

Hannah Hagan Earns a 36 Composite Score on ACT Exam

Special To The Western Kentucky Catholic

Absolutely amazing news! Hannah Hagan, daughter of Martha Hagan, earned the highest score possible, a composite score of 36, on the ACT exam she took in October! She is a student at Owensboro Catholic High School.

When asked what her reaction was after learning that she had attained a score of 36, she said, "I was excited but couldn't believe it was real. I logged off of the computer and logged on again to see if I had truly earned a 36!"

The ACT is the college entrance exam of choice in our region of the US. Virtually all students in Kentucky now take this test every year. The ACT score is used for admission, scholarship and course placement decisions made by universities, which makes this exam a high stakes test to graduating seniors with post-secondary plans.

To put a composite score of 36 in perspective, Ed Colby, an ACT spokesperson, shared with us "that less than 1/10 of 1% of all students that take the ACT will score a 36. This score will open up every door of every university." The composite score is an average of the scores for the four areas tested: English, Math, Reading and Science.

Hannah is also a National Merit Semi-Finalist applying for Finalist status. She carries a 4.0 cumulative GPA as a first semester senior. She was chosen as a Kentucky Governor's Scholar which gave her the opportunity to attend Morehead State University this past summer for five weeks. Hannah chose to focus on Philosophy while there and loved studying this discipline. She ranked this experience as her top award stating it was an incredible experience. A highlight for her was getting to meet different people on campus there.

When asked how she was able to attain such an incredible score, she stated that she has always chosen to take the most difficult courses possible and puts in an average of 2-3 hours of study every day including weekends. She not only took the EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT in the past but used the online ACT practice tests and test-taking strategies to prepare as well. She also shared that without the support of her family and the excellent education she received from the Owensboro Catholic School System she could not have attained this score.

Hannah expressed gratitude to her mother, sister and extended family in addition to all of her teachers. In her ca-

reer as a student in Catholic schools, the fourth grade stood out in her mind as her teacher worked with her students in small groups which allowed her to accelerate in math. This was also the year she was able to join the Academic Team which is one of her favorite outside school activities in which to participate. Hannah stated that the qualities of the teachers that had the greatest impact on her were: content is interesting and important to the teacher, s/he is engaging, knows their content well, can keep a class under instructional control, and implement the use of activities as another way to learn.

Hannah shares another gift that brings her joy with her parish community of St. Pius X. She plays the piano for the Religious Education students and has played for diocesan events as well. She enjoys meeting the parents of OCS students while serving her school community by working in the OCS SCRIP office. When she has spare time, she loves to read and play games with her extended family.

Hannah stated that she is grateful to God for the gifts He has given her. She hopes to pursue a career in the field of mathematics putting to use her great talent in that content area. The top two col-



Hannah Hagan

lege choices for her at this time are Centre and Transylvania.

We celebrate Hannah's awesome achievement and pray in thanksgiving for her life shared with her family, parish, school, and diocesan communities.

Captivating Extraordinary Synod Provides Cause For Great Expectation And Hope

By Bishop Charles C. Thompson, Diocese of Evansville, IN.



Catholics and non-Catholics were captivated by the recent III Extraordinary Gen-

eral Assembly of the Synod of Bishops addressing "The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization," held in Rome, Oct. 5-18 – perhaps more so than with any other previous Synod of Bishops. Our interest on this particular Synod peaked for at least three primary reasons: (1) The continued popularity of Pope Francis; (2) The inclusive manner in which information was gathered by surveying persons "in the pew"; and (3) The shared understanding of the family as a core value of

the human experience as well as societal stability. Some observers seemed motivated by a sense of concern or apprehension of possible change in long-standing Church doctrine while others seemed motivated out of a sense of anticipation for some type of new ground breaking openness in the Church. While there have been some misunderstandings and even apparent frustrations on what has been gleaned from the Synod thus far, I believe that there is cause for great ex-

Continued on page 7

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I Urge All To Read The Actual Words of *Relatio Synodi*



Most Reverend
William F. Medley,
Bishop of
Owensboro

Dear sisters and brothers,

After the Second Vatican Council Pope Paul VI wished to assure the continued spiritual and intellectual dialogue that had marked the sessions of that historic gathering of all the bishops of the world. Realizing that gatherings of that scale would be complex and costly, he envisioned periodic synods, representative gatherings of bishops from around the world for relatively short meetings of two to three weeks to explore matters of vital faith and teaching and practice. There have been thirteen such synods since 1970 and the library of

valued documents and teaching produced is vast.

These gatherings however were largely scripted by scholars and Synod organizers well in advance of the gathering. When Pope Francis foresaw a 2015 Synod on problems and challenges affecting families in the modern world, he realized that prescribing the dialogue might not allow the unique challenges of families throughout our diverse world and may well leave too many important considerations not adequately covered. Thus he hurriedly proposed that there would be a 2014 Extraordinary Synod to begin the work of the later Synod.

With the Synod's opening he urged the bishops and 13 married couples in attendance to speak frankly to assure that

the real challenges and crises of families might be prayerfully considered. The media, both secular and religious, predictably sought as the meeting went on to portray the proceedings as sensational. And they were sensational --- not in a Hollywood gossip style, but sensational in style and honesty and genuine concern for the Church and the world's families.

Having followed hundreds of writers and commentators, I found a most astute reflection on the synod very close to home. I read an article that Bishop Charles Thompson of the Diocese of Evansville had prepared for their diocesan paper, *The Messenger*. I asked him if we might reprint this article for The Western Kentucky Catholic and he graciously consented. (See page 1.)

He offers a thorough and balanced accounting of what happened and what did not happen. In the months to come all

dioceses of the world will be invited to engage in the dialogue that will lead up to the 2015 synod. The final document of the just completed synod will serve as the starting for these discussions. That document ("Relatio Synodi" at www.Vatican.va - The Holy See website) is only 62 paragraphs and is very readable. It does not contain abstract and difficult language.

So I urge everyone to read it. Don't depend on what the media reported, but read the Synod's actual words. Pray that the Holy Spirit who has begun this good work in the Church may bring it to greater fulfillment.

May God Bless You all!

+Most Reverend William F. Medley,
Bishop of Owensboro

How To Live Your Life As A Catholic Man

4th Annual Catholic Men's Conference - Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015
At St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro

The Conference addresses such issues as: What does it mean to be a Catholic Man in a secular world? How can we become better sons, brothers, fathers, husbands and men? Do we have an obligation to evangelize, and if so, how do we go about it?

2015 Schedule - 8:00 am Registration (Will Call) in the Fr John Vaughan Community Center with Coffee & Donuts

10:30 am Break
12:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation & Lunch (included with admission)
3:00 pm Break
4:30 pm Conference concludes
5:00 pm Mass with Bishop William Medley. We encourage your families to join us for Mass. For more information, look online at <http://kycatholic.com/>

Study of Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel

Thursday, Dec. 11

Retreat Hours:

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Retreat Facilitator:

Sister Ann McGrew

Cost:

\$10 fee includes lunch

Contact Kathy McCarty to register

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." So begins the "The Joy of the Gospel" which was given at Saint Peter's in Rome in November 2013 at the conclusion of the Year of Faith. It is Pope Francis' first Apostolic Exhortation.



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Bishop Medley's Calendar for December, 2014:

December 1-3	9:00 a.m.	Priests' Council Provincial Meeting, Nashville
December 4	9:00 a.m.	CCK Executive Board Meeting, Louisville
December 6	9:30 a.m.	Catholics at the Capital Regional Gathering Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville
December 7	10:30 a.m.	Confirmation, St. Edward, Fulton
December 8	9:00 a.m.	School Mass, Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus
December 12	5:00 a.m.	Morning Prayers, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville
	8:00 a.m.	School Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville
	6:30 p.m.	Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sacred Heart, Russellville
December 13	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation, St. Denis, Fancy Farm
December 15	9:45 a.m.	Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, CPC
	1:30 p.m.	Priests' Council Meeting, CPC
December 16	9:00 a.m.	CPC Staff Mass and Meeting
December 17	8:30 a.m.	Diocesan Finance Council Meeting, CPC
December 24	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Mass, St. Stephen Cathedral

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 4 P.M. - 5 P.M.

2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



WAKE UP THE WORLD!
2015 Year of Consecrated Life

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite you to join us for Eucharistic Adoration on **Dec. 14 and on the second Sunday of each month in 2015** from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the **Motherhouse Chapel**

(located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). We will conclude with evening prayer. During this special time of the Year of Consecrated Life, we ask you to join us in praying for a deeper awareness and openness in response to God's call to consecrated life.



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org
info.ms@maplemount.org



DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO
**MEN OF THE
 EUCHARIST**
 2014-2015 SEMINARIANS



Deacon Gary Clark
 4th Year Theology
 St. Meinrad Seminary



Deacon Michael
 Charles Ajigo
 4th Year Theology
 St. Meinrad Seminary



Jamie Dennis
 3rd year Theology
 St. Meinrad Seminary



Basilio Az Cuc
 3rd year Theology
 St. Meinrad Seminary



Nick Higdon
 Pastoral year
 Holy Spirit Parish,
 Bowling Green



Alex French
 2nd year Theology
 St. Meinrad



Jesus Lopez Mendez
 1st year Theology
 St. Meinrad Seminary



Corey Bruns
 3rd year College
 Marian University-Bishop
 Simon Bruté Seminary



Jacob Fischer
 3rd year College
 Marian University- Bishop
 Simon Bruté Seminary



C J Glaser
 2nd year College
 Marian University- Bishop
 Simon Bruté Seminary



Derek Hayden
 2nd year College
 Marian University- Bishop
 Simon Bruté Seminary



Emmanuel Garcia
 1st year College
 Marian University- Bishop
 Simon Bruté Seminary

“I ask the Lord Jesus to enable many young people to discover that burning zeal which joy kindles in our hearts as soon as we have the stroke of boldness needed to respond willingly to his call!” ~Pope Francis
 If you hear God's call, contact the Vocations Office: owensborovocations.com



Rev. Jason McClure
 270-875-2868
vocations@pastoral.org



Most Rev. William
 Francis Medley,
 Bishop of Owensboro

FREE RESOURCES

Visit GoPriest.com
 to request free books to help
 you discern your vocation.



Celebrating Saint Pope John Paul II's First Feast Day

The St. William and St. Lawrence 4th Grade PREP class celebrated St. John Paul II's first feast day with a special feast day party during their class on Wednesday, Oct. 22. St. JP II is the saint that was chosen for their class to study more closely during the year. After reading a story about his life, *A Boy Who Became Pope*, the class was visited by a life-sized replica of Pope JP II, compliments of St. Maximilian Kolbe Bookstore. The class is taught by Jennifer Haynes and Larena Lawson. Submitted Photo

The Western Kentucky Catholic

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- Story Deadline: 15th of month prior to desired publication.

The Western Kentucky Catholic comes to your home as a direct use of your parish assessment dollars. “Those who exercise authority in the Church will take care to ensure that there is responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God.” -Pastoral Instruction Of The Means Of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971.

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic must be signed and with contact information, may be edited for space, a lack of charity or a lack of clarity, and are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic. Please let us know politely if you find proofing or factual errors in items of this publication.

Please send all Western Kentucky Catholic address additions, deletions or changes to Cathy Hagan at cathy.hagan@pastoral.org.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas



Mesoamerica, the New World, 1521: The capital city of the Aztec empire falls under the Spanish forces. Less than 20 years later, 9 million of the inhabitants of the land, who professed for centuries a polytheistic and human sacrificing religion, are converted to Christianity. What happened in those times that produced such an incredible and historically unprecedented conversion?

In 1531 a "Lady from Heaven" appeared to a humble Native American at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of what is now Mexico City.

She identified herself as the ever virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God for whom we live, of the Creator of all things, Lord of heaven and the earth.

She made a request for a church to be built on the site, and submitted her wish to the local Bishop. When the Bishop hesitated, and requested her for a sign, the Mother of God obeyed without delay or question to the Church's local Bishop, and sent her native messenger to the top of the hill in mid-December to gather an assortment of roses for the Bishop.

After complying to the Bishop's request for a sign, She also left for us an image of herself imprinted miraculously on the native's tilma, a poor quality cactus-cloth, which should have deteriorated in 20 years but shows no sign of decay 480 years later and still defies all scientific explanations of its origin.

It apparently even reflects in her eyes what was in front of her in 1531.

Her message of love and compassion, and her universal promise of help and protection to all mankind, as well as the story of the apparitions, are described in the "Nican Mopohua", a 16th century document written in the native Nahuatl language.

There is reason to believe that at Tepeyac Mary came in her glorified body, and her actual physical hands rearranged the roses in Juan Diego's tilma, which makes this apparition very special.

An incredible list of miracles, cures and interventions are attributed to Her. Yearly, between 18 - 20 million pilgrims visit the Basilica, making it Christianity's most visited sanctuary.

Altogether 25 popes have officially honored Our Lady of Guadalupe. His Holiness Saint John Paul II visited her Sanctuary four times: on his first apostolic trip outside Rome as Pope in 1979, and again in 1990, 1999 and 2002.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th. In 1999, Pope St. John Paul II, in his homily from the Solemn Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, during his third visit to the sanctuary, declared the date of December

the 12th as a Liturgical Holy Day for the WHOLE continent.

During the same visit Pope St. John Paul II entrusted the cause of life to her loving protection, and placed under her motherly care the innocent lives of children, especially those who are in danger of not being born. www.sancta.org. Image and text submitted by Chris Gutierrez



St. Mary Seeks Middle/High School Principal

St. Mary School System in Paducah, Kentucky, seeks a middle school/high school principal for a grade 6-12 setting, beginning the 2015-16 school year. Candidates must be Catholic and hold principal certification. Interested candidates may apply by sending their cover letter and resume to espry@smss.org or: Eleanor Spry, System Director, St. Mary School System, 1243 Elmdale Road, Paducah, KY 42003

STEPHEN MINISTRY



ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME?

