

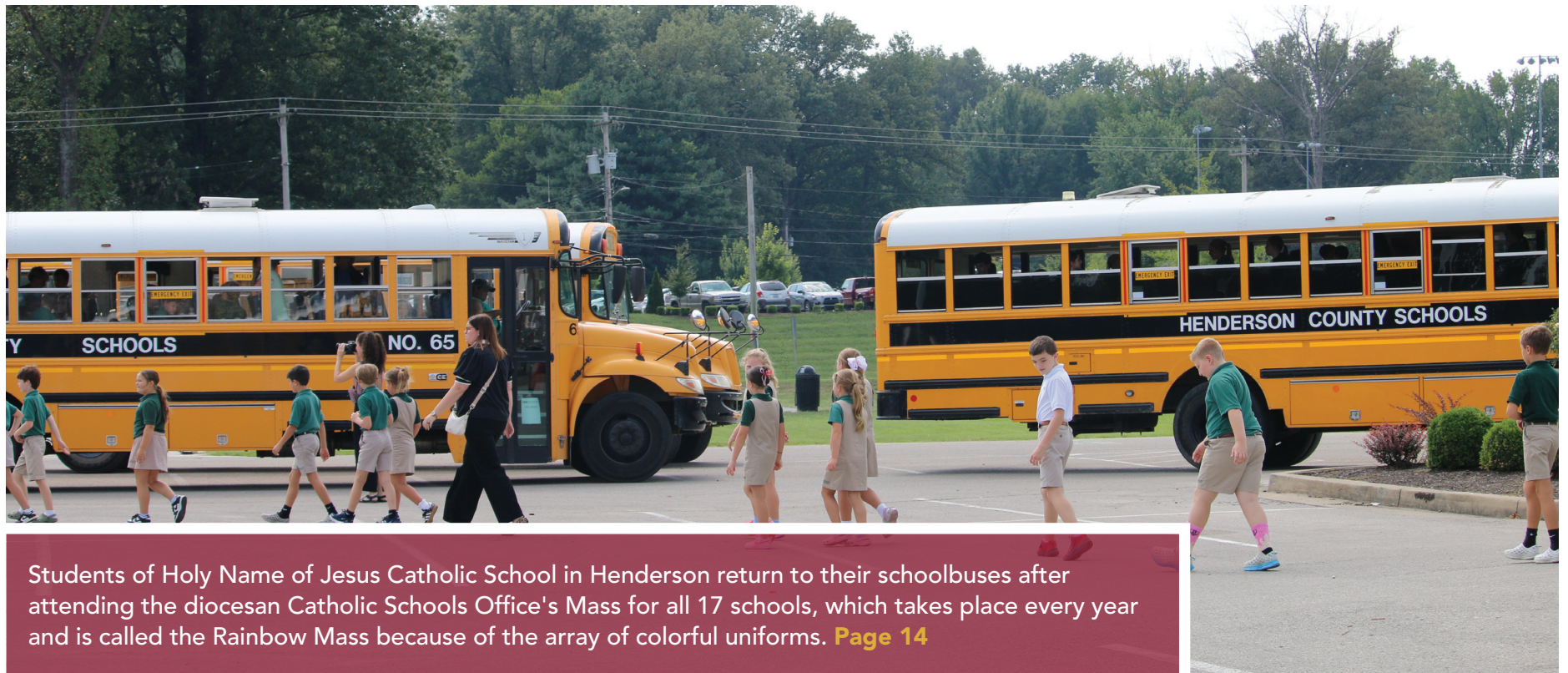
THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

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Students of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson return to their schoolbuses after attending the diocesan Catholic Schools Office's Mass for all 17 schools, which takes place every year and is called the Rainbow Mass because of the array of colorful uniforms. **Page 14**



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Former campers and staff of Gasper River participate in Mass with Bishop William F. Medley during the camp and retreat center's Sept. 13 20-year kickoff celebration.. [Page 22](#)

Photo by Riley Greif

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Diocese hosts couples marking milestone anniversaries

Front page main photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Submissions

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

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

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

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A Word From Bishop Medley: *From 'country boy' to pope, St. John XXIII continues to inspire*

In the Diocese of Owensboro our new retirement residence for priests, due to be open before the end of this year, will be called the Roncalli Home for Priests, named for St. John XXIII whose baptismal name was Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli. Its small chapel will be dedicated to St. John XXIII.

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born Nov. 25, 1881, in northern Italy as one of 13 children in a family who scraped by with simple persistence as sharecroppers. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1904 after completing seminary studies where he had distinguished himself as a scholar. Early on in his priesthood he began service in various diplomatic posts for the Holy See.

His humble background was not the typical one in the early 20th century to see advancement in the Church, but it seems that at every level of service he distinguished himself, though many in the Church hierarchy may have considered him just a “country boy.”

In various appointments during the Second World War, Fr. Roncalli had quietly done what he could to assist the Jews of Europe to escape Nazi persecution. This story went largely untold and unrecognized until the war ended. Had Fr. Roncalli called attention to his work, it would likely have been to the great detriment of both those he sought to assist and to himself.

Following the war, Pope Pius XII named Fr. Roncalli to be the apostolic nuncio to France, a highly notable position in the time of Europe's reconstruction. This role demanded his presence and participation in the political and social life of



CNS PHOTO

Pope St. John XXIII signs his encyclical “Peace on Earth” (“Pacem in Terris”) at the Vatican in this 1963 file photo. Considered a highlight in Catholic social teaching, the encyclical addresses universal rights and relations between states. The future saint, whose baptism name was Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, is also known for opening the Second Vatican Council.

Paris.

In 1953 he was appointed the archbishop and patriarch of Venice, then and now one of the most notable of all the Church. In this role he was also named a cardinal and became better known to the mostly European and Italian cardinals.

In November 1958, Archbishop Roncalli was elected pope following the death of Pope Pius XII and took the name John XXIII. He was 76 years old and the conventual wisdom was that the College of Cardinals chose an elderly man to be a caretaker pope as the Church was still striving to define its place and regroup in a postwar Europe.

BISHOP MEDLEY'S OCTOBER 2026 CALENDAR

Oct. 2	12 Noon Lunch with Senior Priests – Bishop's Home
Oct. 3	10 AM Diocesan Mass & Celebration for Migration Week – Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
Oct. 19	10 AM Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
	1:30 PM Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
Oct. 20	9:30 AM School Mass – St. Mary Elementary School, Paducah
Oct. 21	11:45 AM Midday Prayer and Lunch with Passionist Nuns – Passionist Monastery, Whitesville
Oct. 24	9 AM Respect Life Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
	11 AM Jubilee for Religious – St. Martin Parish, Rome
Oct. 25-27	Seminary Visit
Oct. 28	10 AM Diocesan Staff Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
Oct. 29	10 AM Presbyteral Day – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Oct. 30	1:30 PM Perpetual Profession of Vows – Passionist Monastery, Whitesville

The caretaker pope surprised the world, and his cardinals, when just weeks into his papacy he announced that he would convene an ecumenical council, the first in over 90 years. A familiar story is that he had consulted with close confidants

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Bishop Medley continued from page 3

about this intention and was encouraged to move slowly. With his announcement in January 1959, he surprised the Church and the world.

The Second Vatican Council was opened on October 11, 1962 assembling bishops from throughout the world for the first of five weeks-long sessions that would conclude in December 1965.

Pope John only lived to see and participate in the

first of those five sessions, dying in June of 1963.

He was canonized in 2014 by Pope Francis. His feast day was set as October 11, commemorating the opening of Vatican II.

One more remembrance of St. John XXIII's humor. He was once asked, "How many people work in the Vatican?" His quick response: "Oh, about half of them." ■

May God bless you always!

+ William F. Medley

Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Giving thanks for 'past, present and future,' cathedral celebrates 100 years at Locust Street location



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Parishioners attend the Sept. 6 Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral celebrating 100 years at the cathedral's Locust Street location. The liturgy was presided over by Bishop William F. Medley and concelebrated by multiple priests whose paths have led them to serve the cathedral.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In his homily at the 100th anniversary of the dedication of St. Stephen Cathedral's home at 610 Locust Street, Bishop William F. Medley reflected on "a century of baptisms, First Holy Communion, and Confirmations."

The cathedral has served as a home and the Mother Church of the diocese for countless gatherings and celebrations of all kinds, but, the bishop emphasized, "above all to celebrate the glory of God."

The celebration began with 4 p.m. Mass at the cathedral, presided over by Bishop Medley and concelebrated by many priests whose histories have



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Lillian Gentry, St. Stephen Cathedral's eldest parishioner at 101 years old, is honored at the Sept. 6 dinner celebrating 100 years at the cathedral's current location.

led them to serve at the cathedral, including current rector Fr. John Thomas and parochial vicars Fr. Christopher Grief and Fr. Thomas Aslis.

Following Mass, the cathedral community gathered at the Owensboro Convention Center for a celebration emceed by parishioner John Kurtz, featuring dinner, trivia, the presentation of a time capsule to be buried later, and live dinner music

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FEATURES

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley presides at the Sept. 6 Mass for the 100th anniversary of St. Stephen Cathedral's building dedication. Seen also are Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, Fr. Christopher Grief, and Fr. Corey D. Bruns.



