young Adult Hiking Retreat

Friday, Oct. 23-Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026. "Solvitur Ambulando" is a Latin phrase attributed to St. Augustine which roughly translates to "In walking, it is solved." It is often hard at times to find the space and time to be available to the loving call and presence of our God. The Journey is an intentional space for reflection, prayer, retreat, fellowship, and adventure hosted by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry utilizing the North Trail at Land between the Lakes. For ages 18-39. The cost is \$50 per participant, and space is limited to 12 participants. Please see <https://owensborodiocese.org/journey-retreat/> for further details and to register. The spring hike retreat will be April 16-18, 2027. Registration for this event will begin in December 2026.

Saint Meinrad Young Adult Retreat Weekends Jan. 29-31, 2027; May 28-30, 2027; August 20-22, 2027; November 12-14, 2027. The cost is \$50 and includes lodging and meals. This is an unstructured retreat. These retreats are run by Saint Meinrad, and you also register through Saint Meinrad at the provided link. For ages 20-35 years. Reserve your spot at <https://www.saintmeinrad.org/retreats/young-adult-retreats>.

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Life-Giving Wounds Retreat

Oct. 23-25, 2026, at Sarto Retreat Center, Evansville, IN. The Diocese of Evansville and the Diocese of Owensboro are pleased to sponsor a third Life-Giving Wounds retreat. The effects of divorce are deep and long-lasting, no matter what age it happened to you. But the good news is, healing can

happen. Life-Giving Wounds is a ministry specifically for adults whose parents are divorced or separated. Cost: \$175 (\$85 for college students). For adults 18 years old and up. <https://owensborodiocese.org/life-giving-wounds/>

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.



YOU'VE GOT THIS

Catholic Charities
(DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO)

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

CAP
COUNSELING
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM

Find a list of counselors ready to listen.



September Wedding Anniversaries

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro
David & Margaret Wingfield, 55
Wayne & Bridget Calloway, 50

Christ the King, Madisonville
George & Beverly Soria, 55
Gustavo & Sandra Perez, 54
Joseph & Daisy Rocha, 60

Christ the King, Scottsville
John & Donna Baum, 10

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson
Allen & Diana Emmick, 25
Carroll & Margaret Fulkerson, 63

Casey & Traci Thomas, 25
David & Mary Sue Barron, 53
Dean & Janice Arnold, 56
Dennis & Nora Massoth, 51
Harold & Lucy Hargis, 57
James & Rita Mills, 55
Joey & Alyson Greenwell, 25
Raymond & Joan Wawrin, 59
Ronald & Joan Hockey, 67
Sam & Patsy Moore, 53
Stephen & Marilyn Schwallier, 52

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam
Bernie & Pam Hayes, 50

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
Anthony & Rhona Feckter, 63
Jeffrey & Allison McGee, 5
Preston & Chloe Sparkman, 5
Rick & Kathy Granger, 55
Stephen & Wanda Baka, 56
Steve & Sandy Stahl, 56
Terrance & Linda Novotny, 25

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville
Charles & Peggy Howard, 57
Dale & Marcia Reddin, 56
Gary & Robin Elder, 51

Immaculate, Owensboro
Shane & Dayna Cox, 61
Stewart & Rose Foster, 57

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
Dusty & Kelsey Vauters, 10
Edward & Marilyn Sumner, 53
Garrett & Jennifer Booth, 10
Mike & Suzanne Wurth, 56
Wally & Julie Johnson, 53

Precious Blood, Owensboro
John & Patricia Kramer, 56
William & Susan Wedding, 57

Rosary Chapel, Paducah
Rodney & Mary Ann Williams, 52

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
David & Debbie Coomes, 55

St. Ann, Morganfield
Bill & Janet Robertson, 66
Bill & Kay Owen, 52
Caleb & Elyse Ervin, 10
Jim & Carol Hosman, 60

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers
Steve & Linda Wilkes, 55

St. Anthony, Axtel
Dale & Denise Tucker, 25
James & Beth Mercer, 58

St. Anthony, Browns Valley
Darrell & Linda Howard, 53

St. Augustine, Reed
Sam & Taylor Stone, 5
Sonny & Linda Evans, 61
Stephen & Sheila Byrne, 54

St. Benedict, Wax
Stanley & Carma Duvall, 50

St. Charles, Bardwell
Danny & Bonnie Henderson, 55

St. Charles, Livermore
Lee & Sandy Edwards, 40

St. Columba, Lewisport
Jacob & Sasha Bolin, 10

St. Edward, Fulton
Eddie & Jan Taylor, 53

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson
Hayward & Sharon Roberts, 53
James & Joan Chaney, 52

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville
David & Sue Hamilton, 52

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
Blake & Emily Cvengros, 10
Carl & Patsy McConnell, 51
Durwin & Maureen Urserly, 60
Thomas & Jeannette Tocco, 53