Stephen Ministers are members of St Stephen Cathedral Parish who listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The care you'll receive is confidential, free and very helpful.

To learn how you - or a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative - can receive care, talk to your pastor or one of our Stephen Leaders.

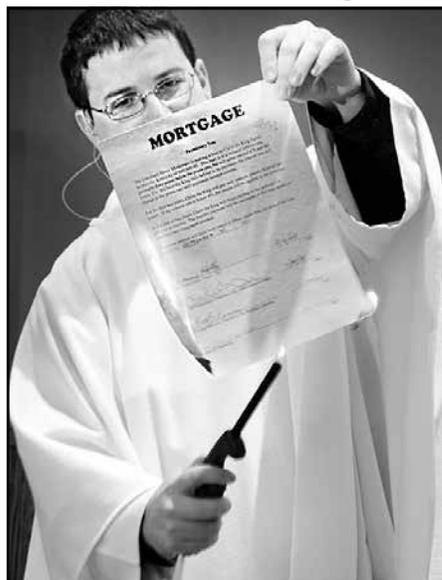
Stephen Ministry Office - 270-852-8421

Joan Perry-Stephen Ministry Leader -
270-685-3787

Bill Kelley-Stephen Ministry Leader -
270-302-0212



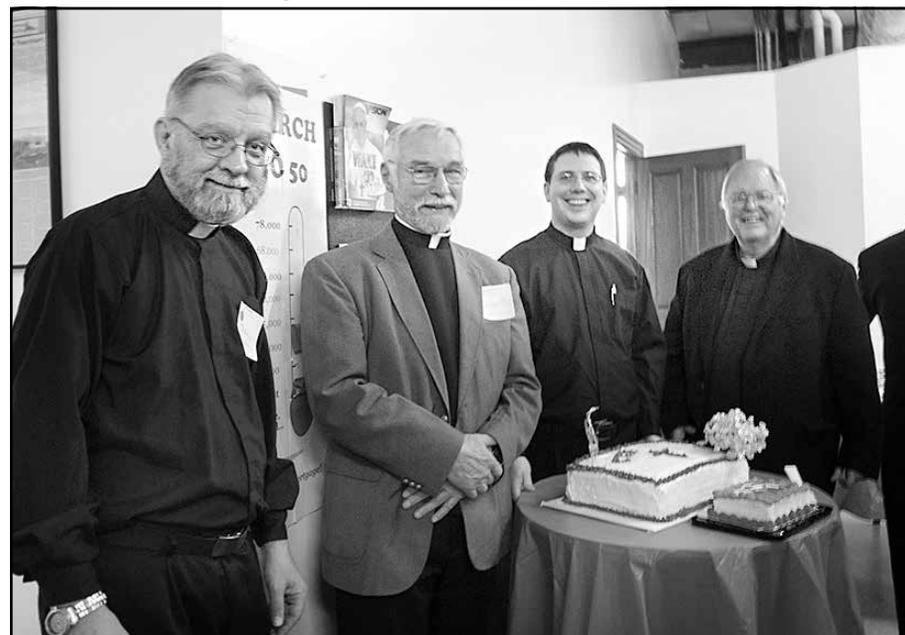
The Stephen Ministry Caregivers from St. Stephen Cathedral Parish, Owensboro, are from left, back row, Rita Heinz, Mark Heinz, Carrie Wieder, Bill Kelley, Karen Howard; front row, Lawanna Brand, Ruth Zachary, Fr. Suneesh Mathew, HGN, and Joan Perry. Submitted photo



Fr. Daniel Dillard burn the mortgage for Christ The King Church in Scottsville, from the parish's debt of money borrowed for building the new church from Glenmary Fathers. Photos submitted by Catherine Grapes



DRE Beth Gripp, right, presents a SLIM award to Madison Marsh from the Diocese of Owensboro for outstanding service - She is a Senior in Allen County HS, and is the daughter of Kate Kiene and David Marsh.



Fr. Bruce Brylinski,, Director, Pre-Novitiate & Postnovitiate, Glenmary House of Studies at St. Meinrad, IN; Fr. Dennis Holly, former pastor, pastor Fr. Daniel Dillard and Fr. Vic Suub proudly pose in Christ The King Church on the parish's 50th anniversary celebration day.

St. Mary High School's Davis Sims Signs With Murray State

PADUCAH, KY – St. Mary senior infielder Davis Sims has signed his National Letter of Intent on Wednesday to further his academic and athletic careers at Murray State University.

A five-year varsity starter on the Viking infield, Sims was named to the All-District Team in 2013 and has earned the team's Outstanding Defense Award, as well as Kentucky High School Athletic Association First-Team Academic All-State honors. A career .331 hitter with a .437 on-base percentage, Sims is currently ranked as the No. 2 third baseman and No. 10 position player in the Commonwealth by Prep Baseball Report.

During summer league play, Sims was selected as one of the top 16 players in the state to represent Kentucky in the Midwest futures Games at Indiana University. He was voted MVP of the 2012 American Legion (Junior) Kentucky State Tournament and played on teams ranked No. 1 in the nation in 2007 and 2009.

Baseball is in his blood, as Sims comes from a long line of professional baseball players. His grandfather, Phil Roof, a graduate of the Paducah Catholic school system from St. John in 1959, played in the Major Leagues as a catcher for 13 seasons and later served six years as a MLB coach and more than 20 years as a manager in the minor leagues. His great-uncle, Gene Roof '76, also played at the major league level and currently serves as a coach in the Detroit Tigers organization, while three cousins are playing or coaching at various levels in the minor leagues.

Sims is the son of Darla '88 and Mike Sims '86 of Paducah. He is the grandson of former Major League Baseball catcher and coach Phil and Linda Roof and the late Marie Roof, and Helen Sims '63, all of Paducah, and Alan Sims of Owensboro, KY.



St. Mary senior Davis Sims puts on his Murray State baseball cap after signing his National Letter of Intent as his brother, Hale, and parents, Mike and Darla Sims look on.

**Bishop William Medley
invites you to
join him as he
celebrates
Bishop John J.
McRaith's 80th Birthday**



**with Mass at Saint
Stephen Cathedral
on Friday,
December 5, 2014
at 12:05 p.m.**

Called To Sing and Play Music, Parish's Youth Help To Lead Sacred Music



The Immaculate Youth Music Ministry is an ongoing ministry for parish celebrations and liturgies. The children sing and play about every 6 weeks. All the children that are regular participants in the Immaculate Youth Music Ministry are: Ashley Crawford, Anna Crawford, Megan Crawford, Olivia Story, Allison Story, Josafina Garcia, Madelyn Hemen, Andrew Gray, Will Warren, Tyler Belcher, Susanne Story, adult assistant and Matthew Gray, director of music. Photos by Nicole Gray.



"You need to get involved with others and with God; don't settle for a

mediocre "tie", give it your best, spend your life on what really matters and lasts forever". Pope Francis.

Catholics @ The Capitol

Calendar of Regional 2014-15 Events

DATE TIME LOCATION

12-2-14 7 p.m. St. John The Apostle
515 Broadway
"Brandenburg, KY 40108"
PH: 270-422-2196

12-14-14 2 p.m. Christ the Healer
1610 W. Stockton St.
"Edmonton, KY"
PH: 270-432-0686

1-10-15 9:30 (CST) Our Lady of Lourdes
4029 Frederica St.
"Owensboro, KY 42301"
PH: 270-684-5369

1-10-15 10 am - 12:30 pm St. Catharine College
Pettus Auditorium
2735 Bardstown Road
"St. Catharine, KY 40061"
PH: 859-336-5082

1-14-15 4 p.m. St. Raphael The Archangel
2900 Bardstown Road
"Louisville, KY 40205"
PH: 502-458-2500

1-17-15 9:30 a.m. Sts. Peter & Paul
902 E. Ninth Street
"Hopkinsville, KY 42240"
PH: 270-885-8522

1-24-15 9 a.m. Jesus Our Savior
315 Battson Oates Drive
"Morehead, KY"
PH: 606-784-4392

1-24-15 1 p.m. Sts. Francis & John
604 E. Main St.
"Georgetown, KY 40324"
PH: 502-863-3404

1-31-15 9:30 a.m. Bishop Howard
Memorial Auditorium,
Curia Office lower level
1125 Madison Avenue
"Covington, KY 41011"
PH: 859-392-1500

VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

Oh! Sparkling star of the dawn,
Know you not that I am becoming here,
The precious Tabernacle in the World?
God the Loving one created the womb, hallowed.

I wait, wait, since long, the boon,
My dear Mom will carry me soon,
To come out from here very soon,
Love, touch and feed me with a spoon.

She waits, patiently asks,
"Apple of my eye, when will you come?
I long to see your beautiful face!
Her wait is like the Lotus flower for the Sun."

I heard a voice sudden, horrible,
"Annihilate it, away with the bubble."
Fear rent my heart so terrible!
And my blood turned cold; really so.

Oh shining star! Why is this ruthless act?
Oh my dad! Don't you like to see your image joyous?
Oh my loving mom! Don't I have the right to live precious?
Oh God! See me hapless, let experience your loving presence.

What have you done, O, ruthless men?
Why this injustice, O, senseless brute?
God gave not life to be crushed,
He is no killer, Sustainer of life.

"LET THOSE WHO HAVE A VOICE, SPEAK OUT FOR THE VOICELESS."
OSCAR ROMERO

Oh stars! I long to see you shining,
Oh dad! I like to sit on your lap.
Oh my loving mom! I want to be within your arms.
O God! I like to taste your loving Mercy day by day.

None heard my cry,
Not on earth below,
Nor in the heavens above.
Instead, there came a Prick.

From the Prick a liquid flowed,
Through my vessels and veins,
From head to foot, until my feeble flesh and bones,
Began to pass away.

Oh! My hands are cut and my legs too,
My severed head turns a lifeless bit,
My heart tub-dup says no more,
As I at last, depart from it.

And the tabernacle my tomb became,
The sobbing of my mom I heard,
A long moan not to be consoled,
As I became lost to the World.



Rev. Joosa Marydasan, HGN. the author of this poem, has been appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green, effective December 12, 2014.



A Monastic Observance

Dec. 27, 2014 – Jan. 1, 2015

The Vocations Office of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, invites single Catholic men, ages 20-40, to the annual Monastic Observance Retreat. Participants will have an opportunity to experience the monastic life by working, praying and socializing with the monastic community. For more information or to register, visit www.saintmeinrad.org/mo, call (812) 357-6381 or email vocations@saintmeinrad.org.

Captivating Extraordinary Synod Provides Cause For Great Expectation

And Hope

By **Bishop Charles C. Thompson,**
Diocese of Evansville, IN.
(Continued from page 1)



pectation and hope for any and all who are willing to set aside personal agendas in order to trust in the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In order that we maintain a proper sense of hope and expecta-

tion, it is important to understand a number of dynamics at work in the process. For instance, the primary purpose of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops was to determine the scope or parameters for in-depth discernment at the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, the 14th such Synod since the Second Vatican Council, during which time the ultimate fruits of pastoral outreach and activities may be determined and subsequently implemented. The theme for this 14th Ordinary Synod of Bishops, to be held at the Vatican from 4 to 25 October 2015, is "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World." Those expecting any type of immediate nuances of the Church's mission to the family beyond the actual purpose of an Extraordinary Synod are probably left feeling a bit perplexed.

A second dynamic at work may be the posturing of some individuals or groups who maintain rather extreme positions that tend to polarize rather than unite us in the mind and heart of Jesus Christ with God and neighbor. Entering into the Extraordinary Synod, Pope Francis commented that there was no room for arrogance among the participants. Rather, he reminded everyone, participation in such an experience demands courage, openness and humility. Dialogue is essential. Pope Francis spoke about extremist positions in his closing remarks at the Extraordinary Synod, which inspired several minutes of a standing ovation from the Synod participants. In his remarks, noting that the spirits of collegiality and of synodality involve a path of solidari-

ty, a "journey together," our Holy Father warned against the temptation of two extremes; namely, on one hand, the temptation of hostile inflexibility (or rigidity) and, on the other hand, the temptation of a deceptive mercy that binds wounds without first curing and treating them (or, as he explained, treats the symptoms and not the causes and roots). Polarization often leads to a sense of disrespect, inability to dialogue and eventual demonization of others – all behaviors that are contrary to Christianity. Repeatedly, Pope Francis exhorts us to be grounded in a tone of mercy, outreach and compassion in a willingness to embrace and journey with persons in need. Likewise, we must do so with families in need.

Another dynamic at work seems to be the manner in which one perceives the person of Pope Francis. Some of the more traditionalist members of the Church have been a bit apprehensive about Pope Francis' style of leadership. I have reminded such persons that the same Holy Spirit who guided the conclaves of those electing such recent greats as Blessed Pope Paul VI, Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, guided the conclave of electors in choosing Pope Francis. Just because someone, like a pope, is not what one may want does not mean that he is not what is needed. Fidelity as a Catholic is not about getting what one wants but about being open to God providing what is needed. Those who fancy themselves as liberals or progressives, on the other hand, should keep in mind Pope Francis' own description of himself as "a son of the Church." While some in the media try to make contrasting comparisons between Pope Francis and his predecessor, one only needs to listen and read how often Pope Francis quotes or refers to Pope Benedict XVI. He is striving to lead the Church where the Holy Spirit is directing rather than being bogged down by human agendas. Personally, while some want to label him as a revolutionary or reformer, I believe that he will ultimately be remembered as the patron of mercy. He truly seeks to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Listening closely to his words and observing his actions, one cannot help but be simultaneously challenged and consoled.