RACHEL HALL | WKC
The choir of St. Stephen Cathedral are seen singing during the Sept. 6 Mass for the 100th anniversary of the cathedral's home at 610 Locust Street in Owensboro.

provided by the Owensboro Symphony String Trio. A make-your-own ice cream bar was provided for children, and a drawing was held for front-pew seating at the Christmas Eve vigil Mass. Fr. John Thomas also presented a papal blessing from Pope Leo XIV for St. Stephen Cathedral on the occasion of the anniversary.

A special aspect of the night was a series of reflections given by previous rectors Fr. John Vaughan and Fr. Jerry Riney. The community also recognized parishioner Lillian Gentry, who at 101 years old is the eldest member of St. Stephen Cathedral.

Following remarks and a closing blessing by Bishop Medley, the floor was opened for dancing to music provided by local band Hall Pass.

Carl Lewis, who joined St. Stephen Cathedral

when he became Catholic in 1995, said he was "honored to be here; this is a great thing to celebrate."

He described the cathedral as "very family-oriented" and said his children had been baptized there and his own parents buried from St. Stephen's.

Barbara Jones, who has been a parishioner for more than 40 years, commented that "we all feel like a family" at the cathedral, adding that she looks forward to future projects of further restoring the cathedral's historic structure.

Fr. Grief shared with the WKC that after two years of serving as the cathedral's parochial vicar, he has come to see how "the parish community is one that is welcoming and faithful."

"We continue to give thanks for our past, present, and future, too," he said. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Fr. John Vaughan, a previous rector of St. Stephen Cathedral, shares some memories and remarks during the Sept. 6 anniversary celebration.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
A previous rector of St. Stephen Cathedral, Fr. Jerry Riney, speaks at the Sept. 6 anniversary celebration of the cathedral's 100 years at its Locust Street location.

Meet the 2026-2027 diocesan seminarians

BY WKC STAFF

This fall, the Diocese of Owensboro's 14 seminarians have begun their semesters, pastoral years, and other assignments for the 2026-2027 academic year. Please keep them in your prayers and learn more about priestly discernment at owensborovocations.com. (Photos courtesy of the Office of Vocations) ■



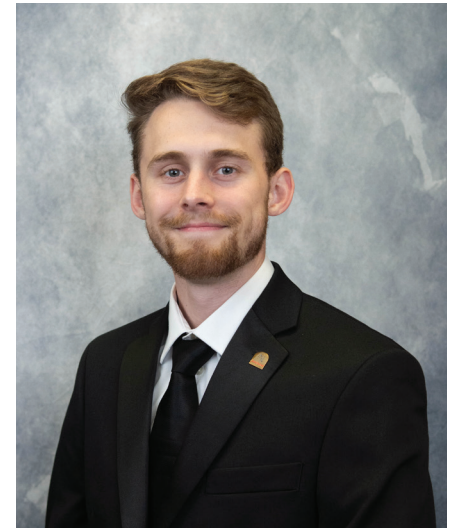
Chris French
Home parish: Holy Spirit, Bowling Green



Hunter Dickens
Home parish: St. Thomas More, Paducah



Hoan Tran
Home parish: St. Pius X, Owensboro



Tommy Rhodes
Home parish: St. Lawrence, Philpot



Wesley "Wes" Wheatley
Home parish: St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport



Caleb Neitzel
Home parish: St. Joseph, Bowling Green



Griffin Honeycutt
Home parish: Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson



Austin Marburger
Home parish: St. Leo, Murray

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Thomas Jarboe
Home parish: St. Mary of the Woods,
Whitesville



Will McCarty
Home parish: Sts. Joseph & Paul,
Owensboro



Chris Paris
Home parish: St. Romuald, Hardinsburg



Adam Clark
Home parish: St. Leo, Murray



Juan Carlos Lazo Soriano
Home parish: St. Joseph, Bowling Green



Tuan Nguyen
Home parish: St. Pius X, Owensboro

Called by Name

A special message from the Office of Vocations.

National Vocation Awareness Week is Nov. 1-6, 2026, and our diocese's Called by Name Weekend is Nov. 7/8, 2026.

Parishes are asked to announce the Called by Name initiative at all Masses the weekend of All Saints Day Oct. 31/Nov. 1 and encourage their parishioners to pray and reflect on individuals throughout the week who they believe may be open to God's call to priesthood or consecrated religious life within our diocese. Parishioners are invited to submit names of those they believe to have the beginnings of a particular vocation using provided pew cards or the online form at <https://www.owensborovocations.com/hub/called-by-name>.

Names of those received will be invited to an Andrew or Miriam dinner in the spring with Bishop Medley to pray and learn more about discerning with the Church.

To speak with a priest, email Fr. Corey D. Bruns, director of vocations, at fatherbruns@owensborovocations.com. Follow the Office of Vocations online at facebook.com/owensborovocations and Instagram @owensborovocations. ■

Save the Date!

National Vocation Awareness Week
is November 1-6, 2026. Pray for vocations!



OSV NEWS PHOTO/ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

The exterior of the historic Mission Dolores in San Francisco is seen in an undated photo. A new pilgrimage route in honor of St. Francis of Assisi has been created, the "Camino" of St. Francis, stretching from Mission San Rafael Arcángel to Mission Dolores in San Francisco. The 24.56 miles of streets, paths and trails are broken into four segments, so a potential journey can be calibrated.

The 'Camino' of St. Francis: New California pilgrimage route offers a spiritual journey

BY KIMBERLEY HEATHERINGTON, OSV NEWS

(OSV News) – There's no way to know how many miles St. Francis of Assisi walked during his lifetime. But fond as he was of the virtue of humility, his own two feet were surely a favored means of transportation. And now a new pilgrimage route in his honor, the Camino de San Francisco - inspired by the historic mission trails of California, and coinciding with the Jubilee Year of St. Francis - has been founded, allowing pilgrims to follow spiritually in the saint's footsteps.

Stretching from Mission San Rafael Arcángel to Mission Dolores in San Francisco, the 24.56 miles

of streets, paths and trails are broken into four segments, so a potential journey can be calibrated.

Father Christopher Iwancio - a Capuchin Franciscan friar and executive director of Modern Catholic Pilgrim, an organization describing its work as "to prepare pilgrims, get them to holy sites in the United States, and expand a hospitality network to care for those pilgrims as they journey" - had the idea for the Camino de San Francisco after visiting San Antonio.

As he walked the El Camino de San Antonio Missions, he learned of its partnership with Spain's famous Camino de Santiago de Compostela. Pilgrims who walk the San Antonio route - and obtain a stamp from each mission in their passport, paired with a distance certificate - can be awarded 30 kilometers credit towards the Camino de Santiago de Compostela's English route, the Camino Ingles.

"It made me think of the missions in California," said Father Iwancio.

Brainstorming with Christian Clifford, a historian and author of "Pilgrimage: In Search of the Real California Missions," and with support from Peter Marlow in the communications office of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the route was soon formulated.

"We looked at the distances between the caminos and thought, what would make sense? What would be easy, to have a good experience?" remembered Father Iwancio. "It was like, 'Oh, San Francisco - that makes sense!'"

And due to Father Iwancio's persistence, Camino de San Francisco pilgrims can also receive the Camino de Santiago de Compostela credit.

"It's great because it creates something that's permanent. People can walk with a group, or they can walk on their own," he explained.

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St. Francis continued from page 8



OSV NEWS PHOTO/COURTESY ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

A replica of the famed Porziuncola chapel in Assisi, Italy, is seen inside San Francisco's National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi July 16, 2026.

And there's not just walking and visiting.

"The way Father Chris designed this was to have the ability to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy," noted Marlow. "They've had outreach to the poor - sandwiches made for the unhoused, and other service-oriented activities like that. So there's not only the opportunity for personal reflection on your spiritual journey to our Lord, but also the ability to help and assist others who are in need in and around the city."

"It's a beautiful expression following up on Pope Leo's call for a special year of St. Francis," Marlow added. "And where better to be able to do that, than in the city named after him?"

Father Robert Barbato - a Capuchin Franciscan friar and rector of the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco - agreed.

"He would like the camino here named after him,

as it brings pilgrims from the quiet beauty of Marin County to the beautiful but at times harsh reality of life in the city named after him," Father Barbato told OSV News in an email. "Francis would be happy that pilgrims both experience the beauty of God's creation and the beauty of Jesus' face in the poor."

Father Iwancio also thinks pilgrimages can be an antidote to troubled times.

"We need to create more moments and spaces of encounter - and the pilgrimage really provides an opportunity for people to encounter peace and encounter one another," he said. "People encounter Christ on the streets - and then hopefully, by walking, they see the door open. They see the welcome, the warm welcome: 'Come on in.'" ■

Kimberley Heatherington is an OSV News correspondent. She writes from Virginia.

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Why Jesus changes everything

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

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

There are many ways people describe Jesus.