St. Henry, Aurora
Albert & Cathy Downs, 51

Jack & Janice Faust, 59
St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Brandon & Jewel Yates, 5
Donnie & Veronica Wilson, 51
Glenn & Barbara Wilson, 60
Glenn & Gayle Willett, 53
Marvin & Martha Byrd, 64
Sam & Becca Higdon, 55
Terry & Patrice Milan, 54
Walter & Karen Shupe, 54

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Lawrence & Dorothy Durbin, 58
Lawrence & Geraldine Durbin, 61
Robert & Yolanda Neihoff, 63

St. Joseph, Bowling Green
Dean & Colleen Ewing, 59
Domingo & Rosaria Gomez Lucas, 5
Edmund & Lilianne Amumundem, 5
George & Judith Martin, 60
Guadalupe & Maricela Hernandez, 5
Hubert & Linda Richardson, 57
Michael & Hannah Murphy, 10

St. Joseph, Central City
Jimmy & Barbara Brannon, 50

St. Joseph, Leitchfield
Jim & Dian Cecil, 40
Jimmy & Sue Kipper, 60

St. Joseph, Mayfield
Charles & Gay Willett, 55
Robert & Jean Carrico, 59
Robert & Sandra Halter, 40

St. Jude, Clinton
Joe & Jenny Young, 5

St. Lawrence, Philpot
Chris & Patsy Johnson, 40
Joseph & Nancy Payne, 66

St. Leo, Murray
Martin & Mary Smith, 50

St. Mark, Eddyville
Kenneth & Maggie Pierson, 53

St. Martin, Rome
Jack & Delores Beyke, 60

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Bob & Terry Knott, 67
Danny & Sharon Ebelhar, 57
Grady & Donna Ebelhar, 53
Josh & Brittany Clouse, 10

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady
David & Barbara Bates, 51
Michael & Michelle Whitworth, 10

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Bobby & Della Payne, 53
Casey & Anna Hamilton, 5
Clayton & Frances Mills, 10
Michael & Katherine Lewis, 5
Rick & Karen Stiff, 50

St. Mary, Franklin
Jim & Gail Briley, 65
John & Cindy Janicek, 53

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove
Richard & Sherry Washington, 56
Roger & Margo Blair, 56

St. Paul, Leitchfield
Dale & Yvonne DePoyster, 53
James & Helen Gawarecki, 64
Joseph & Anna Jean Clark, 55
Larry & Geneva Pawley, 59
Mike & Joyce Whitfill, 58

St. Paul, Princeton
Richard & Christa Strong, 50

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly
Cecil & Carolyn Pierce, 10
Clarence & Darlene Powell, 52

St. Pius X, Owensboro
Ben & Nichole Johnson, 25
Earl & Peggy Castlen, 57
James & Connie Fleischmann, 51
Larry & Patricia Hicks, 55
Michael & Christa Roberts, 25
Ronald & Mary Helen Strehl, 62

Tom & Janie Blair, 55
St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Bradley & Kelly Jade Board, 10
Brian David & Kristen Brumfield, 5
Chuck & Joellen McGary, 61
David & Elaine Adkins, 54
Tim & Chasity Clark, 10

St. Sebastian, Calhoun
John & Brenda Pinkston, 57
Mike & Margaret Dant, 61

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Arthur & Nancy Hodde, 55
Howard & Louise Brown, 59
John & Patsy Clayton, 69
Louis & Debra Byrne, 52
Pat & Donna McNulty, 61
Peyton & Sydney Booth, 5

St. Stephen, Cadiz
Jim & Sally Vollmer, 60
Mike & Tana Dickens, 55

St. Thomas More, Paducah
Larry & Miranda Farris, 51
Phil & Betty Higdon, 62
Robert & Judy Milford, 60
Steve & Julie DuPerrieu, 52
Tom & Barbara Clinton, 58
Wes & Tonya Sullenger, 25

St. William, Knottsville
Charles & Joyce Mills, 69
Darrell & Mary Lou Payne, 57
Isaac & Brianna Carmon, 5
John & Sheri Ruth, 40
Kyle & Breana Curtis, 5
Steve & Darlene Fulkerson, 54

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
Frank & Joanne Mason, 55
Ralph & Emilee Ward, 60

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
Benjamin & Apolonia Smith, 25
Gregory & Anita Jones, 57
Jack & Melanie Hudson, 10
Jim & Maria Creighton, 57
Mark & Mary Atkins, 25
Richard & Andrea Donato Pasini, 5
Richard & Eileen Graham, 25
William & Ann Farrell, 56
William & Linda Keach, 54

San Vicente de Paúl: Santo patrono de las obras de caridad

La fiesta de San Vicente de Paúl se celebra en la Iglesia católica el 27 de septiembre de cada año. En 2026, esta fecha cae en domingo, por lo que es posible que la Iglesia pase por alto su conmemoración en la liturgia; sin embargo, no se puede pasar por alto a Vicente, dada su historia y su legado.