Yet another dynamic at work is the very experience of the family as common

to every human being. Since there are no perfect human beings, it naturally follows that there are no perfect families. Some appear to be more imperfect than others, some a bit more dysfunctional than others, and some with a bit more traditional makeup than others. Families come in all shapes and sizes. While there are those who maintain fond memories or strong bonds of family, there are others who carry deep wounds from a dysfunctional or lack of family life. Most persons probably fall in between these experiences, acknowledging both goodness and brokenness within the family system. Regardless of where we find ourselves on the spectrum of family life, rarely does anyone or anything form us like one's family experience. Because every person's experience of family is unique, practically every person's expectations, interest and hopes for the Synod on the Family are uniquely shaped. Whether our experience is one of a two- or single-parent household, an extended or blended family household, an ecumenical or interfaith household, a deeply loving or abusive household, an affluent or impoverished household, or something other, perspectives influence the lenses through which interpretations are made about the effectiveness of the Synods on the Family. Of course, those of same-sex attraction or with a family member of same-sex attraction will have their own particular perspectives.

Still another dynamic to consider is the need for a clear distinction between doctrine (e.g. Church teaching) and pastoral outreach. Church doctrine on human sexuality, marriage and other moral issues is not likely to be radically changed by the 2015 Synod of Bishops on the Family. While doctrine cannot change, discipline may be another matter. Reports from the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops have already indicated that much consideration is being given to the tone and language in which the Church welcomes, embraces and journeys with persons of various backgrounds, situations, giftedness and needs. Particular concern has been noted for the divorced and remarried, especially in terms of the nullity process and reception of sacraments. Hope, one of the three theological virtues, is essential to the Christian life. Hope, however, must be grounded in openness to the will of the Holy Trinity rather than

simply predicated on personal feelings or desires.

Among the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching is the primary emphasis of value placed on marriage and family. This emphasis is particularly highlighted in the teaching on the family as a domestic church. The family, the Church denotes, is the irreplaceable fabric of stability in society. Its significance cannot be over-valued. Its demise must not be under-estimated. The foundation of family life, the Church has long taught, is marriage. Closely associated with the family is the key principle of respecting life; namely, the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person. While always maintaining the dignity of all human beings, including persons of same-sex attraction, the Church teaches that marriage naturally involves a partnership for the whole of life between one man and one woman. As difficult as it may seem, especially in today's societal climate, the Church must hold these principles of faith in balance.

I believe that much good will come from these Synods on the Family, as well as the 8th World Meeting of Families, to be held in Philadelphia, in September 2015, bearing tremendous fruit for individuals and families to grow in holiness. In the end, holiness involves the courage and humility to be Christ-centered. When one is Christ-centered, everything else seems to fall into place. This is true for both individuals and families, which ultimately leads to transformation of culture and society. Through prayer, mutual respect, dialogue, mercy and forgiveness, each and every family, regardless of imperfections, is capable of being a holy family. Pope Francis places great emphasis on the family, often noting how the seeds of his own faith and vocation were sown and nurtured by his parents and grandparents. He has repeatedly asked us to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the synodal process, involving a very broad agenda concerning many pastoral challenges facing families today. I can think of no greater spending of our time and energy in the course of these next several months. Let us pray fervently in our homes and churches for the Holy Father's intention regarding "the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world."

Brescia at the Brink of Second Century with \$10 Million Capital Campaign

Students, faculty and staff joined alumni and community partners on campus Saturday night to celebrate the kickoff of a \$10 million capital campaign for the university. "The Campaign for Brescia University: Gateway to Our Second Century" will take place over the next five years and the funding will provide for many enhancements to the campus.

And attendees had every reason to celebrate as Brescia President, Father Larry Hostetter, revealed that nearly \$6.6 million dollars has already been pledged to the campaign.

"For the last century, Brescia University has served as a powerful force for good through the unique educational experience that we call the "Brescia Difference." As a result, our alumni were equipped to provide for their families and give back to their communities through rewarding careers and lives of service. As we stand at the Gateway of our Second Century, the Campaign for Brescia University will ensure that we continue to serve our students in the spirit of our Ursuline founders, providing current and future generations with a rich educational experience and empowering them to meet the needs of future years."

The vision that drives the campaign comes as a result of long conversations with faculty, staff and students and will seek to meet the current needs of the institution, as well as position Brescia to excel in the years to come.

A Master Plan set forth by the Board of Trustees, the President and his Cabinet, as well as a Steering Committee outlines a strategic plan to address the enrollment growth and the needs of modern day learning. The campaign will support the construction of a new structure on campus and the renovation of current buildings.

The new building on the corner of Frederica and 9th street will house the Schools of Education, Business and Social Work. It will also feature innovative classrooms and technology centers, a Digital Studio for Innovative Learning, a modern art gallery, community theatre space and much more. The building will give a new face to the university and serve as a landmark for the entrance to downtown Owensboro.

With the increase of the number of students on campus, a critical piece of the master plan addresses renovations to the Campus Center and Residence Halls. The 26-year-old Campus Center will house an expanded cafeteria and modern exercise and wellness center with the goal to create a vibrant center for student life and leadership education.

Properties on 7th Street and St. Ann Street will be transformed to create a craftsman style village that will offer premium housing options



The Campaign for Brescia University: Gateway to Our Second Century

An artist's rendering of a view of the future Brescia University campus as if seen from the roof of the Science Building at Brescia. Brescia photo

for upper classmen. The plan will also offer cosmetic updates to currently outdated residence halls so they might be more appealing to new students.

Contributors to the planning of the campaign look to the new journey for the university as a way of solidifying Brescia's place in the future of higher education in the Greater Owensboro Community.

"The Owensboro/Daviess County community is truly blessed to have Brescia University as a cornerstone in the education and development of future leaders," stated Joseph D. Moore, Executive Vice President and CFO of Vanguard Health Systems who has already pledged a donation to the campaign. "As a Brescia graduate and member of the Board of Trustees, I have seen firsthand the unparalleled dedication of the faculty, staff and administration that makes this University great. It is upon this foundation that I enthusiastically support "The Campaign for Brescia University, Gate-

Brescia's Alma Mater

"Brescia, Brescia, alma mater, keep us faithful to thine honor.

Science, Culture and Religion, light our way.

Soli Deo Gloria, onward and upward.

Truth and honor, light and learning, be with us forever.

Onward Brescia, fill our spirit with the fire of life's endeavors.

In our heart dear Brescia, love thee forever."

- 2006, Composed by James Massie, '70

way to Our Second Century" fundraising efforts."

The night celebrated the rich tradition of the institution's history, rooted in the Ursuline Legacy and in its origin in Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women. As a tribute to the foundation of the university, guests enjoyed an alfresco dining experience that featured a modern street fair made up of flavors representing important pieces of the history provided by local downtown partners.

Faculty, Staff, Alumni and students alike took to the stage throughout the night

Continued on page 9

SAVE THE DATE!



September 22-27, 2015

Information coming soon from the Family Life Office regarding this pilgrimage and possible Papal visit. If you would like information regarding this event contact Joe Bland at 270-852-8377 or joe.bland@pastoral.org.



March for Life - A group of 27 people gathered at the corner of Frederica and parish Avenue for March for Life on the first Sunday of October. Everybody had play cards stating end for abortion. (in the picture, Fr. Jerry concludes the march for life with a prayer at the corner of Frederica and Parish Avenue)



Trunk or Treat - St. Stephen Cathedral had its 4th annual Trunk or Treat on Sunday the 26th of October. There were over 200 people and children present. It is a great event of community building. (in the picture are seen kids wearing costumes, with St. Stephen's youth group who led the Trunk or Treat)

The Campaign for Brescia University: Gateway to Our Second Century

(Continued from page 8)

to share their part of Brescia's story and to celebrate the pledges that have been made to the campaign, thanking those that have laid a significant foundation for the university's future.

"The Marilyn and William Young Charitable Foundation's Board of Trustees readily committed to Brescia's Campaign for the Second Century as they are confident in the University's leadership and vision. Our support of Brescia has been steadfast through the decades and we are dedicated to the success of this new chapter in Brescia's history," stated Sara Hemingway, Executive Director of The Marilyn and William Young Foundation. The organization presented a check to Father Larry Hostetter representing their first installment of a significant gift.

The university will work to raise the remaining \$3.5 million to complete the campaign over the next five years, seeking to enable the institution to be reborn, renewed and prepared to meet the needs of the 21st century and beyond.

The campaign comes on the heels of a 10 percent increase in enrollment from last fall and the highest fall enrollment in 46 years for the university, the second highest in the school's history



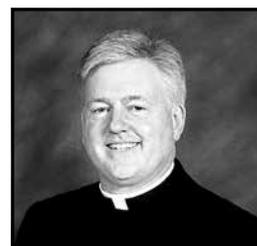
Brescia University president Fr. Larry Hostetter thanked Bishop William Medley, who, with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, have pledged a significant gift to the campaign. Brescia Photo

"The future is bright in this community because of Brescia University. The future is bright because of the students who have attended the college and received a liberal arts education. I can tell you today, that I have every confidence in the world that the future of our children and our children's children will be brighter than the future we experienced all because of institutions like Brescia and the opportunity to gain an education that is unparalleled throughout this state, throughout this nation and dare I say throughout the world," stated Honorable Al Mattingly, Daviess County Judge Executive and Brescia Alum.



Ministry of Praise - St. Stephen Cathedral started a new ministry called the ministry of praise. This ministry is mainly intended for those parishioners who were very involved in the church activities before and now is home bound or not active as before. The purpose of this ministry is to praise and thank God. We commissioned 31 of our parishioners as ministers of praise. They were given a cross from the holy land and a prayer book. They would pray for the different intentions of the parish. The picture that is attached taken when they were installed as ministers of praise. Every month a letter would be sent to each of them with special intentions to pray for. Photos submitted by Fr. Suneesh Mathew

The Holy Land February 11-20, 2015



Fr. Richard Cash

Join Fr. Richard Cash on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Steve and Janet Ray from February 11-20, 2015. Spaces available! Please call 313-565-8888 ext 121 or 150 for more information. Contact Fr. Richard Cash at 270-417-2000.

Trinity High School Senior Travels 2,400 Miles In Six Days On Nun Run

My name is Hannah Bland. I am a senior at Trinity High School in Whitesville, Kentucky. I have been an avidly-practicing Catholic my whole life. My father worked as the youth minister and religion teacher for Trinity and St. Mary of the Woods Parish for eleven years while I grew up. All my life, I have been known as the religion teacher's daughter. From a very young age, I was labeled with the stereotype that I should know every answer to every question regarding religion. Rather than reject this, I decided to embrace this stereotype and learn all I could about Catholicism. I inevitably fell in love with my faith.

I started discerning religious life my freshman year of high school. I kept falling deeper in love with Christ as I prayed. Midway through my junior year, I planned a trip to visit five different religious orders throughout the U.S. In the summer of 2014, my three best friends, Katrina Rhodes, Annie Pfeifer, and Olivia Conder, my parents, Joe and Cathy Bland of Whitesville, and I piled into a van and traveled 2,400 miles in six days. It was unbelievable to be able to have a dream so large and to be able to fulfill it at the age of seventeen.

Our first stop was Toronto, Ohio, home of the Franciscan Sisters TOR of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother. They were by far my favorite order, and I could see myself joining them one day. Their love of life and each other was inspiring. Part of their charism came from many areas. They ran a thrift shop, took care of the poor, and helped with Franciscan University's campus ministry. They were all young and full of life. My group was able to experience them on a personal level while playing simple board games. It was amazing to see them in such a comfortable setting.

Next we attended the final vow ceremony of four Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal in New York City. We didn't get to converse with many of the sisters, but the ceremony was beautiful. Cardinal Timothy Dolan presided. The love these women had for Our Lord was evident. The joy that radiated from them was contagious. I could tell at that moment they had never been happier in their lives.

The same day we visited the Sisters of Life also in New York City. These ladies live to be joyful. The amazing work they do with women in crisis pregnancies is



"...Discerning Religious Life ..." Hannah, Olivia, Annie, and Katrina the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, in Boston Massachusetts

inspiring. We had the opportunity to meet some women they house. Sister Elizabeth Grace, a novice with the Sisters of Life, is actually a sister to Katrina Rhodes of Whitesville, one of the girls who traveled with me. We visited with her. It was wonderful to see her fulfilling her vocation we knew she had for years. She is very happy.

Our second to last order was the Daughters of St. Paul in Boston, Massachusetts. They are media sisters who reach out and spread the Gospel through every possible way. They had a radio station, a publishing committee, and an art department.

Lastly we visited the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth. They are a brand new order in Boston dedicated to protect the family and safeguard what it truly means to be Catholic. They want to bring the fallen-away Catholics and the lukewarm Catholics back to be the best Catholics they can become. They also perform many ministries, including visiting the homebound, the sick, and imprisoned. They were all young and full of love. We were able to spend time with them by talking, eating ice cream, and listening to the sisters sing and play the guitar.

I planned, fundraised, and completed this trip for two reasons. First, I wanted to see and talk to these faithful women of God in person. Second, I wanted to bring



"... An avidly practicing Catholic ..." A Sister prays before an altar at the Franciscan Sisters TOR of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother in Toronto Ohio. Submitted photos

back the message to our Diocese that religious life is an amazing life to live. We should all discern our vocations. In our diocese, there have been very few women religious vocations in the past ten years. Young women associate a negative connotation with religious life; they often believe that religious sisters are mean and boring.

After taking this trip, I have come back to share with my diocese that this is the opposite of the truth. Every single sister we encountered was joyful, sweet, and kept falling in love with their faith every day. I am a first-hand example that someone discerning religious life can be happy. I couldn't be more content with my life. I have the best family and friends, and God has blessed me with many opportunities to grow as a person, spiritually and emotionally. No matter what vocation I am being called to in my life, I know that I will always be Catholic and serving the church in some way.



"The joy that radiated from them was contagious." The Nun Running girls are, from left to right, Olivia Conder, Katrina Rhodes, Hannah Bland, and Annie Pfeifer with Franciscan Sisters TOR of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother.



First Day On The Job

Matt Monsour showing new tech support volunteer Jason Owens the controls of the OCHS boom lift at the school to be used for repairing a scoreboard Oct. 16.