Some see Him as a great moral teacher. Others admire Him as a religious leader who taught us to love our neighbor, care for the poor, and forgive our enemies. Still others recognize Him as an important historical figure whose life has shaped the world for more than two thousand years. Those descriptions contain some truth. But none goes far enough.

For Christians, Jesus is not simply someone who came to teach us a better way to live. **Jesus is God who came to share our life so that we might share His.** And that changes everything.

At the heart of our Catholic faith is the astonishing claim we make every Sunday in the Creed: the eternal Son of God "became man." God did not remain distant from the human experience. In Jesus Christ, God entered it.

Jesus knew friendship and rejection, joy and sorrow. He sat at tables with friends, touched those whom others avoided, wept at the death of someone He loved, and showed compassion to people who



RILEY GREIF | WKC

People kneel in prayer while pausing to venerate Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during the June 7, 2026 Corpus Christi procession from Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish to St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

had lost their way. Ultimately, He experienced suffering and death.

This tells us something extraordinary about God: **God does not love humanity from a distance. He comes looking for us.**

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus does exactly that. He calls fishermen from their boats. He notices Zacchaeus hiding in a tree. He speaks with the Samaritan woman at the well. He eats with sinners, touches lepers, and forgives those whom others have condemned. Again and again, Jesus goes toward people who believe they are too sinful, too broken, too insignificant, or too far away from God. And He still does.

But Jesus came to do more than assure us that

God loves us. He came to save us.

On the cross, Jesus entered into the consequences of human sin and gave Himself completely for us. What appeared to be defeat on Good Friday became victory on Easter Sunday. The Resurrection proclaimed that sin does not have the final word. Suffering does not have the final word. Even death does not have the final word. Jesus does.

That is why an encounter with Jesus changes everything. Peter went from a frightened fisherman who denied knowing Jesus to a courageous preacher of the Gospel. Mary Magdalene went from grieving outside the tomb to proclaiming the Resurrection. Saul went from persecuting Christians to proclaiming Christ. Encountering Jesus did not simply give them new information. **It gave them a new life. And the same is meant to be true for us.**

It is possible to know a great deal about Catholicism without allowing Jesus into the deepest places of our lives. We can attend Mass, know our prayers, understand Church teaching, and still keep Christ at a comfortable distance.

But Jesus does not simply say, "Learn about me." He says, **"Follow me."**

That means allowing Christ into our relationships, decisions, wounds, fears, hopes, and even those places we would rather keep hidden.

Christianity is not ultimately about an idea or even a collection of beliefs. It is about a Person who loves us, saves us, and invites us to follow Him.

And once we truly encounter that Person, nothing can ever be quite the same. ■

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.

'In mission we are one in love' - PMLC celebrates 'One Church, United in Mission'



RACHEL HALL | WKC

A religious sister attends Mass during the Aug. 29, 2026 Parish Ministry and Leadership Conference, held this year at the Owensboro Convention Center.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Attendees of the Aug. 29, 2026 Parish Ministry and Leadership Conference visit exhibit booths during break time. The conference was held this year at the Owensboro Convention Center.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Fr. Larry Hostetter, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro, gives the English-speaking keynote address during the Aug. 29, 2026 Parish Ministry and Leadership Conference, held this year at the Owensboro Convention Center.

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, EVANGELIZATION & DISCIPLESHIP

Several offices of the Diocese of Owensboro come together to coordinate a dynamic event for parish members every other year. The Parish Ministry and Leadership Conference is held in late summer or early fall and brings together our Hispanic and Anglo communities.

Our theme this year was One Church, United in Mission and our English-speaking keynote address was delivered by Fr. Larry Hostetter, pastor of St. Pius X in Owensboro. Through scripture, Church history, and great Catholic thinkers and saints, he shared the vision of Jesus and the ongoing development of the Church beginning with Jesus where he says "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you" (John 17:21). In the fifth century, Augustine taught that the Church is a mystical body of saints and sinners; it is the Holy Spirit that is the

bond of unity. He shared examples of the reality of disunity in the Church and ways we have addressed these realities over the centuries.

Shifting to the mission of the Church, Fr. Larry echoed Jesus, saying, "in mission we are one in love, which flows from prayer. United in prayer, especially the Eucharist, we go out to share that gift in love with the hungry world." Highlighting Matthew 25, he suggested that the mission is nothing less than participating in God's plan of bringing the reign of God to fuller realization through how we love.

During breaks and lunch, participants enjoyed 14 different exhibit booths from Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, JustFaith Ministries, Hospice of Western Kentucky, Saint Meinrad School of Theology, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, St. Maximilian Kolbe Bookstore, Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, and several diocesan offices. Childcare was provided.

The afternoon was filled with some incredible

breakout sessions and presenters from five different states! If you would like to receive the power point or information about any of these, please email me. These included "Reclaiming the Heart of Christianity Through Divine Flow and the Contemplative Tradition," and "Called and Gifted: Discovering How God Has Equipped You to Serve" by Brian Plachta; "Reclaiming Your Pastoral Role: Tips for Being a More Effective Leader," and "Listening, Discerning, Leading: Creating a More Effective Parish Council" by Dr. Bernadette Kime.

Our Sunday Visitor sponsored Ana Arista's two presentations, "Meeting Diverse Learning and Behavioral Needs in the Catechetical Setting," and "Building Bilingual & Bicultural Bridges in Faith Formation 101."

The other four sessions were "Tools and Time for the Journey of Aging: Meeting the Spiritual Needs of our Senior Adults" by Maryann Joyce; "Kerygmatic Catechesis" by Rose Wheeler; "Catholic Social

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Teaching” by JustFaith Ministries presenter, Heidi Villaluz; and “What Does a Missionary Disciple Look Like?” by our own Dcn. Jay VanHoosier, director of faith formation for the Diocese of Owensboro. The Hispanic ministry track was led by Dr. Oscar Castellanos.

In 2022, we held the event in Owensboro. In 2024 it was in Hopkinsville and last month it was back in Owensboro. Where should we consider hosting it for 2028? Let us know.

Peace in Christ,

Jeff ■

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. Contact him at jeff.andrini@pastoral.org.

This World Mission Sunday, let's follow Pope Leo's footsteps

BY FR. RAY CLARK, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

As I sort through the parish donation envelopes for this month of October, somewhere between the envelopes for Sunday the 18th and the parish maintenance fund I will find an envelope for World Mission Sunday.

This is the 100th anniversary of the collection, when we in the U.S. are asked to support the Church in Latin America, Asia and Africa. My first thought, I must admit, is: “I’m all give out,” as we in the South like to say.

But then I remember missionaries I have met over the last 18 years as I have coordinated missionaries coming to the diocese and appealing for prayer and funds.

My most dramatic moment came as I was driving a young American missionary, Fr. Paul Reilly of the White Fathers of Africa serving in Ethiopia, to do his first ever appeal at the tri-parishes of Fulton, Hickman and Clinton. It was during the month



OSV NEWS PHOTO/SEAN SPRAGUE, COURTESY MARYKNOLL

Lay missionary Angel Mortel is pictured in a file photo visiting the home of 23-year-old Sandra, 23, and her children in Ibiuna, Brazil, near São Paulo. The Catholic Church will mark World Mission Sunday Oct. 18, 2026

of June and we were driving through lush green fields of soybeans and corn.

Fr. Paul remarked: “If the farmers of Ethiopia could see this, they would weep.” He stopped. “Why would they weep?” I asked. He replied: “Because they could feed their families.”

I think of Bishop Siby, a member of the Heralds of Good News who served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea and was made bishop of a diocese there. There are many Catholics in his diocese. They raise their own food but have little left over.

I am haunted by the question: “How do you run a diocese – pay the salaries of priests and sisters and

lay catechists, build and maintain churches, with no source of income?” He spends summers in the U.S. making appeals.

It is easier to give to a person speaking in front of us. For World Mission Sunday there will be no speaker in front of us. Pope Leo, who served as a missionary in Peru, will make a video recording that parishes who can do so will play at Mass that day. Few of our parishes have that capability so the video will be posted on our diocesan website, if you would like to hear him speak of his experience.

As the Sunday approaches I ask God for the grace to be generous, whatever my situation. I have been given so much and other members of the Church have so little. I write my check, place it in the envelope, and put the envelope in the collection basket as it comes around.

And I thank God for the opportunity to be reminded to look beyond the needs of my parish and diocese, to be reminded that I am a member of a catholic, universal Church with members in every country of our world.

And I ask God to continue to open my eyes, and my heart, to the needs of my Church throughout the world. ■

Fr. Ray Clark is the director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the Diocese of Owensboro, as well as the Catholic chaplain to Owensboro Health Regional Hospital.

Sharing faith with adult children, and staying involved without being a ‘helicopter parent’

BY DANNY MAY, OFFICE OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

Welcome to the inaugural article for Building a Family of Faith: Q & A, which is a new monthly column in The Western Kentucky Catholic. This is a collaborative effort among the Offices of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Marriage & Family Life, and Communications. This column coincides with the release of the Diocese of Owensboro’s “Building a Family of Faith” podcast, produced as a convenient and accessible continuation of the in-person workshops offered around the diocese earlier this year.