Nació en 1581 en el seno de una familia de campesinos en el pueblo de Pouy, en Francia. Enviado por su padre a un seminario a la edad de 15 años, fue ordenado sacerdote a los 19 años en 1600. Pero el siglo anterior a su nacimiento, el Concilio de Trento había establecido una edad mínima de 24 años para ser ordenado sacerdote. Cuando fue nombrado párroco, se produjo una protesta sobre la validez de su ordenación. En lugar de apelar esta protesta ante el Vaticano, Vicente continuó sus estudios teológicos durante cuatro años más.

Existen relatos que afirman que Vicente fue secuestrado por piratas y vendido como esclavo. Si bien es probable que estos relatos contengan algún fondo de verdad, casi no existen registros que permitan verificar tales leyendas conforme a los estándares históricos actuales.

En 1607, Vicente regresó a Francia y más tarde se estableció en Roma, donde continuó su formación clerical. Parte de la historia de Vicente es que había buscado el sacerdocio para disfrutar de una vida cómoda, pero experimentó un profundo cambio interior al escuchar la confesión de un campesino moribundo.

Al revisar algunas fuentes, encontré una afirmación interesante: que Vicente de Paúl es considerado el santo patrono de todas las obras de caridad. En el siglo XXI, esta identificación tiene mucho sen-



FOTO DE CNS/NANCY WIECHEC

San Vicente de Paúl está representado en un vitral de la iglesia de San Patricio en Sídney, Australia. Nació en Francia en 1581 y dedicó gran parte de su vida a servir a los pobres. Fundó la Cofradía de la Caridad, la Congregación de la Misión (Vicentinos) y, junto con Santa Luisa de Marillac, las Hijas de la Caridad. Es el santo patrono de todas las obras de caridad. Su fiesta se celebra el 27 de septiembre.

tido, ya que su nombre se ha asociado a la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl, que cuenta con decenas de miles de delegaciones en diócesis y parroquias de todo el mundo. Este grupo fue fundado por Antonio Federico Ozanam en 1833 y el nombre fue elegido en homenaje al gran santo.

Durante su vida, Vicente fundó la Congregación de la Misión, que más tarde sería conocida como los Vicentinos. En colaboración con Santa Luisa de Marillac, participó en la fundación de las Hijas de la Caridad, que perduran hasta el día de hoy. Numerosas congregaciones de religiosas veneran a San Vicente de Paúl, ya que sus comunidades se inspiraron en

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY SEPTIEMBRE DE 2026	
6 DE SEPT.	7:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Juan Bautista, Fordsville
	4 p.m. Misa por el centenario de la dedicación de la catedral – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
9 DE SEPT.	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Parroquia Preciosa Sangre, Owensboro
12 DE SEPT.	9:30 a. m. Caminata por el Derecho a la Vida – Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Owensboro
13 DE SEPT.	12 p.m. Celebración de reencuentro en el Campamento del Río Gasper
14 DE SEPT.	9:30 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Preparatoria Santa María, Paducah
16 DE SEPT.	10:30 a.m. Misa Arcoíris – Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter]
17 DE SEPT.	11:00 a.m. Misa de apertura de clases – Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro
20 DE SEPT.	2 p.m. Celebración Diocesana de los Aniversarios de Matrimonios – Catedral de San Esteban
22 DE SEPT.	10:00 a.m. Oficina de Paducah
27 DE SEPT.	2 p.m. Misa en celebración del 15 aniversario de la Comunidad de Myanmar – Parroquia San Pío X, Owensboro
28 DE SEPT.	4 p.m. Reunión de la Junta Directiva de la Fundación Católica

esa fundación original.

San Vicente de Paúl, ruega por nosotros.

+ William F. Medley

Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Los sacerdotes reflexionan sobre la alegría de ‘llevar a Dios al pueblo’.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SANTA MARÍA

El Padre Tom Buckman, párroco de la Parroquia Santa María en Franklin, celebra la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe la noche del 11 de diciembre de 2025, siguiendo la tradición anual de comenzar las celebraciones en la víspera de la fiesta.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El Domingo del Sacerdocio se celebra este año el 27 de septiembre, y el periódico El Católico de Kentucky Occidental se puso en contacto recientemente con varios sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Owensboro para saber por qué aman su vocación.

El Padre Tom Buckman, párroco de la Parroquia Santa María en Franklin y de la Parroquia Cristo Rey en Scottsville, dijo que su “mayor alegría es llevar a Dios a la gente, llevar el Evangelio a la gente en su vida cotidiana”.