Mel Howard Photo



St. Romuald Kindergarten All Saints Day

Mrs. Robynn Brown's Kindergarten class at St. Romuald celebrated All Saints Day by making posters about Saints. Each student was given a Saint. They made their posters at home and shared three facts with the class. The class had fun learning about Saints. Submitted by Erin Waddell

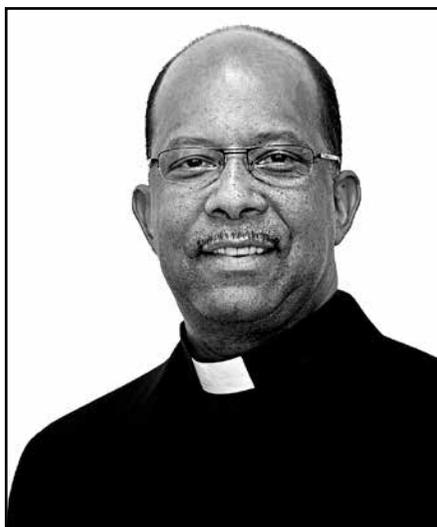
Rosary Chapel Native Son Returns for Visit and Celebrate Mass

Rev. John C. McVoy, III
Submitted by LaToya Ware

PADUCAH, Ky. - Rosary Chapel recently had a visit from Father John McVoy III. He is one of Rosary's very own that grow up here and that came back to celebrate Mass with us on September 28th of 2014.

The son of John McVoy II and Constance McVoy, Father. John C. McVoy III was ordained to the Priesthood on May 8, 2010 in the "Year of the Priest" by Bishop Francis Malooly D.D. Fr. McVoy is an Environmental / Analytical Chemist and was a Senior Project Manager for more than 25 years. After moving to Wilmington from Tallahassee, FL as part of a corporate move, he worked for URS Corp., Contracted by DuPont Engineering in 1998. He began Permanent Diaconate Formation in the Diocese of Wilmington in 2001 and was ordained to the diaconate in September 2004. He and his family quickly became a part of the Sacred Heart Oratory community, in Wilmington, which he still considers his spiritual home.

Fr. McVoy started his priestly for-



Rev John C. McVoy III was ordained to the priesthood on May 8th, 2010 at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Wilmington, DE. Father McVoy is currently assigned to the Church of the Holy Cross, Dover DE. Photo from the Diocese of Wilmington Vocations Office

mation in a most unusual way. Fr. McVoy is a widower and was married to Bethlhem Kebede, his college sweetheart, for 24 years who died in January 2004. They have three children,

Aklecia, 29, Salem 27, and Yohannes (Johnny) 26. Fr. McVoy, also known as Fr. Mac, credits the workings of the Holy Spirit in his entire life that prompted his discernment and his "yes" to the diaconate and then on to priesthood. Fr. Mac also knows that if not for his wife, Bethlhem, he would not be a priest today. In his meeting with Bishop Saltarelli, he said to Fr. McVoy prior to entering the seminary, "the Lord makes a crooked road straight", then he said, "Who am I to say no to you or to your vocation".

Fr. McVoy was born in Paducah,

Kentucky. A fifth generation Roman Catholic, he began his sacramental journey at Rosary Chapel. He has a degree in Chemistry from Howard University in Washington DC, with graduate studies in Environmental Toxicology from Florida A&M University, Classical Music from Florida State University in Voice. He entered the seminary in 2006 at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, in Weston, MA, and earned a M.Div. in the spring of 2010. He is currently pursuing a Masters in Business in Church Management from Villanova University.

Rediscover Your Marriage



– Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery'. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouvaille is a not spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, or a social gathering. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan 30-Feb 2, 2015 call 270-683-1545 ext. 346 or email: satkv59@gmail.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

Souls Dancing - St Mary's Tenth Variety Show Features The Best of the Best

"Laughter is the Sound of the Soul Dancing." Jarod Kintz,
This Book Is Not For Sale.

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - Ten Years after the Saint Mary's Young At Heart senior Catholics group sponsored the first Saint Mary of the Woods Variety Show, bringing the house down and giving some of the parish's thespians, comedians and musicians a showcase for being themselves in public, it happened again on October 18, 2014. The idea for a talent show started with Brenda and Paul Vincent Clemons who organized the first show in 2004.

The first idea was to call it a talent show for music, but as the people got interested in performing, it became clear that St. Mary of the Woods parishioners interested in being in the show had many more talents such as telling jokes, re-enacting parts of well-known movies or singing songs from favorite country music and bluegrass musicians, or creating their own skits based on a well-known personality. The Clemons knew a good thing was happening and so they invited the people to participate in a variety show. Staging the show in the flal of the year appealed to the people, too.

This year, parishioners Deanie Mayfield and Sue Mayfield spent weeks talking with parishioners and lining up the program of musical and comedy acts for this tenth annual variety show. As they listened to the people's ideas for their acts, it seemed that some of them had been done before. So was born the idea for the 2014 variety show - "The Best of the Best."

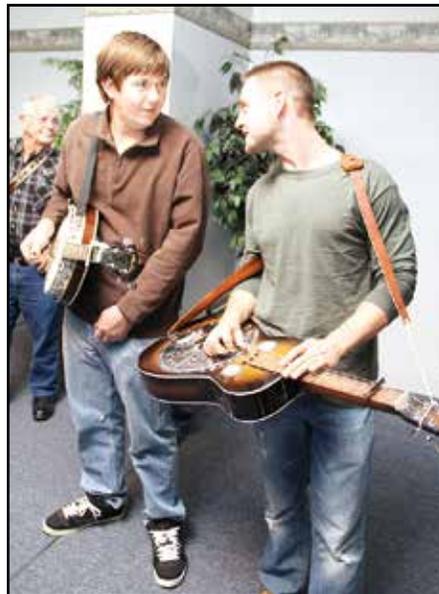
Sue and Deanie have been to each



Backstage, David Zoglmann, Nelda Tierney, Yvonne Morris, and Janice Clark getting their cues straight for acts and props. The actors, musicians, and crew numbered 32 people.



Brenda Hagan singing a rendition of Patsy Cline's "She's Got You" : I've got the records, she's got you, and she threw the 33s at husband Bruce!



Heath Howard, left, and Derrick Edge joking around during practice before The Variety Show. This was their first time to join the St Mary's parish bluegrass/country music band for the Variety Show.

of the nine previous variety shows, and knew for which acts audiences laughed the hardest and applauded the longest. So, they called those performers and invited them to play it again this year. Larry Goetz was called upon for the fifth time to emcee this year's variety show.

And that's how it happened that Deanie Midkiff and Gene Pike performed



Soul dancing, Dwayne Roby playing a "broom guitar" during his comedy act, a rendition of Mrs. Doubtfire. He also square danced with a vacuum cleaner during the act.



Kaye Howard collecting for the St. Mary of the Woods Eighth Grade trip benefit.



Larry Goetz told a lot of jokes and introduced each act, and has been a dedicated emcee for 5 years, although he never gets the jest of the jokes in the show. He could make the skinniest people belly laugh at the jokes and pranks he played on the people in the cast and the people in the audience. The audience has to love him. Larry says that a favorite joke of his is the one of the three sisters, ages 92, 94, and 96 who try to outdo one another in remembering things.



Part of the crew this year, Faye Wathen worked the lighting.

"Fightin' and Scratchin'". Jerry Morris and a co-ed group of "cloistered monks" performed a variation on a song from "Sister Act," starring Whoopi Goldberg.

Brenda Hagan and husband Bruce Hagan got all dressed up like Patsy Cline and husband to sing and enact scenes from Cline's song, "She's Got You." Dwayne Roby dressed as Robin Williams' character Mrs. Doubtfire and danced with a broom and a vacuum cleaner to the movie's theme song.

Introducing the program, playing at intermission, and at the end of the show,

Continued on page 13

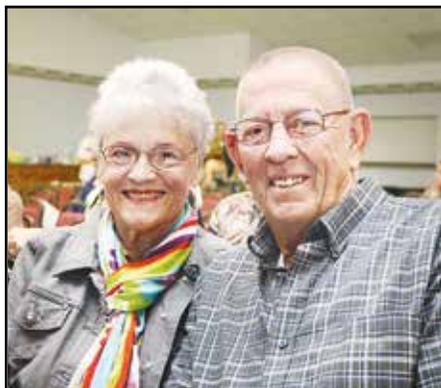
Soul Dancing

(Continued from page 13)

the Band (Derrick Edge, Gene Pike, Butch Edge, Dwayne Roby, David Morris, Heath Howard, and Ronnie Ling) played several bluegrass and country songs. David Morris is a professional musician and composer, and kept the guys in tune and in time.

The act, "Getting ready for school" featured Cathy Roby, Deanie Midkiff, Gene Pike, Nelda Tierney and David Tierney. Somebody said they saw "The Streak" running around in the parish center, and Brenda Hagan, Barry Morris, John Kirkpatrick and Butch Edge taught the fellow some manners.

Then, too, there were acts called "The Stick People," "The Leader of the



Brenda and Paul Vincent Clemons organized the first St Mary's Variety SHOW ten yeears ago. They just enjoyed this year's soul dancing from the audience. This year's program carried this little kudo for the Clemons: "A very special thank you to Brenda and Paul Clemons for all you did in the past ten years to make this Variety Show successful."

Pack", "Vern and Ida Lee", "My Boyfriend's Back", And "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." (Dwayne Roby had the lead, and Monica Morris sang the falsetto part.) A bunch of yodelling happened next as Daenie Midkiff, Nelda Tierney and Carlene Edge called in the horeses and cows from the back pasture.

The show's finale featured the entire cast playing and singing an old traditional song, "Mama Don't Allow No Music Around Here."



Sue Mayfield, left, and Deanie Midkiff produced this year's Tenth Annual Variety Show for St Mary of the Woods Parish.



The Band - David Morris (fiddle), Dwayne Roby (fiddle), Gene Pike (guitar), Ronnie Ling (guitar); Butch Edge (upright bass), Heath Howard (banjo), and Derrick Edge (dobro).



"You make me want to SHOUT!" Barry Howard on keyboard; Peggy Morris, David Zoglmann, Tyler Howard as monks; and Jerry Morris playing the part of Whoopie Goldberg leading monks and sisters in "You make me want to Shout".



*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a Blessed
New Year!*



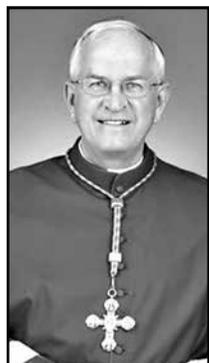
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WAKE UP THE WORLD!
— 2013 Year of Consecrated Life —

Families and Persons with a Disability



By *Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, president of the USCCB, Archbishop of Louisville.*
October 29, 2014

My good friend growing up, Ed Leahy, asked me to give the keynote talk at the 13th Conference on Disability at the

University of Scranton. He and I have been friends since grade school and have kept in touch all these years. I could not say no. The talk is later today.

Ed and his wife, Pat, had one child, a son born with a disability. He died 20 years ago, but his presence in their lives and their love for him have not faded one bit. Ed is a retired attorney living just outside Washington, D.C. who is a graduate of the University of Scranton and has been on the board of directors there. He and Pat have been very instrumental in beginning this annual conference. I will be traveling to Scranton right after I finish writing this column for the November 6 issue of The Record.

As speaking engagements near, especially when the commitment was made a year ago, there is a certain amount of dread. The thinking goes like this: Why in the world did I say yes? There is so much to do. I hate the travel. How will I get ready for yet another talk?

These thoughts crossed my mind, ever so briefly. Then I began to think of my dear brother, Georgie, who had Down syndrome and whose presence changed my life and that of my family and so many others. I began to get excited about the prospect.

For preparation, I read Pope Francis' message on the 20th anniversary of the Pontifical Academy for Life. Of all things, he spoke of family as the differ-

St. Thomas More Demonstrates Support Of Catholic Education

PADUCAH, KY – The commitment of St. Thomas More to a strong Catholic education and to the St. Mary School System runs deep. From the early days St. Mary Academy, to the school system we are so lucky to have today, St. Thomas More has been there to help foster growth both in spirit and enrollment.

Earlier in October, 2014, Fr. Brandon Williams, Parochial Vicar of St. Thomas More, spent the better part of a day reinforcing the spiritual aspect of the support from the parish. Starting at the front door of St. Mary Middle and High School, Fr. Brandon began blessing each individual space in the building. Everything from the gym and the cafeteria to the library and each individual classroom was included.

In each room a short prayer was offered, followed by the sprinkling of Holy Water. St. Mary students provided Fr. Brandon with a Patron Saint for each space; a small plaque detailing the life of that Saint is now displayed in each classroom.

This reminder of the spiritual enrichment that only a Catholic school can provide and the involvement of students in the process, is testament to the commitment of faith being present in every aspect of the school.



Father Brandon Williams blessing a class at Saint Mary High School, Paducah, in October, 2014. The blessing was part of a day Fr. Brandon spent blessing the buildings, rooms, and the people of the Saint Mary Schools System.
Photo by J. Patrick Kerr

It is worth noting that St. Mary students requested the blessing ceremony and have also asked to have each sports team blessed at their respective season openers.

ence-maker when it comes to a person with disabilities. The family can be the difference in moving one away from a “leftover.” “throwaway” attitude that demeans anyone with a disability and any thought of the sacrifice called for to a renewed attitude that can change civilization.

Pope Francis said: “The family... is the teacher of acceptance and solidarity: it is within the family that education substantially draws upon relationships of solidarity...the family teaches us not to fall into individualism and to balance the ‘I’ with the ‘we.’” Then he adds: “It is there that ‘taking care of one another’ becomes a foundation of human life and a moral attitude to foster.”

Then I went back to the Vatican’s 2000 Jubilee Year statement on persons with disabilities and read this: “The richness of a person with disability is a constant challenge to the Church and society to be open to the mystery such persons present. Disability... is a place where normality and stereotypes are challenged, and the Church and soci-

ety are moved to search for that crucial point at which the human person is fully himself.” It calls the person with disability “a privileged interlocutor of society and the Church.” And the statement later adds that the person with a disability “...must be an active subject in a relationship of love and not only the object of charitable actions.”