Each month, we’ll be addressing questions asked by parents and listeners of the podcast. If you’ve got a question you’d like answered, please email familylife@pastoral.org.

Now, for our first questions and responses:

How do parents effectively share faith with adult children?

Adult children still need us. They need our insight, life experience, and perspective. As parents of adult children, our focus shifts from teaching faith to witnessing faith. One parent shared how crucial it is to never stop inviting our adult children into faith conversations by consistently and authentically modeling your own faith to them. The key is authenticity, meaning

moments where faith comes up naturally in conversation or in everyday circumstances, which come across less pushy and pressured.

For example, sharing your own insights about what you’re learning or struggles you might be having. Tell your story. Ask questions about their

faith and let them answer and resist the impulse to lecture. Keep family faith traditions and holiday traditions alive, but invite. Don’t force.

Staying present, rather than overbearing or intrusive, helps keep communication lines open with our adult children so they feel comfortable

reaching out when they do need help or have questions. They’ll remember what you taught them. Now they’re likely watching to see if you believe it and still live it. That’s the power of witness.

How do we stay involved in our middle school/high school kids’ lives without being a “helicopter” parent?

As our children age, it’s difficult to mentally shift from managing their lives (which is our nature) to guiding them as they grow (which takes some letting go).

Several helpful tips were shared by other parents at the Building a Family of Faith workshops: have a weekly “family meeting” to go over calendars for the week; one-on-one time with each kid allows for deeper conversation and can become rituals of connection; show interest in them – who they are and what they like, etc. – more than just their performance (grade, sports, accomplishments); always take their questions and feelings seriously and respond truthfully so they’ll keep coming to you with questions or concerns (you want to be a safe place for hard conversations); gradually give them privacy and independence as they mature, but also the assurance you’re close by if needed.

In summary: be present, be curious, be available. ■

For more parent-to-parent conversation like this, along with faith-sharing tips and plenty of laughs, check out “Building a Family of Faith” podcast hosted by Rachel Hall, Charlie Hardesty, Susy Solorza, and Danny May. Available now wherever you get your podcasts. And don’t miss the Building a Family of Faith resources page at owensborodiocese.org/building-a-family-of-faith.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Cesiley Bartley smiles with her toddler daughter in the narthex of St. Stephen Cathedral during Ash Wednesday Mass on March 29, 2024.

‘Praise the Lord!’

Catholic schools gather for Mass at Owensboro Sportscenter



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A student of St. Mary of the Woods School in Whitesville serves as one of the cantors for the responsorial psalm during the Sept. 16 Rainbow Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter. The name of the Mass comes from the variety of Catholic school uniforms present.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A rousing chorus of the happy birthday song filled the Owensboro Sportscenter on Sept. 16, where students, faculty and staff of the Diocese of Owensboro’s 17 Catholic schools sang to their bishop, whose birthday would be the following day.

Bishop William F. Medley gently smiled and looked up at the stands, where the multicolored school uniforms formed a rainbow of colors – hence the name for the Mass that had concluded several minutes prior: the “Rainbow Mass,” which is sponsored by the diocese’s Catholic Schools Office every other year.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Fr. Mike Williams, parochial vicar at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro and chaplain of Brescia University, distributes Holy Communion during the Sept. 16, 2026 Catholic Schools Office’s Rainbow Mass, which is named for the array of multicolored uniforms among the 17 schools represented.

The bishop had remarked during his homily at Mass that the Office of Worship had planned to distribute Holy Communion to about 2,400 people, and while he did not know the exact number of those attending, the sportscenter was certainly quite full. As is his tradition, Bishop Medley also called out every grade and every school throughout the sportscenter; all of whom respectively cheered when called upon.

“You are a sign of what’s best in God’s creation,” the bishop told the students in his homily, adding that “you are the promise of God – that you will take care of the earth.”

“We are born into a world of plenty, we are born into a world of abundance; we have everything we need,” said Bishop Medley, encouraging the



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Students attend the Diocese of Owensboro’s Catholic Schools Office’s Sept. 16, 2026 Rainbow Mass, named as such for the colorful uniforms filling the Owensboro Sportscenter.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Several girls laugh and cheer as their school is called upon by Bishop Medley during the Sept. 16 Rainbow Mass, which is named for the array of uniforms seen across the Owensboro Sportscenter when schools gather for the special Mass every other year.

Continues on page 15

Schools Mass continued from page 14



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley calls out grades and schools during his homily at the Sept. 16 Rainbow Mass at the Owensboro Sportscenter, which is named after the multicolored school uniforms among the 17 schools of the Diocese of Owensboro.

young people to remember to share their blessings with others.

The bishop also explained the history of the Rainbow Mass, who was founded by previous Catholic schools superintendent, Sr. Amelia Stenger, OSU, who died this past March. Sr. Stenger had been inspired to bring the Catholic school students together in a large Mass after attending the Catholic Schools Mission Crusade Masses while a student at Mount Saint Joseph Academy; the first Rainbow Mass was held in 1985.

“We form a rainbow to speak of God’s covenant,” said the bishop, reminding the students of God’s promise “to sustain us, to sustain the earth.”

At the conclusion of his homily, he led the students in several rounds of cheering “Praise the Lord!” ■

‘Simply the grace of God’- Local campus ministries welcome increased interest in faith among students

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

This fall, the Catholic campus ministries at both Western Kentucky University and Murray State University have observed an increasing rate of student involvement and interest in Catholicism.

“Honestly, there are a number of elements to which I would attribute this year’s fall outreach success, but I’ll limit myself to just a couple!” said Philomena Hempel, campus minister for Murray State’s Newman Center in Murray, Kentucky. “The first is simply the

grace of God: we are seeing around the country an increase in interest toward religion, and Murray is no different. All the planning in the world couldn’t do what a little bit of God’s grace is capable of.”

Secondly, Hempel credited the strong

leadership from both their FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionaries, and the Newman Center’s developing student leadership team.

Hempel said the missionaries and student leaders had worked hard at the end of the spring

2026 semester “to help prepare us for the fall so that we could jump right in.”

This year, in addition, the Newman Center has for the first time organized student leadership committees with students who are “passionate about building up Newman” and can “do a good job of welcoming both cradle Catholics and

those exploring what Christianity even is,” said Hempel.

She shared in the Newman Center’s newsletter that during this year’s nine-day Welcome Week, they made more than 200 new contacts, have had seven students interested in OCIA, and saw about



COURTESY OF PHILOMENA HEMPEL

Murray State University Newman Center members Lilly Watson (senior), Luke Yunker (FOCUS missionary), Matthew Lesniewski (FOCUS missionary), Michael TenEyck (senior), Landon Shupe (senior), Rachel Dalton (FOCUS missionary) and Hannah Weigel (FOCUS missionary) smile with a cardboard cutout of Pope Leo XIV during fall 2026 Welcome Week. Their table included “put-put for a donut,” with a little put-put green where students could get a donut for making the put, and getting a donut hole if they did not.

Continues on page 16

EDUCATION

Campus ministry continued from page 15

100 students come to the center's grill-out with yard games. During the semester's first Newman Night, they welcomed more than 60 students at Mass, more than 50 at the dinner, and witnessed more than 40 attending the concluding holy hour.

Katie Bickers, the director of campus ministry at the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, shared similar successes at the start of the semester.

She reported 210 new students encountered, based on the phone numbers collected; about 90 students have come to bible study, 24 students identified to lead bible studies this semester, and about 10 students inquiring about OCIA.

Bickers also said that there were around 60 students at the Catholic center's first adoration evening of the semester. They have already hosted nine events at St. Thomas Aquinas, including a trivia night hosted by the staff of neighboring Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center.

Another popular event has been "Club Top" (named for WKU's nickname, the Hilltoppers), "where we completely redecorate our entire building to look like a full-service mocktail bar and dance club," said Bickers. "We serve as a nightlife alternative for college students with no alcohol," which includes bouncers and staff overseeing the entire event.

Bickers said the students stayed until after midnight, "having a blast."

In addition, St. Thomas Aquinas has already held five sessions about "going out on campus" to encounter new students and invite them to visit the Catholic center. ■



COURTESY OF KATIE BICKERS
Several students with the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center smile with the Big Red mascot of Western Kentucky University during the Involvement Fair in fall 2026.



COURTESY OF KATIE BICKERS
Students smile for a photo while attending a grill-out at the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center at Western Kentucky University in fall 2026.



COURTESY OF PHILOMENA HEMPEL
Murray State University's Newman Center student leaders participate in a mini retreat at the beginning of the semester on Aug. 16., 2026.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



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Thank you
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UNITY IN DIVERSITY

You're invited to the Diocese of Owensboro's
2026 Celebration of National Migration Week

Saturday, October 3

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

4754 Smallhouse Road, Bowling Green, KY

Celebration will begin with 10 a.m. Mass presided over by
Bishop William F. Medley, preceded by a procession.
Liturgy is followed by food, fellowship, games, and music
(lawn chairs welcome!) Bring the whole family as we
celebrate the various cultures, languages, ethnicities, and
Catholic traditions present in our diocese.