El Padre Buckman tenía un buen dominio del español antes de convertirse en párroco, ya que había pasado un año como misionero laico salesiano en México antes de ingresar al seminario. Más tarde, mientras estudiaba para ser sacerdote diocesano, tomó clases de español para seguir mejorando sus habilidades lingüísticas.

Él agradece poder hablar español con sus feligreses, ya que lleva cinco años en las Parroquias Santa María y Cristo Rey. También apoya “los eventos y celebraciones, las costumbres y tradiciones que son importantes, tratando de adaptarse y servir” a sus feligreses, muchos de los cuales provienen de

México y Guatemala.

Esto incluye una gran celebración de la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en diciembre, que “requiere mucha planificación, reuniones y trabajo, pero es muy divertida”.

“Es una alegría ver a mis feligreses crecer en su fe católica”, dijo, así como “una gran alegría ayudar a las parejas a regularizar sus matrimonios”, además de tener clases de Primera Comunión y participantes de RICA cuyo número va en aumento.

El Padre Chris Kight, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, dijo que uno de los aspectos que más le gustan de su vocación es poder visitar la escuela parroquial.

“La administración y los maestros se esfuerzan mucho para que la escuela sea católica”, dijo. “Están llenos de pasión por su fe”.

El Padre Kight dijo que visitar los salones de clase les muestra a los estudiantes que “¡los sacerdotes también son personas reales!” y que muy seguido pasa por el gimnasio para participar en actividades durante el recreo.

“Una de las características del sacerdocio es que requiere que uno se relacione con las personas y simplemente esté presente”, dijo. “Aunque representamos a Jesús en la persona de Cristo, somos alguien en quien pueden confiar, con quien pueden desahogarse y con quien pueden bromear”.

Tras haber estudiado español en el seminario y haber participado en un programa de inmersión en español en Guatemala mientras era seminarista, “me encargo de la mayor parte del ministerio hispano” en la parroquia, lo que le brinda la oportunidad de conocer mejor a sus feligreses hispanohablantes.

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Dijo que la Escuela San José, así como la nueva escuela preparatoria clásica en el campus, Chesterton Academy of Bowling Green, “aportan mucha vida a la parroquia”.

“Aunque las familias no sean las católicas más activas, se están involucrando más gracias a la escuela”, dijo. “Es un lugar magnífico”. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA ESCUELA SAN JOSÉ
El Padre Chris Kight, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, se une a los alumnos de la Escuela de San José para el recreo el 26 de marzo de 2026.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO
El Obispo William F. Medley, en el centro, sonríe para una foto con el equipo directivo del Congreso Carismático Hispano celebrado del 22 al 23 de agosto en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.

Los católicos fortalecen su fe durante el Congreso Carismático en Bowling Green.

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Alrededor de 250 personas asistieron al Congreso Carismático Hispano de este año, que se celebró en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green los días 22 y 23 de agosto de 2026. El congreso incluyó una Misa, que fue presidida por el Obispo William F. Medley de la Diócesis de Owensboro. El tema principal de este año fue la Santidad y el congreso estuvo dirigido por el P. José Guadalupe Tapia, sacerdote de la Diócesis de San Juan de los Lagos en Jalisco, México y Yolanda Reyes, presentadora católica de Atlanta. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO
El Obispo William F. Medley camina en procesión después de la Misa durante el Congreso Carismático Hispano, que tuvo lugar del 22 al 23 de agosto en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO
Los fieles alzan las manos en oración durante el Congreso Carismático Hispano celebrado del 22 al 23 de agosto en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO
(Izquierda) Juan Carlos Lazo Soriano, seminarista de la Diócesis de Owensboro, camina en procesión junto al Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director de la Oficina de Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la diócesis, durante el Congreso Carismático Hispano celebrado del 22 al 23 de agosto en Bowling Green.



Misas en español



CNS PHOTO/LOLA GOMEZ

Pope Leo XIV looks at a horse as he greets an employee of the papal gardens in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 5, 2025. The Vatican released Pope Leo's message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation which will be celebrated Sept. 1.

Conversion of heart needed to end wars, heal Earth, pope says

BY OSV NEWS

VATICAN CITY (OSV News) – War and environmental destruction are not just political failures, but symptoms of a deep moral crisis in the human heart, Pope Leo XIV said in his message for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for Creation. Marking the Sept. 1 observance, the pope warned that armed conflict and ecological degradation create a vicious cycle that destroys ecosystems, poisons natural resources, and destabilizes communities for generations. Drawing on the biblical call from Isaiah to beat swords into plowshares, Pope Leo urged nations and individuals to turn away from violence and the pursuit of domination. The pontiff stressed that lasting peace requires an inner spiritual renewal, calling for resources once used for destruction to be redirected toward feeding the hungry, caring for the poor, and protecting creation. The prayer day opens the ecumenical Season of Creation, which concludes Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. ■