When I go to Scranton, I will speak of my personal experience living in a family shaped mightily by the positive presence of my brother with Down syndrome. I also will witness to Dr. Jerome Lejeune.

Born in 1926 in France, Dr. Lejeune was named the first president of the Pontifical Academy for Life (quoted above) by St. John Paul II in 1994 but died before he could take up the role. In 1959, he discovered the extra chromosome (21) responsible for Down syndrome – which he called Trisomy 21. In the biography written by his daughter, *Life is a Blessing*, his life is portrayed with all the struggles that came as he defended persons with disabilities. Not

surprisingly, his strong commitment to family life comes through brilliantly.

Two little quotes from him speak volumes: “We need to be clear: The quality of a civilization can be measured by the respect it has for its weakest members. There is no other criterion.” And the second: “We call on all people of good will to ensure that health protection is grounded in a renewed spirituality: Every patient is my brother.”

On the holy card seeking prayers through his intercession as a “Servant of God,” there is his photo and the words: “One phrase, only one, dictates our conduct, the expression of Jesus himself: Whatever you do to one of the least of my brothers, you do it to me.”

I am so glad I said yes to the talk at the University of Scranton today.

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By J. Patrick Kerr

PADUCAH, KY – From an early age,

Ben Hopper, a parishioner at St. Thomas More parish, has seen his faith as an integral part of his life. While many youth zip into Mass on Sunday and zip out again, not to return for another week, Ben puts his faith into action everyday.

As a St. Mary High School Senior, the role of faith in life is constantly reinforced. Whether it is a prayer before lunch or time saying the Rosary in the St. Mary Chapel, the benefit of attending a Catholic School is not lost on Ben.

When reflecting on how school reinforces the faith life he experiences at St. Thomas More, Ben said, “The Mass experience at St. Thomas More truly deepens my relationship with God. And, to have the opportunity to attend Mass at school as well, broadens my understanding of our faith.”

Ben is not alone. Many Catholic youth who are parishioners at St. Thomas More see the connection between Church, school and everyday life. Being immersed in our Catholic faith, helps to build young people into future parish leaders. Many St Thomas More Pastoral Council Members attended St. Mary High

School in their youth, thus proving the axiom true. This includes Ben’s family. Terry and Amy Sullivan are active members of St. Thomas More as well as being very involved parents at St. Mary.

Not only are future leaders being cultivated, but also leaders that are well informed. Ben said, “Religion classes at St. Mary have taught me so much about our faith. I am lucky enough to get to use what I have learned at St. Mary and apply it at St. Thomas More. Plus, because St. Thomas More’s priests spend so much time at St. Mary, I feel very comfortable discussing with them what I have learned.”

St. Thomas More’s Pastor, Rev. J. Patrick Reynolds, JCL, and Parochial Vicar, Rev. Brandon Williams, both see

A Profile in Faith



Ben Hopper

their commitment to St. Mary as a calling to deepen the faith of young parishioners. “Students like Ben are a joy to be around. They have a deep understanding of our faith and because of their instruction at St. Mary, they yearn to be involved at St. Thomas More,” said Fr. Brandon.

Ben echoed Fr. Brandon’s thoughts, “Because St. Mary is such a God-Conscience community, I am reminded of my commitment to others every day. I have a desire to help others and use the talents God has given me. And, I say that without it feeling like a forced platitude. Everyday, at St. Mary, something ‘magical’ happens and I am reminded of God’s presence in ordinary life.”

Ben further explained the presence of God in his everyday life; “It doesn’t

just go away when church is over on Sunday at St. Thomas More or even when the bell rings at the end of the day at St. Mary. Prayer and faith are ingrained in my life. We pray before every sports game; we pray before an Academic Team Meet; we pray before school even begins. Prayer and faith are everywhere, and I don’t think I would have that if I didn’t attend a Catholic school.”

Ben puts his faith into action as well. He is a member of Y-Disciple, St. Thomas More’s youth program, and he is a member of the EDGE Core Team. EDGE is St. Thomas More’s youth group for grade school and middle school students. As a Core Team Member, Ben is instrumental in helping structure the activities of these younger parishioners.

Ben also is a lector and Altar Server at St. Thomas More. His commitment to putting faith into action doesn’t stop at the doors of St. Thomas More. He is equally involved at school. Ben is a leader in the National Honor Society and involved in St. Mary’s Catholic Youth Leaders group.

St. Mary’s Catholic Youth Leaders is a student-initiated council formed about a year ago. The council is designed to focus on faith life at school. The group helps plan retreats for each grade and is responsible for putting together the weekly Masses at school as well as special activities such as praying the Rosary or Eucharistic Adoration.

The group doesn’t shy away from the issues either. In the spring, several St. Mary athletic teams were asked to be part of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. Upon learning that money donated to the National ALS Association helped fund stem-cell research, the Youth Leaders at St. Mary - recognizing the Church does not support stem-cell research - took it upon themselves to research the topic, and find an alternative. They all participated in the challenge and funds were instead donated to research at the John Paul II Medical Research Institute in Iowa where

research is done while still honoring the sanctity of life.

Recently, the Catholic Youth Leaders requested that Fr. Brandon, from St. Thomas More, come to school and bless each individual classroom. Ben and the other Catholic Youth Leaders spent several days prior choosing a Patron Saint for each room and writing a small inscription about that particular Saint to be placed in the classroom.

Ben said, “We really wanted all of the students at St. Mary to be reminded that God is present everywhere. That’s how we came up with the idea of giving each classroom a Saint and a plaque of that Saint. It is just a small visual reminder for students that God is present.”

“The Common Word” To Leave Henderson Radio Air Waves

By Mel Howard

HENDERSON, Ky. - “Good Morning, Welcome to the Common Word.” With these words, an inter-Christian radio program made its second appearance on WSON, 860 AM, Henderson April 20, 2008. For 30 minutes, listeners in range of WSON’s signal are treated to a conversation among four Henderson ministers: a Catholic priest, Fr. Anthony Shonis Assoc. Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus; a Presbyterian pastor, Rev. John Guthrie; a United Methodist Church pastor, Pastor Freida Alexander; and the Rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Rev. Dr. Beth A. Macke. An announcement about the program said, “These four Servants of The Word will share their reflections on the Sunday Gospel every Sunday Morning at 8:30 A.M. Tune in to Henderson Radio Station WSON 860 AM.”

The Western Kentucky Catholic made this announcement in 2008. Now, in 2014, this paper will be announcing that The Common Word radio program is leaving the Henderson air waves. After six years of the radio program’s four co-hosts sharing a common respect for spiritual insights and for being open to other churches’ views.



Fr. Anthony Shonis, the Associate Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church said, “I still keep my hand in adult education and every Advent and Lent I try to give a series of talks on the Infancy Narratives as well as the Passion

Narratives. I suspect my approach to the scripture is more of an exegetical approach. I spent most of my priesthood teaching the modern biblical approach to the Old Testament at Brescia University.

“Through the years we four radio hosts have had a tradition of eating a meal at each other’s homes, so we have gotten to know the family behind the minister. I can honestly say I spend more time with these Protestant ministers than I do with any other priest except Fr. Larry McBride and I live with him. Also it is apparent to me that the struggles of a Catholic priest and very much like the daily struggles of a Protestant minister who also works in



The Common Word radio program co-hosts from left, Rev. John Guthrie, Pastor Of Presbyterian Church Of Henderson; Fr. Anthony Shonis, Assoc. Pastor Of Holy Name Of Jesus Catholic Church; Dr. Beth Macke, Supply Priest for Episcopal Churches in Indiana and Kentucky; Pastor Freida Alexander, Pastor Of Smith Mills United Methodist Church discuss the Gospel reading for Sunday, Oct. 19. Mel Howard Photos

a parish/ church. However, the most important thing I would like to say is that after 6 years with these three ministers, they are the real thing. They are following Jesus as disciples with all their hearts and they are an inspiration to me! I am going to sorely miss our weekly get-togethers.”



Dr. Beth A. Macke, whose nickname is Nickname MoBeth (short for Mother Beth, which is actually a title used for female priests in the Episcopal Church) said, “What I have heard people say: “It is a great program because you get to hear different perspectives all at once. What I have learned is to respect and love these colleagues. Even during some intense moments, a smile, a laugh, a tender look, have been sources of grace for me. We are able to share our differences in ways that are a blessing for us and we hope are a blessing for our listeners.”

Dr Macke has been the program’s “pray-er” before taping. She thinks of herself as a “Liturgy Geek,” and contributes heavily to all matters of worship and

ceremony.

The Rev. Dr. Beth A. Macke is currently serving as part-time priest-in-charge at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in New Harmony, Indiana. When not at St. Stephen’s, she serves as a supply priest in other parishes in Indiana and Kentucky. She also teaches sociology at Kentucky Wesleyan College. An avid gardener and a serious runner, Beth is married to Mark Sellars and is the mother of Will White, a 7th grader at Holy Name School.



Freida Alexander commented, “I am currently serving Thruston United Methodist Church in Owensboro and have been here 4 years. I encouraged Father Shonis to not give up, when the first year of his vision for this program, he could not find Ministers that would come on board and participate.

“I serve on the Executive Committee of the Ohio Valley Will Graham Celebration. My passion is reaching the city

outside the four walls of the church., and that God answers all prayers. I believe that Christianity is pro-active and ‘hands on’ if it is to win the world to Christ and bring the Kingdom of God to earth.

“I love being a part of Common Word and want to take the time and energy to go back through the Archives and find a three year library of the Best of Common Word and find ways to give those programs to the World. I feel that there are many nuggets of gold in those programs and they should not be lost. (Yes, there were many not so golden, but the work should not be lost) I have learned so much from my colleagues and hate for the program to end.”



John Guthrie arrived in Henderson to be pastor of Presbyterian Church in January, 2008, and shortly thereafter joined The Common Word program as a co-host. The church’s website noted that “John feels a strong calling in our community to “Common Word,” a weekly half-hour radio show that is presented each Sunday morning on WSON radio 860AM. This unscripted, ecumenical round-table discussion of lectionary readings for each Sunday brings together four faith traditions: United Methodist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian.

Past audios can be downloaded from the WSONradio.com website under their “Audio Archives.”

The website’s introduction to Pastor John Guthrie concluded with an apt prayer of praise: “God is so amazing! The Guthries are so grateful and thankful to be in Henderson, KY., and to be taking part in what God is doing right now in this community and through this congregation. As the photo on his desk says, Glory to God!”

WSON 860 AM’s Bill Stevens, Program Director for WSON-860 AM radio, Henderson, has been with the group from day one, producing the 30-minute segments for airing.

The last air date to hear The Common Word on WSON-860 Am radio was Sunday, November 23, 2014.

St. Ann School Science Fair



Students from St. Ann School middle school recently participated in a science fair. Molly Morris explains her project to a visitor.



Sam Brown is making sure everything is going to work just right as the fruits and vegetables provide an electrical current.



Benson Greenwell discusses his project, Liquid Power, with classmate Molly Morris.



Kameron Givens and Paden Dyer demonstrate their project to classmate Samuel Gatten. Photos submitted by Beth Hendrickson, Morganfield KY



Good Food Makes Better Meetings

These ladies cooked a wonderful breakfast for the Central Deanery Meeting at St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown, KY on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014 Pictured are: Carolyn Girten, Rose Floyd, Mary Evelyn Eckmans, Gitter French, Aggie Girten, Rita French, Sharon Baird, Debbi Yates and Shelly Hazel (pictured in the back). Submitted by Kathy Humphrey, St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown, KY

Scouts Announce Religious Awards And Upcoming Awards Mass

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By Ken Keller, Youth Awards Chair, Owensboro Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting



We are committed to building and nurturing our Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing Crew members in moral character through the teaching of the Catholic faith. We further deepen this faith through recognition of those Scouts and Adult Leaders who have completed additional religious study and provided selfless service to others. We ask at this joyous time of the year that Scouts in our Diocese complete their award applications for: Light of Christ (6-7 yrs old), Parvuli Dei (8-10 yrs old), Ad Altare Dei (13-14 yrs old), and Pope Pius XII (15 yrs old to Venturing). We request that you please send your completed applications and evaluation forms by January 25, 2015 (do not send the workbooks at this time) via

US Mail to: Ken Keller, 1422 Kent Place, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301.

For those Scouts who are completing their Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII awards, a board of review will be held on February 14, 2015 at the following locations: *(Please make sure to bring your completed workbook completely filled out and signed by appropriate individuals and clergy to the board of review as support of your service offered.)*

- Owensboro Area: Blessed Mother Catholic Church, 601 E. 23rd St., Owensboro, KY 42303
- Bowling Green Area: St. Joseph Catholic Church, 434 Church St, Bowling Green, KY 42104
- Paducah - St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 5645 Blandville Rd, Paducah, KY 42001

In addition, if you know of an adult Scout Leader that you feel is deserving of the Bronze Pelican Award or the coveted St. George Award, please complete a nomination form and submit it via US Mail by January 18, 2015 to: Dave Ashley, 350 A.G. Daniel Road, Hartford, Kentucky 42347. The Bronze Pelican nomination form can be downloaded through our page on the Diocesan website, www.rcdok.org and the St. George nomination form can be downloaded from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting website, www.nccs-bsa.org.

The recognition of our Scouts and Adult Leaders will culminate at the Bishop's Awards Mass. More information will be provided on this event in the near future.

In Your Kindness, Please Pray For The Soul of Sister Jean Madeline Peake, OSU



Maple Mount — Sister Jean Madeline Peake, 99, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Oct. 23, 2014, at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 75th year of religious life. She was a native of Holy Cross.

An educator for 48 years, Sister Jean Madeline taught at St. Joseph School, Owensboro (1937-46), and St. Joseph School, Central City (1960-67). She was principal and teacher at St. Benedict School, Wax (1957-60). She also taught (and/or served as principal) in Calvary, Harrodsburg and Louisville, and in Missouri. From 1985-86, she was parish minister for St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield.