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

Learn more:

owensborodiocese.org/migration-mass

RAFFLE



We are grateful
to everyone who
supported our raffle
and Quilt Bingo!

Congratulations!

Mount Saint Joseph Raffle Winners

- \$10,000.....Joan Stevenson of Sturgis, Ky.
- \$5,000Larry & Peggy Richards of New Albany, Ind.
- \$2,000Ida May Willhaus of Kansas City, Mo.
- QuiltRita Beth Tobianski of Dallas, Texas
- 50/50 Raffle....Nanette Blandford of Owensboro, Ky.

The drawing took place after Quilt Bingo on Sept. 13.

**More than 40 bingo winners
took home quilts!**

See photos of the day on our
website:
ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-bingo



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org
info.ms@maplemount.org

Owensboro community unites to promote respect for all stages of life

BY KEVIN DORTH, RIGHT TO LIFE OF OWENSBORO

The Owensboro community came together recently for the annual Right to Life of Owensboro Walk for Life, bringing together families, students, clergy, and supporters from throughout the area to stand together in support of the dignity and protection of human life.

The annual event provided participants with an opportunity to publicly express their support for the pro-life movement while joining together with others who share a commitment to protecting unborn children and supporting mothers and families. Participants of all ages took part, demonstrating that the pro-life cause continues to involve people from across the Owensboro community.

Among those attending the Walk for Life was Bishop William F. Medley. His participation added a strong Catholic presence to the event and reflected the involvement of local Catholic families, students, and organizations in supporting the annual walk.

Students from Owensboro Catholic High School also participated in the event. For many students, the Walk for Life offered an opportunity to take what they have learned about the dignity of human life and put those beliefs into action in their own community.



COURTESY OF KEVIN DORTH

People of all ages carry signs while participating in this year's Walk for Life, sponsored by Right to Life of Owensboro, which was held Sept. 12, 2026

Cecilia Thompson, a sophomore at Owensboro Catholic High School, attended the walk after being encouraged by one of her teachers.

"I came to the walk for life because I was encouraged by my teacher and show support for ending abortion," Thompson said.

Thompson was among the students who joined other members of the community in making their support for the pro-life cause visible. The participation of young people remains an important part of the annual event, giving students an opportunity to become actively involved in a local community effort.

The Walk for Life also serves as an opportunity for Right to Life of Owensboro to continue its mission of promoting respect for human life through education, outreach, and community involvement. The organization works throughout the year to encourage discussion about the dignity of every



COURTESY OF KEVIN DORTH

Participants in the Sept. 12, 2026 Walk for Life along Frederica Street in Owensboro carry a Right to Life of Owensboro banner.

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Walk for Life continued from page 18



COURTESY OF KEVIN DORTH

Bishop William F. Medley and Fr. John Vaughan are among those attending the Sept. 12, 2026 Walk for Life held along Frederica Street in Owensboro.

human person and to support efforts that promote a culture of life.

For those who participated, the annual Walk for Life represented an opportunity to stand together as a community and make their voices heard. Families walked alongside students, clergy, and fellow community members, creating a visible demonstration of local support for the pro-life cause.

As the annual event continues, organizers and participants hope to encourage more people, especially young people, to become involved in supporting human life and serving their community. The Walk for Life remains an important annual gathering for those in Owensboro who want to publicly demonstrate their commitment to the protection of unborn life.■

Kevin Dorth is the president of Right to Life of Owensboro.

St. John the Evangelist celebrates 65th parish picnic

BY WKC STAFF

On Sept. 12, 2026, St. John the Evangelist Parish celebrated the momentous occasion of its 65th annual parish picnic. The picnic served food from 12 noon to 7 p.m., and included a raffle, live music, fireworks and bingo, among many favorite picnic activities. St. John's pastor, Fr. Bruce Fogle, celebrated a closing Mass for the picnic at 8:45 p.m. that evening, during which the parish community thanked God for his blessings upon their picnic.■



COURTESY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

As the evening goes on, a band plays prior to fireworks at the 65th picnic held by St. John the Evangelist Parish in Paducah on Sept. 12, 2026.



COURTESY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Following their Sept. 12, 2026 parish picnic, the faithful of St. John the Evangelist in Paducah gathered for an evening Mass to thank God for all his blessings on the picnic.

Two 1968 classmates chosen for Maple Leaf Award during Alumnae Weekend

BY DAN HECKEL, MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

The annual Alumnae Weekend, an all-class reunion of Mount Saint Joseph Academy students, was a rousing success on Aug. 22-23, 2026. Two members of the class of 1968 were awarded the prestigious Maple Leaf Award.

The weekend began with a “Happy Days” themed event on Aug. 22 at St. Martin Parish Hall just outside Owensboro, Ky. On Sunday, Aug. 23, nearly 90 alums gathered at Mount Saint Joseph, where the day began with Mass at 9:30 a.m. Fr. Ray Goetz presided at his final alumnae Mass. He is retiring this fall as chaplain at the Mount, and was honored during the program later in the day with an oversized card and a plaque with praying hands.

During the Mass, Alumnae Association officers Alicia Harrington '82 and Lisa Calhoun Mulligan '75 read the names of the alumnae whose deaths have been reported since Alumnae Weekend 2025. You can read the list of those names here: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/alumnae-memorial-mass>.

During the annual business meeting, there was a unanimous decision for the Alumnae Association to make \$1,000 donations to each of four ministries – Casa Ursulina, where Sister Mimi Ballard '66 serves; Water By Women, where Sister Lorraine Lauter '77 serves; Catholic Charities; and the Louisville Days for Girls chapter, which makes washable period products for girls in impoverished nations so that they don't have to miss school while on their periods. Sheila Ward '71 spoke about the charity during the meeting. Several alums made individual

contributions to each of the charities.

The highlight each year is the naming of up to two graduates who have esteemed themselves to be selected for the Maple Leaf Award. Every year since 2000, the award has been given to those who “personify the values of their Mount Saint Joseph education in contributions to their local faith communities, civic communities, and/or Mount Saint Joseph.”

This year's recipients were both members of the class of 1968 – Pat Wedding Stelmach and Carole Caummisar Sanders.

Deborah Lord Campisano '68, read the nomination for Pat Stelmach, noting her 34 years as a secretary in the Owensboro Public Schools.

“In her office, she displayed a poster of a high-heeled shoe with the words, ‘Put your best foot forward!’ That saying became more than a cheerful decoration. It captured the way Pat approached her work, her service, and her life. ... Pat retired in 2014, but continues to volunteer, including dressing as Mrs. Claus for the children at holiday time.”

Pat is active at Immaculate Catholic Church in Owensboro and faithfully volunteers to call Quilt Bingo for the Ursuline Sisters every year.

In her acceptance speech, Pat thanked her husband of 57 years, Todd Stelmach, “who's always been my biggest cheerleader.” Her three children were present, along with two sisters. She thanked her parents for instilling her faith in her. They sent all 10 of their children to Catholic school, she said.

Sr. Pam Mueller read the nomination for her classmate, Carole Caummisar Sanders. Carole



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Brett Ballard plays the piano as Carolyn Sue Cecil '73 plays the flute and Jennifer Speaks McGee '70 cantors during the opening hymn “Gather the People” during Mount Saint Joseph's annual Alumnae Weekend. The Mount Saint Joseph Academy Alumnae Weekend Mass took place in the Motherhouse Chapel in Maple Mount.

taught in Catholic and public schools in Louisville for 40 years, serving as an academic competition competitor. Even in retirement she continues to volunteer her skills with young people. She is active at the Parish of St. Peter the Apostle, where she is considered a “treasure.”

In her acceptance speech, Carole credited Sr. Victoria Brohm for guiding her and encouraging her to go to college.

“I don't know that my life would have taken that direction without her seeing something in me that I didn't see in myself,” she said.

Carole quoted St. Irenaeus saying, “The glory of God is man fully alive,” and related it to the education she received at Mount Saint Joseph Academy.

“I see that in this place,” she said. “We were instilled with a passion for art, for music, and for beauty.”

Alumnae Weekend next year is scheduled for Aug. 21-22, 2027. ■



COURTESY OF BRESCIA UNIVERSITY

The students in the inaugural Physician Assistant (PA) program at Brescia University in Owensboro are seen during their White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 24, 2026.

Brescia's inaugural PA program cohort honored at White Coat Ceremony

BY RACHEL WHELAN, BRESCIA UNIVERSITY

Brescia University in Owensboro marked a historic milestone as students in the inaugural Physician Assistant (PA) program cohort received their white coats during a special White Coat Ceremony held on the Owensboro Health campus on Aug. 24, 2026.

The White Coat Ceremony is a significant

tradition in healthcare education, symbolizing students' entry into clinical training and their commitment to providing compassionate, patient-centered care. Surrounded by family, friends, faculty, and supporters, members of the inaugural cohort were presented with their white coats as they took an important step forward in their professional journeys.