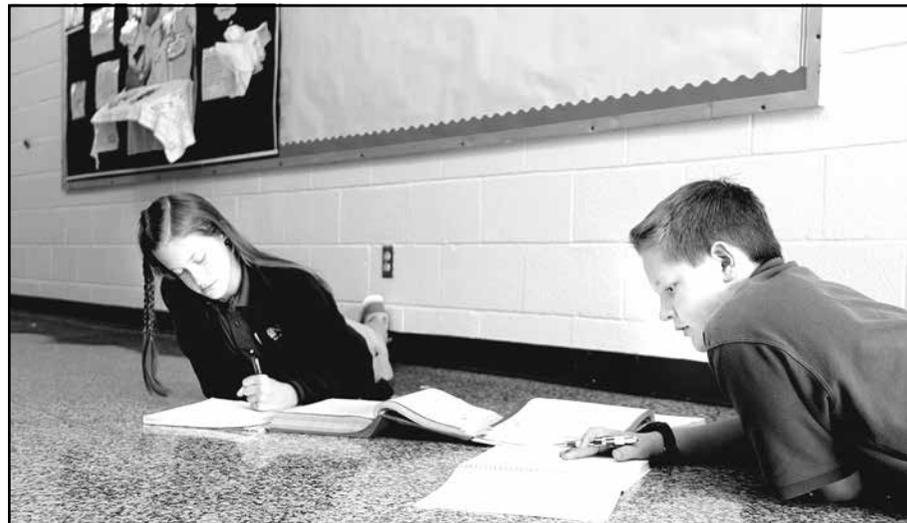
From 1996-2002, she served as director of the craft room at Mount Saint Joseph. After her retirement in 2002, she continued to use her gifts as a seamstress to make beautiful quilts for the support of the Ursuline community. She was the oldest sister in the community at the time of her death.

Survivors include nieces and nephews and the members of her religious community. The funeral Mass was Oct. 27 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements. Memorial gifts for Sister Jean Madeline may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY



In Mrs. Donna Jo Buggs Pre-School Class at Holy Name Elementary in Henderson on October 16, 2014, Colby Sutton was using a HATCH touch screen Tablet computer to access his log in page and go to his computer programs saved on his own page of the program. HATCH is a pre-school learning Tablet for kids. Pre-loaded with research-based early learning software and apps hand-picked by their teacher,

it monitors child progress as they play, showing the teacher exactly what each child knows. HATCH is Adaptive teaching technology that can improve a student's outcomes. Holy Name teachers learned of the technology at a summer, 2014 conference, asked for them, and the school budget had resources to buy six for the school. Mel Howard Photo



Nolan Durham, right, and Sophia Krampe, seventh graders at Holy Name Elementary in Mrs. Shires' Literature Class were doing partner reading October 16, 2014. One student would read a part from their textbook as the other listened and then said in his/her own words what was read. The other then can correct the listener as they discuss what each comprehended from the reading. Holy Name Elementary teachers learned the technique from an Owensboro Diocesan workshop they attended. Partner Reading gives

a student experience in thinking for themselves rather than going to an online source for a summary or explanation, Mrs. Shires said. Mel Howard Photo

Hat, Glove, Coat And Scarf Drive

Sponsored by Right to Life of Owensboro, Care Net Pregnancy Center, and Birthright

Oh the weather outside is frightful.... hats and gloves are always delightful! It sounds like we may get lots of snow this year. Let's be generous this year and help those in need.

Hats, gloves, scarves, coats, and socks are all welcome.

Drop off dates are now until December 20, 2014. There are 3 locations this year:

- Right to Life of Owensboro
1115 Tamarack Rd Suite 200,
M-F 8am-4:30pm
- Care Net Pregnancy Center
922 Triplett St, Suite 7,
M-Th 12pm -5pm
- Birthright - 512 W 7th St,
M-F 9am-12pm

Birthright: Children's coats or snowsuits up to 5T (especially 24 months and under). **Care Net:** Children's coats and clothing up to 12 months. Both can use diapers, wipes baby washes and lotions. **Pitino Shelter:** Hats, gloves, scarves, socks & coats in all adult and children sizes

Contact Robin at RTLO for more information. 270-685-4922. rtl01973@att.net



Veterans Day at St. Romuald Pre-K

The St. Romuald Preschool, Mrs. Gera's Pre-K class, honored local Veterans by saying the pledge with them and singing them a song. They also made Thank You cards for other Veterans at the local VFW in Hardinsburg. Pictured here with Tuesday's Pre-K class are Jerry Boyken and Bill Macy. Thank you Veterans for all you do. You are our Heroes! Submitted by Erin Waddell

Thirteen St. Mary Soccer Players Named to All-State Academic Team

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Five Additional Student-Athletes Earn Honorable Mention

PADUCAH, KY – St. Mary student-athletes have long been known for their success on the field and court, as well as in the classroom. That tradition continues with 2014 soccer teams that have placed 13 St. Mary student-athletes on the Kentucky High School Athletic Association All-State Academic Team and five on the Honorable Mention All-State Academic Team.

The KHSAA Academic All-State recognition is based on cumulative grade point average (GPA) from the time of enrollment in the ninth grade, and is given only to varsity participants enrolled in grades 10 through 12. Participants that maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.75 on a four-point scale are eligible to receive “first team” recognition, while those who maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 receive “honorable mention.”

Earning first team All-State Academic honors include Vikings Houston Babbs, Parker Crump, Jacob Lang, John MacCauley and Caden Tillett, and Lady Vikings Meredith Bruce, Caroline Curtsinger, Ashley Dunn, Emily Gipson, Emily Meredith, Sydney Nash, Maria Shockley and Hannah Waltmon.

Recognized as honorable mention All-State Academic are Evan Culbertson, Flynn Mudd and Tanner Sanders from the boys’ team, and Maddie Cook and Ellie Vaughn from the girls’ team.



St. Mary Soccer All-State Academic Team: back row, left to right: Tanner Sanders, Evan Culbertson, Houston Babbs, John MacCauley, Jacob Lang, Parker Crump, Caden Tillett and Flynn Mudd; front row, left to right: Maddie Cook, Emily Gipson, Hannah Waltmon, Ellie Vaughn, Maria Shockley, Caroline Curtsinger, Sydney Nash, Emily Meredith, Meredith Bruce and Ashley Dunn. This photo was taken at the team banquet at the end of the season. The papers some of them are holding are the All-State Academic Team certificates that were distributed that night. Submitted by Heather DeHart

Annual Collection Benefits 35,000 Sisters, Brothers, Priests in Religious Orders

The 27th national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held **December 13-14 in the Diocese of Owensboro**. The annual, parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington and benefits more than 35,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

Last year, the Diocese of Owensboro contributed \$24,997.42 to this collection. In 2014, the Home Mission Sisters of America and the Sisters of the Lamb of God received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese but whose communities are based elsewhere may also benefit from the annual collection.

The 2013 appeal raised nearly \$28.4 million, enabling the NRRO to distribute \$23 million in financial assistance to 424 religious communities. Additional funding is allocated for communities with the greatest needs and for retirement planning and educational resources.

Catholic bishops in the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds are distributed to eligible communities to help underwrite such day-to-day needs as prescription medications and nursing care. Since the collection began, Catholics have contributed \$726 million. Over 93 percent of donations directly support senior religious and their communities.

Despite the overwhelming generosity to this fund, many religious communities continue to lack resources sufficient to support retirement and eldercare. Of 590 communities submit-

ting data to the NRRO in 2013, fewer than eight percent were fully funded for retirement.

The financial crisis is rooted in low salaries and changing demographics. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests—known collectively as women and men religious—worked for small stipends that furnished only the basics of daily living. As a result, many communities lack adequate retirement savings. At the same time, elderly religious are living longer and now outnumber younger, wage-earning religious. Sixty-eight percent of religious in communities providing data to the NRRO are past age 70, and the income of those engaged in compensated ministry cannot keep pace with the growing cost of eldercare. In 2013 alone, the total cost of care for senior women and men religious was over \$1.2 billion.

In recent years, the NRRO has expanded efforts to help religious communities address the root causes of the retirement-funding shortage. For many, a major obstacle to financial stability is the struggle to maintain outdated congregational properties while providing quality eldercare. In 2013, the NRRO received a \$2.5 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, payable over three years. A substantial portion of this award is being dedicated to the creation of educational programming and resources related to effective property planning and management.

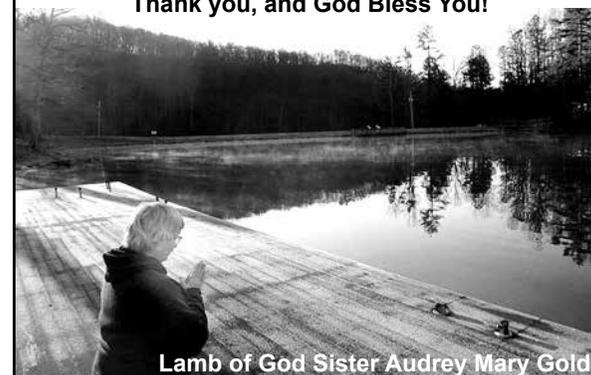


**Glenmary Sister
Bernadette
Hengstebeck**



**Sr Debra Ann Bailey
Sisters of the
Lamb of God**

Thank you, and God Bless You!



Lamb of God Sister Audrey Mary Gold

St. Paul Breaks Ground On Parish/Community Center

Building expected to be ready for 2015 school year

By DeAnna Lasley

SAINT PAUL, Ky. - St. Paul Parish members gathered on the back lawn of the church grounds October 26 afternoon for a ground breaking on a new parish center.

According to Father Steve Hohman, the building will have a gym, cafeteria and office. It will take the place of the original school building, built in 1946.

At the ground breaking, members of the building committee pushed shovels through the grass-covered field to lift divots of grass and dirt, signifying the new beginning.

"I feel like I'm part of history," Patsy Lampton told another parishioner. "I remember when my father (Bernard Portman) talked about building the (original school)." Her grandmother, Julia Portman was a cook in the school. Nearly every person attending the event had memories of the old building. The youngest members of the church will build new memories of a new parish hall.

Morris Burkhead is one of few who actually helped build the old school. As a 17-year-old kid, Morris was told what to do by elders with carpentry experience. He participated in the ground-breaking of the new building on Sunday.

Libby Portman, daughter of Lawrence Portman remembers her father digging the basement of the old building. She said he dug out the basement with mules and a pond scraper while the other parishioners carried out the dirt and rocks.

Scott Merifield won't be using a team of mules and a pond scraper to level the dirt work on the new building. Father Hohman joked that Merifield would use a shovel that "is just a little bigger than" those used Sunday for the ground breaking.

Brandon Burkhead, grandson of Morris, wasn't content to make a few stabs in the dirt. The youth made several holes in the area of the new building.

"The gym is the most exciting part," he said, "because I could just come inside (to play basketball)." Burkhead was shooting hoops on the outdoor court before the ceremony started Sunday.

With dirt work scheduled to begin the next week, the building is under a tight schedule for construction. The 8,000 square-foot building (11,000 square feet with offices) is expected to be ready for use in July 2015. The timeline is somewhat faster than that of the original building. dirt work on that structure was started in the late 1930s, long before the 1946 opening.

The construction of the new building will be a collaborative effort among local contractors including Merifield and Robby Higdon and some others, said Hohman.

At the ceremony, Hohman admitted he didn't think the funding for the building would come together as quickly as it did. St. Paul Parish members made the funding come together and the church will sell memorial bricks as a fund raiser for the building. The bricks will be used to form a side walk with different sizes and prices. Information about the bricks can be learned by calling 270-242-7436.

While the new building will used by the parish and St. Paul School, it also will be an asset for the community, Hohman said. The gym will give the community a place to hold basketball games and wedding receptions and birthday parties.

"There's not much on that end of the county," Hohman said in a phone interview. The indoor gym will be the size of the middle school gym said building committee member Doug Smith. The need for the building was determined through polls of parish members, Smith said. Fund raising for the structure has been continuous for the last 18 months.

Reprinted with permission from The Record, Leitchfield, Ky.

Father Steve Hohman, left, addressed people of Saint Paul Parish in Grayson County on October 26 as they began a ground breaking ceremony for the new parish center to be built on the parish campus. Rodney Lush Photo



St. Paul Parish members watch as the church's building committee breaks ground on a new parish hall/community center. The structure will house a gym, cafeteria and offices which will be available for the school and community to use as well as the church. Pastor Father Steve is at right back. DEANNA LASLEY/The Record



This photo by Rodney Lush shows the approximate location of the new Saint Paul parish center on the grounds behind the parish education building.

Do you need MORE in your life?

By Jo Etta Mayfield



Cursillo is a movement that, through a method of its own, tries to and through God's grace manages to enable the essential realities of the Christian to come to life in the uniqueness, originality, and creativity of each person. In becoming aware of their potential, they exercise their freedom by their conviction and strengthen their wills with their decision to come closer to God.

The Cursillo Movement consists of proclaiming the news of the reality that God, in Christ, loves us. Its mission is best communicated to the laity through authentic friendship. What needs to be emphasized today, now, and immediately is to facilitate and make possible for every person to encounter oneself in order to be able to encounter God and others.

Cursillo, although beginning with a three day retreat, recognizes the continuing need for support in a Cursillista's "fourth day" - the rest of one's life. A Cursillista is urged to join a "group

reunion". This is a brief weekly meeting of four or five fellow Cursillistas. These individuals review their past week, sharing how Christ has touched them, their Christian achievements or disappointments, and their progress in the Cursillo method of piety, study and action. Ultreyas (Spanish for "onward") are held monthly. They are reunions of the Cursillo community at-large and are open to invited guests. They afford Cursillistas an opportunity to meet, pray and socialize with others who are dedicated to living a Christian life. They also provide support for a Cursillista's efforts to bring Christ's message to others in his/her environment.

It is difficult to explain what the Cursillo does for a person or what happens over a weekend retreat since each person comes to the Cursillo from a different place in time and a different relationship with God. It is understandable that each will respond differently to the material presented and the experience of living in a Christian atmosphere. For some, it is a total 'metanoia'; for others, it is a grand awakening; for yet others, it is an enrichment of what they have already known and have been living. We do not promise anything or judge anyone - we simply offer the program and rely on the grace of God and the

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openness of the individual to produce its God-given benefits.

For me, Cursillo means MORE – more understanding of the Mass and my Catholic faith, more friends, more Christian activities, more enriching reading material, but most of all, I now have the best connection with My Savior as I have ever enjoyed in my whole life.

As we approach our blessed Christmas season, we, Cursillistas, invite you to a closer walk with Our Lord. Let Him speak to you more clearly through Cursillo. Our men's weekend retreat is scheduled for March 26-29, 2015 and the women's weekend is June 11-14, 2015.

Merry CHRISTmas to all! I pray in His Holy Name that you all are blessed abundantly. DeColores!

An Amazing Year at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp

By Ben Warrell

The year 2014 has been an incredible year in the short history of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp. It has seen changes and growth way beyond our expectations. Both summer camp and year round retreats have grown and grown. God has blessed us in so many amazing ways this year.

The biggest changes obviously have been the construction of Boone Lodge and the remodeling of the dining hall. Boone Lodge is an almost 10,000 square foot building that will sleep sixty people, has meeting space for one hundred fifty, contains St. Frances of Assisi Chapel and has a storm shelter. This beautiful new building, named in honor of Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, will allow us to almost double our capacity for summer camp and is already the favorite building to rent for retreat groups. The dining hall will allow us to make and serve our meals for camp and retreat guests in the most efficient way possible. Retreat groups are already taking us up on allowing us to provide meals for them and all the evaluations have been wonderful! These two new additions are already doing so much to help us provide the best camp and retreat experience possible!

This spring we also added the Vertical Playground to our list of challenge activities. This activity was paid for by a generous donation from a Catholic family in North Carolina. Two years ago, this family started following us online and on Facebook and decided to make a donation to pay for the Giant



Campers participating in the Vertical Playground this past summer at camp!

Swing. They were so pleased with the results, that they funded the Vertical Playground this year! The Vertical Playground has four different climbing elements-rope ladder, tires, giant ladder and cargo net-that take a participant 50 feet off the ground! We now offer a fourteen element challenge course, a 350 foot zipline, the Giant Swing, Jacob's Ladder, rappelling and tons of games and river activities! There are so many ways to challenge people to step out of their comfort zones and grow personally and spiritually!

In eight years, God has done so much and has touched the hearts and lives of thou-

sands of youth and adults. We will also be hosting our 5th Christmas/New Year's Camp for 8th graders (come meet the people you'll attend camp with this summer) and high school students. We end one year with confessions and begin the next with Mass! It's a great experience and lots of fun, so get signed up before it's too late! The cost is only \$100 and the dates are December 29th to January 1st. If you need more information, please con-

tact our office at 270-781-2466. Thank you all so much for the continued prayers and for all the support over the years! We could not do what we do without the help and support of so many. May God bless your generosity. With so many changes and so much growth, we are incredibly excited to see what God has in store for the future of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp!

Christ The King Catholic School in Madisonville Has An Active Archery Team



The team Roster: Hannah Baldwin, Tyler Baldwin, Liam Box, Madeline Box, Olivia Box, Nick Calhoun, Kuper Chapman, Conner Corbett, Carson Esquillin, Arianna Forde, Manny Forde, Bailey Gillette, Jake Gillette, Nick Hemmerle, Samantha Herrmann, Ella Kirkland, Karis Littlepage, Krisalyn Littlepage, Hannah Livingston, Lillie Melton, Kailey Miracle, Clair Murphy, Daniel Murphy, Bailey Oldham, Ian Rienstra, Brett Wilkey, Damian Pollard.

This is our 2nd year that we've had an Archery Program. The coaches are Matt Corbett and Jason Melton. Students grade 4-8 are eligible to participate. They compete regionally, against other Catholic and non-Catholic schools. Submitted by Sarah Hayden

22 December, 2014

Lourdes Hospital Honors Breast Cancer Survivors

Paducah, KY (October 21, 2014) - Lourdes honored breast cancer survivors at a special luncheon today at the hospital. General surgeon, Dr. Daniel Howard and breast cancer survivor, Dr. Lisa Chaney Lasher were the guest speakers and answered questions from the group. Survivors enjoyed a pink balloon liftoff after the event. Lunch was provided by Texas Roadhouse.

Statistics show that 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer. Early detection can save your life. Get checked today at one of our two advanced imaging centers. Call (270) 366-7854 or visit elourdes.com for more information.

Submitted by Suzanne B. Farmer



Kindergarten Hoe Down Fun

Katie Beth Hagan, Annabelle Cecil, and Bella Hundley decorate pumpkins during the annual Kindergarten Hoe Down at the Owensboro Catholic K3 Campus. Photo by Lori Whitehouse



Hoe Down Hayride

Officer Jared Ramsey, assigned to the OCES K3 Campus through the OPD "adopt a school" program, rides beside Lydia Wimsatt during the Kindergarten Hoe Down Hayride. Photo by Lori Whitehouse

Wearing The Pink For Breast Cancer Awareness

St. Ann students and staff recently participated in a PINK day, raising funds for Cancer Awareness and Breast Cancer Awareness. Students and staff gathered in church to pray the rosary for those who suffer from cancer, those who have died from cancer, and their family members. Donations were given to American Cancer Society. Submitted by Beth Hendrickson.



Trinity High School Hosts Pink Out Day

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. At Trinity High School, students and staff participated in a PINK OUT day in honor of this honorable cause. Trinity High School and Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic School were able to raise \$700 to donate to Breast Cancer Research in hopes to find a cure!

Below, left: Trinity High School students and staff that participated in the PINK OUT day. At right: Fr. John Broussard, Kim Rydecki, and Fr. Gerald Baker celebrating PINK OUT day.

Submitted by Kim Rydecki





Three Blind Mice Halloween 2014 ...pictured from left are Paula Hudson, Lori Burden and Rhonda trump. Paula is the cafeteria manager at St Mary Elementary School in Paducah. She and her two co-workers dressed up as three blind mice for Halloween. Paula said they love to have fun with the kids.
Photo submitted by Sonya Evans



Doing Their Work!

Kindergarten students in Mrs. Potts kindergarten class make posters Nov. 7, 2014 for the Owensboro Catholic High School Girls' Soccer Team who were playing for the state championship on Nov. 8! Photo by Lori Whitehouse.

Holy Name School's Fall Festival Features Good Old-fashioned Fun



Bingo manager, Valerie Beckert, talks with caller, Paul Stich, prior to the beginning of the old-fashioned family bingo session on Friday night. Photos submitted by Kamille Stich



Left: Father Larry displays off a homemade cake at the Holy Name School Fall Festival auction, while student Hayden Krampe looks on. Center: Friends Gabriela Angeles and Maria Martinez volunteered at the Holy Name School Fall Festival. In the picture at right, Abraham Brown enjoys fresh corn on the cob with a touch of mayonnaise and spices served from the Hispanic Food Booth.

Class Act

At right is the Mary Carrico Catholic School November Class of the Month: Front Row L to R: Abby Payne, Trevor Howard, Jackson Turner, Eli Mattingly, Declan Williams Back row L to R: Ms. Kayla Veach, Shelby Horn, Taylor Lanham and Gavin Howard. Photo submitted by Chuck Green, Principal



Priest Assignments

On Nov. 12, 2014, Bishop William Medley announced the following priest assignments:

- Fr. Joosa Marydasan, HGN has been appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green, effective December 12, 2014.
- Fr. Stan Puryear has been appointed Pastoral Administrator at Rosary Chapel, Paducah and St. Mary, LaCenter, effective November 26, 2014.



Over 100 people came to the ground breaking celebration for the New Saint Alphonsus Parish Hall Held Sunday, October 26, 2014. More than 76 people brought shovels to turn over the dirt at the building site just across the road from the church.

Saint Alphonsus Parish has a neat Facebook page. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Alphonsus-Parish>. You will find the pictures on this page and many more from the new parish hall groundbreaking.

Then, take a look at their story, "Groundbreaking - New Parish Hall (Oct. 2014) (38 photos) Thanks to all who have donated and pledged their support thus far! And to all who made chili and deserts, who helped set up and clean up and to all who came out for our groundbreaking and a great time! And thanks to Jackie McCarthy for these pictures!"

John Christopher Powers commented on the parish's Facebook page, "Awesome!"

Natalie Freels also posted 15 of her photos of the groundbreaking on St Alphonsus parish's Facebook page. Natalie commented, "Gorgeous day for parish hall groundbreaking at St. Alphonsus."

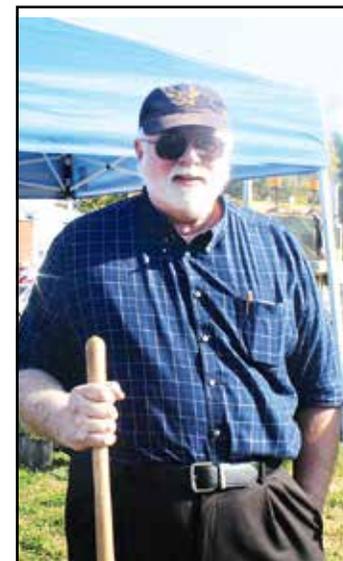
Joy Calhoun Hobson posted, "Diggin' it!" That would make a good headline. Later, she posted, Best of luck. Is that where the old basketball court was back in the day?"

Lots of people around the diocese and elsewhere know St. Alphonsus Church, maybe because it is located across from the Mount Saint Joseph Ursulines Motherhouse. More than that though, people revere the parish and its people. For example, Terry Head Murphy liked the St. Alphonsus photos about the groundbreaking and posted this comment on her Facebook page: "St. Alphonsus Parish is awesome. I grew up there and it is where I got married 35 years ago. Even though I moved across the county and now belong to and love St. Peter of Alcantara Catholic Church in Stanley I will always hold a special place in my heart for my old home parish. So many good memories from the past and especially so many good people there today."

St. Alphonsus Church began developing plans for a new Parish Hall during the spring of 2012. A vision for the new



Diocesan Staff members Kevin Kauffeld and Ernie Taliaferro with pastor Father Ray Goetz and parishioners breaking ground for the new parish hall.



Father Ray Ray Goetz, shovel in hand, amazed.

hall was developed, floor plans drawn, high level costs estimated and with the support of the majority of parish families, work began that summer to prepare the building site. Considerable dirt work has been required to transform the old basketball court area across from the Church into a large, level site for a new, one story and easily accessible Parish Hall. Additional property was acquired, architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical plans drawn, shop drawings prepared for a pre-engineered, rigid frame metal building, and a site plan/development plan was approved.

The new hall will contain offices, a warming kitchen, a conference room, meeting rooms for religious education classes and study groups, restrooms and a large activity area that can be used for parish events and celebrations such as wedding receptions, family reunions, bereavement meals and more! There will be a covered drive-thru entrance for dropping off or picking up members and guests and a large parking area in front of the building. The hall will also serve as a Red Cross Shelter for Western Daviess County.

Major fundraising and the parish's capital campaign began in February 2013, with members, former members and friends supporting the many raffles and fundraising events, donating directly to the campaign and pledging over a five year period. The parish held raffles, auctions, concerts, 4-wheeler suppers, a scrapbook crop, picked up trash, sold Rada cutlery, and held their normal Fish Fry and Summer picnic to raise money. A Catholic Extension grant challenge was issued in March 2014 for \$45,000 in matching funds, which the parish met in May. In mid October of this year, the parish reached

Continued on page 25

At right, 76 Shovels breaking ground for new parish hall. Center: - Pedro Gonzalez and his son Jesse Photo by Danny Thompson



View of new hall location from St. Alphonsus Church and the Cemetery. Photo by Natalie Freels



Ground Breaking for New Saint Alphonsus Parish Hall

December, 2014 25

(Continued from page 24)

their goal of roughly \$804,000, with the cash on hand and pledges in place to begin construction. The groundbreaking on Sunday, October 26th was enjoyed by parish members and friends from the community. With shovels in hand, all participated on this perfect fall day. It was a grand occasion to celebrate the parish's commitment to the new hall, along with fellowship and the sharing of great food.

Plans are to complete pouring of the

foundation before winter weather sets in, after which the metal building can be erected. Weather permitting, the first phase of the building should be completed during the spring of 2015. As a second phase, the front of the building will be partially bricked. "I'd like to remove the brick from the current school/hall, clean it and use it to brick the new building," says Tony Hayden, who will be volunteering to do the work. "This will allow us to incorporate old memories with the

new."

The parish also plans to remove some of the existing hardwood flooring, refinish it and then use it for flooring in the conference room. A number of parishioners have and will continue to volunteer their time and talent in preparing the site, doing specific subcontracting work and of course to continue to fundraise. Additional donations as the building is constructed will also help with fin-

ishing work and furnishings.

This small, rural parish is excited for construction to begin and while much work is ahead, they know that the hall will provide a warm and welcoming place for ministries, service and fellowship, and will be a source of pride for St. Alphonsus and the surrounding community!

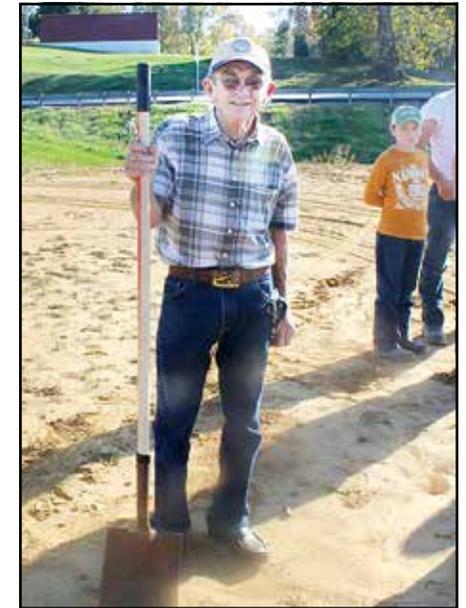
Ed. Note: Susan O'Bryan contributed to the writing of this article.