Congratulations to the inaugural Physician Assistant cohort on this remarkable achievement and the start of an exciting journey. The cohort members are:

Alicia Gourley, PA-S
 Cyia Haycraft, PA-S
 Kloe Johnston, PA-S
 Josephine Gesser-Rouch, PA-S
 Adriann Kirnos, PA-S
 Michelle Maag, PA-S
 Katharine Mahoney, PA-S
 Nicholas Miller, PA-S
 Thadeus Ted Pabello, PA-S
 Sahira Patel, PA-S
 Avery Patrick, PA-S
 Ethan Petrosky, PA-S
 Rhianna Pickrell, PA-S
 Lexi Quartaro, PA-S
 Jaci Richardson, PA-S
 Carley Smith, PA-S
 Brody Strobakken, PA-S
 Dale Ann Sunny, PA-S
 Ashley Williams, PA-S
 Valerie Adams, PA-S
 Chibuike Amadi, PA-S
 Angel Bradley, PA-S
 Samantha Colglazier, PA-S
 Jaylee Covington, PA-S
 Brock DeRoche, PA-S
 Jayla Ditterline, PA-S
 Grace Drexel, PA-S
 Katherine Files, PA-S
 Wyatt Fireline, PA-S
 Vivienne Foltz, PA-S

To learn more, visit www.brescia.edu/program/physician-assistant-program. ■

A community focused on Jesus

Gaspar River kicks off 20-year celebration



RILEY GREIF | WKC

A total of 135 people, including Bishop William F. Medley, attending Gaspar River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center's 20-year kickoff celebration on Sept. 13, stand by the iconic outdoor crucifix.

BY BEN WARRELL, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Our first homecoming was a wonderful celebration of a community focused on Jesus – and it was beautiful!

On Sept. 13, a total of 135 people came together at Gaspar River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center to kick off the yearlong celebration of 20 years of ministry. We gathered

to have Mass with Bishop Medley, enjoy the grounds, share stories, ride the zipline and climb the vertical playground, and enjoy a cookout dinner. (Special thanks to Knight of Columbus Council 1315 for providing the food and grilling for us, and to Meltdown Ice Cream for providing dessert!)

Staff and campers from the very first summer to staff and campers from this past summer were in attendance and each had a special story or

memory to share about their experience at camp. Bishop Medley noted that 11,000 campers have come through the gates the past 20 years and seeds of faith were planted in each of them. Thousands and thousands of meals have been served and thousands and thousands of rides on the zipline and the other program activities have been enjoyed.

Since the entire facility exists to help people encounter Jesus Christ, the most important numbers were the thousands of confessions and Masses celebrated and time in Adoration. Vocations to the priesthood, consecrated religious life, marriages, jobs with Catholic organizations all over the country and teachers in our Catholic schools right here in our diocese are just some of the fruits from this holy place over the last 20 years.

Not to mention thousands of campers and retreat guests encountering Jesus, many for the first time, and sharing their faith in their families and communities.

Dreams for the next 20 years were also shared with a focus on a new chapel, a new conference center, a new office building, a new maintenance area, and a new swimming pool to help enhance camper and retreat guests' experience.

Please pray for the ministry here at camp for the next 20 years, and, if you are able, please visit our website, www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org and get signed up to be part of the Friends of Gaspar River program. This is a monthly donor program to continue to help camp grow and help more young people encounter Christ for years to come. ■

Ben Warrell is the director of Gaspar River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, a ministry of the Diocese of Owensboro.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Former campers and staff of Gasper River participate in Mass with Bishop William F. Medley during the camp and retreat center's Sept. 13 20-year kickoff celebration.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Melinda Prunty, left, laughs with Bishop William F. Medley while attending the 20-year kickoff celebration for Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. Prunty previously served as the director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Current Gasper River staff lead music during the Sept. 13 20-year kickoff celebration Mass.

Marriage: Something to celebrate

Diocese hosts couples marking milestone anniversaries

BY RACHEL HALL, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Sunday, Sept. 20, 68 couples gathered at St. Stephen Cathedral for the annual Marriage Celebration Mass with Bishop William F. Medley. Among them were John and Patsy Clayton of St. Stephen Cathedral, who were recognized as the longest-married couple in attendance this year, having been married for 69 years.

Bishop Medley noted in his homily that the couples present represented more than 3,000 cumulative years of marriage. He spoke of marriage as extravagant in its love and forgiveness, saying that through the accumulation of ordinary moments, lived in love and faithfulness, a couple can build something extraordinary.

The Mass was hosted by the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Marriage and Family Life, which provides a wide range of Catholic programs and initiatives to help marriages and

families thrive throughout western Kentucky. These include marriage preparation, marriage and family enrichment, counseling services, natural family planning and fertility awareness instruction, along with the Clean Heart Initiative.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

A couple smiles while renewing their wedding vows during the Sept. 20, 2026 Marriage Celebration Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral.

Most recently, in collaboration with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the office began a podcast and article series titled "Building a Family of Faith," offering practical guidance for families seeking to strengthen their spiritual lives together. (The debut article can be found on page 13 of this issue, and the podcast can be found on all podcast platforms.)

Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, diocesan marriage and family life director, Danny May, not only hosted the day but also commemorated 25 years of marriage with his wife, Kelly.

"This event is one of our favorites of the year in the Office of Marriage and Family Life, and it was just a little extra special this year getting to celebrate this milestone with Kelly and other

Continues on page 24

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Marriage continued from page 23

couples throughout the diocese,” he said. ■

To connect or learn more, call (270) 683-1545, email director Danny May at danny.may@pastoral.org or administrative assistant Sara Lewis at sara.lewis@pastoral.org, or visit owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Those celebrating milestone anniversaries are seen after the Sept. 20, 2026 Marriage Celebration Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Monica and Russell Rhodes hold hands while attending the Sept. 20, 2026 Marriage Celebration Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

A family attends the Sept. 20, 2026 Marriage Celebration Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral, which is an annual Mass noting specific milestone anniversaries within the Diocese of Owensboro.



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Heather Greene, the Diocese of Owensboro's director of music, is seen with her husband, Ron, on Sept. 20, 2026 at the annual Marriage Celebration Mass. Greene directed the music for the Mass while also celebrating a milestone anniversary with her husband.

October Wedding Anniversaries

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

A note from the WKC: Make sure your anniversary is listed! The WKC recognizes 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and over 50 anniversaries being celebrated for the month printed (for instance, this issue shows the milestone anniversaries for October). In order to appear in the WKC's monthly anniversaries, you must be listed by your parish. Please contact your parish directly to make sure your anniversary is on file with them.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Jack & Doris Mills, 68
John & Riley Hess, 56
Jonathan & Caitlen Hayden, 10
Kevan & Ashley Kelly, 10
Steve & Gloria Baker, 56

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Brett & Jamie Bisel, 5
Danny & Cindy Clark, 51

Christ the King, Madisonville

Jud & Karen Caldwell, 59
Logan & Railey Higginson, 10

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Dean & Mary Ann Jorgensen, 61
Dwight & Diana Emerson, 62
Harry & Donna Mathison, 25
Larry & Phyllis Bumpus, 59
Peter & Lisa Perrone, 40
Richard & Lori Deckard, 51
Ronald & Dretha Weddell, 59
Soap & Sandy Wilson, 57

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Patrick & Cynthia Ziller, 58
Robert & Sue Ling, 25

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Charles & Diane Ewan, 50
Charles & Mary Ann Wolfram, 57
Fred & Karen Bolek, 55
James & Traci Duff, 25
Joseph & Rosa Khai, 10
Kris & Julie Bucy, 40
Leon & Sherry Volkert, 58
Virgil & Joyce Villanueva, 54

Holy Trinity, Morgantown

Melvin & Mary Anne Bowles, 58

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Roger & Kathy Ordal, 55

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

James & Gwan Bickett, 57
Monty & Noel Quinn, 50
Pat & Rebecca Wheatley, 5

Immaculate, Owensboro

Bill & Kay Pence, 52
Byron & Lucy Rhoades, 50
James & Catherine Boyd, 52
Jim & Kathy Likens, 55
Joe & Ann Roth, 62
John & Suzanne Caudill, 40
Kenny & Sheila Cecil, 54

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Clinton & Marsha Terry, 56
Gary & Jennifer Johnson, 10
Jerry & Virginia Harper, 60
John & Kindra Young, 10
Joseph & Mary Jane Clark, 64
Nathan & Mary March, 5
Robert & Christina Deason, 5
Robert & Debra Horton, 53
Ted & Jessica Johnston, 5
TJ & Anna Simmons, 5

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Bruce & Sharon Tucker, 52
Danny & Kelly May, 25
Gerald & Lucy Goetz, 58
Larry & Patricia Murphy, 62
Tim & Diann Shock, 53
Tony & Charlotte Powers, 52

Sacred Heart, Russellville

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OCTOBER 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.

'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

Oct. 10 Cursillo 4th Day Retreat

Come join us for our annual 4th Day Retreat! Oct. 10 at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville. We'll meet from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and this day will include Mass. Please bring a favorite dish to share as we fellowship! In addition, please start talking to God about those friends you think would like to come to our next weekends. Invite them to share in your group. Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ! De Colores! Questions may be sent to (270) 889-3546.

2026 Franciscan Jubilee Year Pilgrimages

1-day pilgrimages...(<https://tinyurl.com/2026jubileepilgrimages>). On Oct. 3, 2026 the Church celebrates the life of St. Francis of Assisi on the 800th date of his passing from his earthly presence to eternal life. On Jan. 10, 2026, a special Jubilee Year of St. Francis was proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, ending Jan. 10, 2027. Inviting you and your friends, family, neighbors, parish communities to embark on a journey as we grow in faith and

community on pilgrimage with St. Francis of Assisi encountering Christ in the people, beauty, culture, and history present amongst us. More information and registration follow links. Sunday, Oct. 11: Franciscan & Benedictine Marian Pilgrimage, St. Meinrad, IN, includes the St. Meinrad October Marian procession at Monte Cassino (<https://tinyurl.com/20261011meinradpilgrimage>). Saturday, Nov. 7: Franciscan Jubilee of Presence Pilgrimage, Sts. Francis & Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, IN (<https://tinyurl.com/20261107francispilgrimagein>). Saturday, Dec. 5: Franciscan Jubilee Living Lectio Pilgrimage, St. Francis of Assisi, Guthrie, KY (<https://tinyurl.com/20261205francispilgrimageky>). Questions: contact Robin Murphey, pilgrimage facilitator, St. Meinrad alum: asimplesmilejourney@gmail.com.

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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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.

Holy Spirit Golf Classic Oct. 30

Holy Spirit Golf Classic: Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, Crosswinds Golf Course, Bowling Green, Kentucky. 8:30 a.m. shotgun. Register online at www.HolySpiritGolfClassic.com. For more information: bill@holyspiritcatholic.org.

Stand Up for Families at Grand Stable Oct. 30

We are excited to invite you to one of the Daniel Pitino Shelter's biggest nights of the year, Stand Up for Families, Friday, Oct. 30 at Grand Stable in Owensboro, Ky. This is always a great night of laughter, food, entertainment, and community, but most importantly, it helps us continue serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness right here in our community. This year's show will feature headliner Ricky Glore and our MC, Timmy Barron, along with local talent, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, a 50/50 raffle, and plenty of laughs! We would love to have your business, church, organization, family, or group of friends join us. Tables of 8: \$500; individual tickets: \$75. Sponsorship opportunities include: Food Sponsor – \$2,500; Platinum Sponsor – \$1,500; Gold Sponsor – \$800; Silver Sponsor – \$500; Bronze Sponsor – \$350. For more information: director@pitinoshelter.org or call or text (270) 315-4419.

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>.

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.

Corrections

In the September 2026 issue of The Western Kentucky Catholic, on page 23, it was incorrectly stated that the cross on top of the steeple at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro has been repaired. However, the cross has not yet been repaired and is still in the process of being fixed. The WKC apologizes for this confusion.

Please be sure to send any comments, questions, or corrections to wkc.editor@pastoral.org.



Gathering for Foster and Adoptive Families

RSVP ONLINE



Saturday, November 14th
St. Joseph, Bowling Green



Catholic
Charities
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

YOU'VE GOT THIS

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.



Historic Halloween at MSJ ‘by the light of the harvest moon’

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

Imagine a quintessential American Halloween party. Do you think of candy, bobbing for apples, orange and black streamers, costumes, ghost stories, candied apples, paper cutouts of skeletons, black cats and bats? You probably think of something akin to the Halloween party in “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.” Let me add one thing to that list that you probably missed, religious sisters! That’s right, decades before Charlie Brown’s iconic Halloween special, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph were having Halloween parties rife with all the iconic spooky charm that the holiday brings!

As unexpected as it may be to many, the Mount was a center of Halloween spirit. Each year, there were as many as three Halloween parties taking place on Halloween night at the Mount. The students from the Junior College, the Academy girls, and the sisters each prepared and had their own parties. All were loaded with candy, decorations, games, door prizes and costumes.

Each party was elaborately decorated and thoroughly planned. In October 1951, the academy’s newspaper reported, “By the light of the harvest moon” the Academy girls were “led by two mysterious creatures who seem to be neither flesh nor fowl” to the recreation hall,

which had been transformed into the “hall of horrors.” There they were “greeted by much too friendly ghosts, goblins, and skeletons” where the Halloween party, sponsored by the juniors, commenced.

Likewise, in 1947, the community annals tell

attractions at their party; the “Path of Mystery” and the “Hall of Goblins.” Only the bravest souls dared to traverse them.

Celebration spaces decorated with black and orange streamers, pumpkins, cornstalks, black cats, jack-o-lanterns, grinning skulls and crossbones are mentioned in the records year after year. Costume contests, spooky parades, ghost stories, fortune telling, spooky Halloween skits and plays; all these things and more were staples of the yearly celebrations.

All involved loved the festivities. Commenting on how hard the juniors worked to put the party together, one sophomore, Mary Ray Stum, remarked that she’d “never seen the MSJ girls work so vigorously and diligently before.”

You’d be hard pressed to find a more picturesque Halloween experience than these 1940s and 1950s MSJ Halloween parties. Nameless ghouls leading a parade of costumed party goers beneath the Mount’s famed maple trees as their leaves turn orange and yellow. With the evenings

growing cold, the giddy laughter, shrieks of terror and seasonal songs fill the chilly air of the fall night. Many tricks and treats were to be had on Halloween at Mount Saint Joseph. ■

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



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Novices are seen bobbing for apples at one of the yearly Halloween parties at Mount Saint Joseph in this undated archives photo.

us that the postulants and novices decorated the refectory with “orange crepe paper, skeletons, cats, etc.” Here the sisters enjoyed candy, cakes, and chocolate dipped apples. Two postulants dressed as witches and read fortunes with a wand that had strips of paper on it. The sisters would remove a strip of paper and read the prediction that was printed upon it. In 1952, the Academy girls featured two haunted

Un mensaje del Obispo Medley: Desde sus raíces campesinas hasta el papado, San Juan XXIII continúa inspirando

En la Diócesis de Owensboro, nuestra nueva residencia para sacerdotes jubilados, cuya inauguración está prevista antes de finales de este año, se llamará Hogar Roncalli para Sacerdotes, en honor a San Juan XXIII, cuyo nombre de bautismo era Ángelo Giuseppe Roncalli. Su pequeña capilla estará dedicada a San Juan XXIII.

Ángelo Giuseppe Roncalli nació el 25 de noviembre de 1881 en el norte de Italia, siendo uno de los 13 hijos de una familia de medieros que salía adelante con simple perseverancia. Fue ordenado sacerdote en 1904 tras completar sus estudios en el seminario, donde se distinguió como estudiante. Al inicio de su sacerdocio, comenzó a prestar servicio en diversos puestos diplomáticos de la Santa Sede.

Su origen humilde no era el típico para ascender en la Iglesia a principios del siglo XX, pero parece que en cada nivel de servicio se distinguió, aunque muchos en la jerarquía eclesiástica lo consideraran simplemente un campesino.

En diversos cargos que desempeñó durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, el Padre Roncalli había hecho discretamente todo lo que pudo para ayudar a los judíos de Europa a escapar de la persecución nazi. Esta historia permaneció en gran parte desconocida y sin ser reconocida hasta que terminó la guerra. Si el Padre Roncalli hubiera dado a conocer su trabajo, probablemente habría sido en gran detrimento tanto de quienes intentaba ayudar como de él mismo.

Tras la guerra, el Papa Pío XII nombró al Padre Roncalli nuncio apostólico en Francia, un cargo de gran relevancia en la época de la reconstrucción de

Europa. Este papel exigía su presencia y participación en la vida política y social de París.

En 1953 fue nombrado arzobispo y patriarca de Venecia, siendo entonces y todavía ahora uno de los



FOTO DE CNS

En esta fotografía de archivo de 1963, el Papa San Juan XXIII firma su encíclica "Paz en la tierra" ("Pacem in Terris") en el Vaticano. Considerada una obra destacada de la doctrina social de la Iglesia, la encíclica aborda los derechos universales y las relaciones entre los Estados. El futuro santo, cuyo nombre de bautismo era Ángelo Giuseppe Roncalli, también es conocido por haber inaugurado el Concilio Vaticano II.

más destacados de toda la Iglesia. En este cargo también fue nombrado cardenal y se hizo más conocido entre los cardenales, en su mayoría europeos e italianos.

En noviembre de 1958, el Arzobispo Roncalli fue elegido papa tras la muerte del Papa Pío XII y tomó el nombre de Juan XXIII. Tenía 76 años, y la opinión generalizada era que el Colegio Cardenalicio había elegido a un hombre de edad avanzada para ejercer

un papado de transición, dado que la Iglesia aún se esforzaba por definir su lugar y reorganizarse en la Europa de la posguerra.

El papa de transición sorprendió al mundo, y a sus cardenales, cuando, apenas unas semanas después de asumir el pontificado, anunció que convocaría un concilio ecuménico, el primero en más de 90 años. Según se cuenta, consultó con sus confidentes más cercanos acerca de esta intención y lo alentaron a tomarse su tiempo. Con su anuncio en enero de 1959, sorprendió a la Iglesia y al mundo.

El Concilio Vaticano II se inauguró el 11 de octubre de 1962, reuniendo a obispos de todo el mundo para la primera de cinco sesiones de una semana de duración que concluirían en diciembre de 1965.

El Papa Juan XXIII solo vivió para ver y participar en la primera de esas cinco sesiones, ya que falleció en junio de 1963. Fue canonizado en 2014 por el Papa Francisco. Su fiesta litúrgica se estableció el 11 de octubre para conmemorar la apertura del Concilio Vaticano II.

Un recuerdo más del sentido del humor de San Juan XXIII. En una ocasión le preguntaron: "¿Cuántas personas trabajan en el Vaticano?". Su rápida respuesta: "Oh, aproximadamente la mitad de ellos".

¡Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes siempre!

+ William F. Medley

Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

CALENDARIO DEL
OBISPO MEDLEY
OCTUBRE DE 2026

2 DE OCT.	12:00 p.m. Almuerzo con sacerdotes mayores – Residencia del Obispo
3 DE OCT.	10:00 a. m. Misa diocesana y celebración de la Semana de la Migración – Parroquia Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green
19 DE OCT.	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith
	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith
20 DE OCT.	9:30 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Primaria Santa María, Paducah
21 DE OCT.	11:45 a.m. Oración del mediodía y almuerzo con las monjas pasionistas – Monasterio Pasionista, Whitesville
24 DE OCT.	9 a.m. Misa del Mes Respetemos la Vida – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
	11 a.m. Jubileo de las Religiosas – Parroquia San Martín, Rome
25-27 DE OCT.	Visita al seminario
28 DE OCT.	10 a.m. Reunión del Personal – Centro Católico McRaith
29 DE OCT..	10 a.m. Día del Presbiterio – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
30 DE OCT.	1:30 p.m. Profesión de votos perpetuos – Monasterio Pasionista, Whitesville



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Dos jóvenes llevan las ofrendas por el pasillo central de la Catedral de San Esteban durante el ofertorio de la Misa diocesana del 4 de octubre de 2025 con motivo de la Semana Nacional de la Migración.

¿Cómo logran los padres inculcar la fe en sus hijos adultos?

POR DANNY MAY, OFICINA DE MATRIMONIO Y VIDA FAMILIAR

Los hijos adultos todavía nos necesitan. Necesitan nuestra sabiduría, nuestra experiencia de vida y nuestra perspectiva. Como padres de hijos adultos, nuestro enfoque cambia: pasamos de enseñar la fe a dar testimonio de ella. Un padre de familia compartió lo crucial que es no dejar nunca de invitar a nuestros hijos adultos a conversaciones sobre la fe, mostrándoles de forma constante y auténtica nuestra propia fe. La clave está en la autenticidad, es decir, en esos momentos en que la fe surge de forma natural en una conversación o en circunstancias cotidianas, de modo que se percibe menos forzada y sin presión.

Por ejemplo, compartir sus propias perspectivas sobre lo que ustedes están aprendiendo o las dificultades que están enfrentando. Cuenten su historia. Háganles preguntas sobre su fe, dejen que respondan y resistan la tentación de sermonearlos. Mantengan vivas las tradiciones religiosas familiares y las tradiciones festivas, pero inviten, no obliguen.

Estar presentes, en lugar de ser agobiantes o intrusivos, ayuda a mantener abiertas las vías de comunicación con nuestros hijos adultos para que se sientan cómodos acudiendo a nosotros cuando necesiten ayuda o tengan preguntas. Recordarán lo que les enseñaron. Ahora, probablemente estén observando para ver si ustedes lo creen y siguen viviéndolo. Ese es el poder del testimonio. ■

El Papa León XIV nombra al presidente del comité de migración de los obispos de EEUU como nuevo obispo de Joliet, Illinois

POR OSV NEWS

WASHINGTON (OSV News) – El Papa León XIV ha nombrado al obispo Brendan J. Cahill, de Victoria, Texas, como el próximo obispo de la Diócesis de Joliet, Illinois.

El nombramiento fue anunciado el 17 de septiembre en Washington por el arzobispo Gabriele Caccia, nuncio apostólico en Estados Unidos.

El obispo Cahill sucede a un período de liderazgo interino en Joliet a cargo del obispo auxiliar Dennis E. Spies, quien se ha desempeñado como administrador apostólico desde que el Papa León nombró al obispo Ronald A. Hicks arzobispo de Nueva York.

Nacido en Coral Gables, Florida, en 1963, el obispo Cahill estudió psicología, teología y estudios afroamericanos antes de obtener títulos de posgrado en teología dogmática en Roma. Según su biografía diocesana, “Estos estudios desarrollaron su conocimiento y apreciación de la riqueza de la cultura en la expresión de la fe, así como la profundidad del pensamiento de los teólogos y obispos que participaron en el Concilio Vaticano II”.

Ordenado sacerdote en 1990 para la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston, el obispo Cahill se desempeñó en el ministerio parroquial, la formación en seminarios y en cargos de liderazgo del clero antes de que el Papa Francisco lo nombrara obispo de Victoria en 2015.

Como presidente del Comité de Migración de la USCCB, lanzó en noviembre de 2025 la campaña “No estás solo”/“You are not alone” en solidaridad con los migrantes, iniciada en respuesta al creciente temor y la

inestabilidad causados por el aumento de las medidas de control migratorio y la amenaza de deportaciones masivas.

“La dignidad humana no depende del estatus migratorio”, afirmó en inglés en el video publicado por la USCCB. “Es un don de Dios y no se la puede quitar. En este momento, muchas familias migrantes que viven en nuestras comunidades están lidiando con un miedo y una incertidumbre reales, preocupadas por sus hijos, su futuro y si podrán permanecer juntas”, dijo, mientras muchas familias vivían con temor a las redadas del ICE.

“Queremos hablar con claridad. La Iglesia los ve, se preocupa por ustedes y está de su lado como hijos de Dios”, dijo el obispo Cahill, y agregó que “se está alentando a nuestras parroquias a brindar información precisa a los inmigrantes, conectar a las familias con recursos confiables y crear espacios donde las personas puedan encontrar tanto ayuda como esperanza. Nuestra fe nos enseña que cada persona es creada a imagen de Dios”.

El obispo también forma parte de varias juntas directivas de instituciones educativas y ministeriales católicas. ■



UNIDAD EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Convocados a la celebración diocesana anual de la
Semana Nacional de Migración 2026

Sábado 3 de Octubre
Parroquia del Espíritu Santo (Holy Spirit)
4754 Smallhouse Road, Bowling Green, KY

Procesión desde la entrada con Estandartes/Banderas/Danzas 9:30am
Santa Misa presidida por el Obispo Medley 10:00am
Convivio/Juegos/ bailables interculturales/Comida 11:30am...

Se le anima a las parroquias/familias que gusten y puedan traer algún
platillo propio de su nación de origen hacerlo. Si necesitaran un
espacio/ mesa solo avizar.
¡Bienvenidos!

Para mas informacion:
Diac. Cristóbal Gutiérrez (270) 880-8018
WhatsApp/Llamada/Texto


**Diócesis de
OWENSBORO**



CNS PHOTO/LOLA GOMEZ

Pope Leo XIV smiles during a meeting with hundreds of diocesan leaders at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome, Sept. 18, 2026. The diocesan assembly opened the new pastoral year for the Diocese of Rome.

Priests, pastoral leaders have permission to do less, do it better, pope says

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME (CNS) – Led by their priests, Catholics need to come together and face the truth about what their local church is doing and why, Pope Leo XIV told clergy and laypeople in his diocese. This process of discernment and “pastoral evaluation does not ask you to do more; on the contrary, it gives you permission to do less ~ and to do it better,” the pope, who is bishop of Rome, said to applause. Pope Leo addressed hundreds of diocesan leaders, both clergy and laity, during a diocesan assembly Sept. 18 at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome. The method entails “seeking the truth,” he said, by “recognizing what has borne fruit, understanding what did not work and seeking the reasons for this together.” “Why are we doing it? What evangelical intention motivates us? What real need are we seeking to address? How does this choice align with the Church's mission?” Then, he said, they must ask, “Why do we achieve these results and not others? Why do some initiatives foster growth while others remain isolated? Why do some people participate while others remain on the sidelines?” Discerning the reasons for their choices and the reasons for how those choices turned out will allow “us to recognize what should be maintained, valued, corrected, abandoned or initiated,” the pope said. ■

Pastors, parish staff, and parish leaders are invited

The 10th annual Diocese of Owensboro convocation will dive into the heart of the Church's mission on Nov. 10, 2026. RSVP by Oct. 10 at <https://owensborodiocese.org/event/diocesan-convocation-day/>