Groundbreaking. Photo by Danny Thompson



Mike & Jackie Freels.
Photo by Natalie Freels



Tony Hayden.
Photo by Jackie McCarthy



Young (Ryder Murphy) and old alike breaking ground. Photo by Jackie McCarthy



Meal shared following the groundbreaking. Photo by Jackie McCarthy.

26 December, 2014

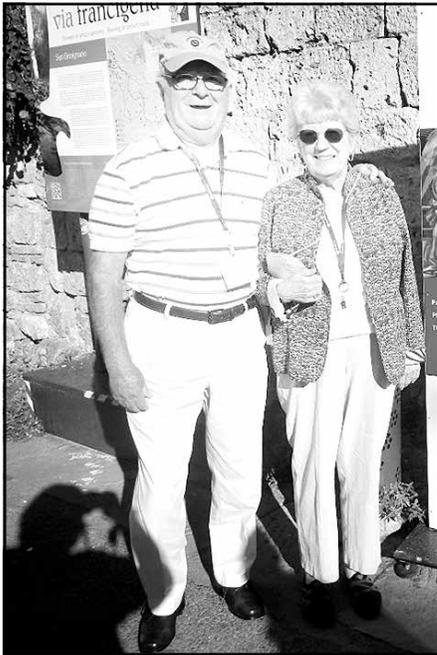
A Parish's Pilgrimage In Italy Was Awe-Inspiring

By Debi Hopkins

From September 29 to October 10, 2014, a group of 31 pilgrims organized together by Saint Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho, spent sunny days in Assisi, Siena, Pisa, the Cinque Terra coast, Florence, and Rome. There was wine-tasting in Tuscany, rambling in the hills of Umbria, and generally, an exciting immersion into the rich culture of central Italy, in particular, the magnificent beauty of this beating heart of Catholicism.

Father Mark Buckner was the spiritual guide for the trip led by Faith in Travel. Father John Thomas joined the pilgrimage group for a few days, enjoying an extension of his trip with another parish group, also with Faith in Travel. The small group from Saint Mary Magdalene Parish was joined by other individuals from Owensboro, the Louisville and Paducah areas, Indiana, and two joined the travel group from Ireland.

The pilgrims participated in Pope Francis' Wednesday audience on October 8 with thousands of other pilgrims from all over Europe and the world.



A Family Picture. Benny and Claudine Blandford, Father Mark's parents in beautiful San Gimignano. That's Father Mark's shadow at lower left; so, he got in the picture.

At right, two blocks from our rooms in Rome, **Saint Peter's Basilica** made a beautiful destination for an evening stroll.



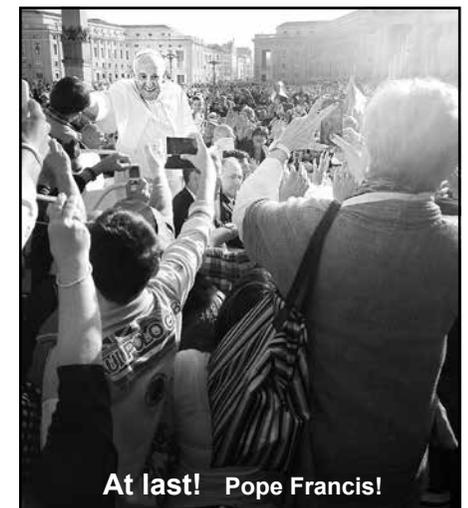
The Saint Mary Magdalene Parish travel group posed for a photo in Assisi.



The Pieta
by Michaelangelo
in the Vatican.



The Evangelizers. Fr. Mark Buckner, left, and Fr. John Thomas prepare for Mass in the crypt of Saint Peter Basilica in the Vatican.



At last! Pope Francis!

By Larena Lawson

There are several ways to give God the power that is His—to be the Guide, Nurturer, Refuge and Creator of life. Couples can invite God to their wedding to bless their commitment, and to hold them in love. They can invite God into their homes through daily prayer, love and sacrifice. He can also be invited into the bedroom when a couple gives of themselves totally, in the most vulnerable and beautiful way — body, heart and soul.

Trust in God is difficult, especially when speaking of something as life-changing as having children. Only a fool would run headlong into sex blindly. But that is not an accurate depiction of the teaching of Natural Family Planning.

Through the design of a woman's cycle, through her natural phases of fertility, through the natural attraction between a couple during a fertile time, through the firm and faithful decision of the couple to abstain from sex if they must,

Natural Family Planning gives couples the ability to achieve or avoid pregnancy, with a high degree of accuracy.

It is with that trust that a couple invites the Lord to put His seal on their life. He is allowed His right as Creator and Designer. In their stunning trust, both husband and wife exude the beauty of Mary and her fiat.

FIAT



Stay tuned for the broadcasting of icon Project videos on EWTN in January!

In their marriage, Pat and Suzanne Padgett, on Owensboro couple, have embraced the method of Natural Family Planning (NFP) and the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage and procreation. They are joyfully raising the children that God has blessed them with. Suzanne

shares her personal testimony in Lolek Productions' telling video, "Fiat." It is an honest and inspiring witness of the transforming beauty of NFP within marriage and family. Fiat comes from the Latin. It means — "Let it be," and it is a part of Mary's response to the angel who told her God's plan

for the salvation of the world.

Currently, Suzanne is a NFP instructor, teaching others to discover the beautiful, natural way of family planning with God.

 **LOLEK**
PRODUCTIONS

lolekproductions.com fr.mccarty@lolekproductions.com

Happy Anniversary

Marriage Anniversaries for December
Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 & over 50
Years of Marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Thomas & Lois Wedding, 52

Ron & Greta Beals, 59

Christ the King, Madisonville

Robert & Floy Daugherty, 61

Sherrell & Jeannie Calhoun, 56

Christ the King, Scottsville

John & Dell Hall, 59

Holy Name, Henderson

Spencer & Ruby Chappell, 58

David & Juanita Cheaney, 55

John & Janet Daily, 40

Allan & Trish Eyre, 40

Larry & Frances Gibson, 40

Forrest & Mary Meuth, 53

Robert & Betty Pritchett, 59

Bayardo & Susana Solorza, 25

Clyde & Janice Sutton, Jr., 52

Robert & Carlene Williams, 53

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

James & Wanda Fischer, 53

Larry & Anita Willoughby, 51

William & Lynda Svano, 52

Joseph & Bernice Jakub, 53

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Patrick & Marilyn Pace, 40

Ralph & Martha Ashworth, 67

Robert & Dotty Clark, 56

John K. & Kay Steele, 53

Odie & Martine Warren, 68

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Bobby & Wanda Gayle Robertson, 25

Otis & Judy Hicks, 51

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Jerry & Ellen Blandford, 57

Resurrection, Dawson Springs

Joe & Mazie Mastromarino, 62

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Erasmus & Gloria Gomez, 53

Michael & Mary Sullivan, 25

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Alvin & Betty Lou Borup, 56

Brown & Willie Mae Foster, 55

Jerry & Carole Gough, 54

George & Martha Greenwell, 61

Jerry & Jeanette Lee, 51

James & Norma Bickett, 65

St. Ann, Morganfield

Justin & Wilma Jean Wolfe, 50

John F. & Madonna Wyatt, 54

Larry & Gail Brown, 53

St. Charles, Bardwell

Zane & Phyllis Teeters, 40



Jim & Peggy Browning celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 3, 2014. Their actual wedding date August 1, 1964. The couple is Bishop William Medley's Aunt and Uncle. Photo submitted by Julie M. Franklin

Daniel & Wanda Hayden, 50

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Billy Joe & Donna Sue Burgess, 54

St. Edward, Fulton

Don & Rachel Cox, 61

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

James Altus & Wanda Higdon, 58

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Mark & Bonnie Roof, 40

David & Edith Keeney, 55

John & Patricia English, 62

St. Henry, Aurora

Jerry & Edna Jones, 59

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Joseph W. & Ruth Ann Higdon, 59

Edward D. & Mary Ruth Elder, 57

Sam & Ella Dean Hayden, 60

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

William & Joanne Powell, 55

Dr. Bill & Lou Moore, 61

Don & Imogene Poston, 64

St. Joseph, Central City

Don & Marlene Monaghan, 58

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Sanford & Ernestine Sumner, 68

Danny & Rose Cook, 40

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Jerry & Shirley Powers, 52

St. Leo, Murray

Phillip & Sarah Bryan, 53

Paul & Barbara Sachse, 52

St. Mark, Eddyville

Byron & Michele Jasis, 25

St. Mary, LaCenter

David & Gladys Fraser, 55

Butch & Janie Rainer, 50

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

David & Judy Connor, 50

Bud & Mildred Boarman, 70

Phillip & Mary Edge, 55

Charles & Linda Payne, 52

Raymond & Emma Whistle, 62

St. Michael, Sebree

Darryl & Carmen Periard, 50

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Jimmie & Helen Clemons, 52

William L. & Edna Drake, 68

St. Peter, Waverly

Tim & Brenda Peak, 40

Jim & Veronica Davis, 40

St. Pius Tenth, Calvert City

Robert & Julie Weekes, 25

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

William Donald & Sylvia Hamilton, 55

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Byron & Karla Dowell, 25

Randall & Doris Priest, 53

Don & Sue Ford, 50

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

David & Betty Abrams, 53

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Salvador & Irene Jaso, 63

Raymond & Roberta Ward, 56

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Arthur & Doris Schwartz, 55

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Thomas & Janet Montgomery, 59

Floyd & Bernadine Watkins, 60

Robert & Carol Crane, 61

St. William, Knottsville

Joseph & Effie Edge, 60

Ronald & Mary Edge, 40

Joseph W. & Janice Millay, 40

Joseph & Minnie Payne, 52

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Hobert & Mary Lundy, 40

William & Faye Boehman, 57

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Edwin & Kathleen Roeder, 63

Bill & Linda Harkins, 56

Gene & Franki Durbin, 53

A Community Works Together To Help Young Readers Get A JumpStart



This photo and article shows how a Catholic parish, retired Sisters from the Mount, and the CCHD worked together to improve lives of migrant and low-income children in our midst. Submitted by Debi Hopkins

21 students from West Louisville Elementary School completed a "Jumpstart Reading Program" where they worked with tutors on their reading skills for three weeks after school. The following students participated: Carlos Diaz, Ricardo Morales, Elena Tomas, Nathalia Hernandez, Gonzalez Tomas, Max Morales, Anahi Juarez, Brayan Pascual Chum, Valentin Jimenez, Delupa Robinson, Leanna Hayes, Jose Juarez, Ashley Velasquez, Luke Murphy, Angelina Hernandez, Deanna Hayes, Andrea Bautista, Kristina Bernal, David Murphy, Javier Hernandez, Araceli Pascual, & Keylin Bautista.

Tutors included: The Ursuline Sis-

ters from Mount St. Joseph, Allie Lindow, Carlos Earhart, Michelle Mattingly, Carvella Whorley, Katie Sims, & Don Peters.

St. Mary Magdalene Church received a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and collaborated with the Family Resource Center at WLES in order to provide the program for these students. Thank you to everyone who participated!

This article from Heather McCarty with the Family Resource Center of West Louisville Elementary School, in western Daviess County, Ky, and submitted by Depi Hopkins

Sharing Life Near "God's Own Country," India



Mrs. Roshan Merchant, grandmother of Aisha Merchant, was visiting the United States from Mumbai, India. She spent time with the 2nd graders at the Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus, sharing the vast differences in the Indian culture and the American culture. Mrs. Merchant is an educator in India. OCS K-3 second grade teacher, Sr. Timothy Bland, OSU is in photo below. Submitted by Lori Whitehouse



December, 2014 29

The Memorare Prayer:

Remember,
O Most Gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession,
was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins,
my Mother. to thee do I come,
before thee I stand
sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy,
hear and answer me. Amen.

Lourdes Blesses Newly Expanded Outpatient Infusion Therapy Center

PADUCAH, Ky. - Lourdes Chaplain, Sister Lucy Bonifas (in photo at right) blessed the newly expanded Lourdes Outpatient Infusion Therapy Suite at a special ceremony on Nov. 11, 2014.

The center, located in the Lourdes Marshall Nemer Pavilion, provides chemotherapy and infusion therapy treatments and blood transfusions for patients. The expanded rooms allow for a larger, brighter, more comfortable and convenient location for patients to receive their treatment, many of which take hours to complete. Large TV's, ipads and space for visitors helps the treatment time pass more quickly.

An IMPACT Lourdes grant of more than \$50,000 helped fund this project. IMPACT Lourdes is a ladies only club whose yearly membership dues are used to support a program or project at Lourdes. Since the program began in 2010, IMPACT Lourdes has granted more than \$200,000 to projects.



TEC 50th Anniversary Cruise



Join the TEC Family for a 7 Night Alaskan Cruise. We will leave Vancouver on August 7, 2015, arriving in Anchorage the morning of August 14, 2015, sailing on Royal Caribbean's Radiance of the Seas. Points of interest include: Ketchikan, Icy Strait Point, Juneau, Skagway, Hubbard Glacier and Anchorage. Train ride from Seward to Anchorage. Meet with Archbishop Schwietz in Anchorage. Fly back home on the 15th.

\$2770 a couple or \$1385 a person Inside cabin-double occupancy. Airline prices won't be available until after the first of the year and will depend on your point of departure. The initial deposit of \$770 will be due by April 1, 2015 and final payment due May 15th.

What's Needed: Name (s) As it appears on your passport. We also need a copy of your passport), Address, City, State, Zip Code, Phone Number, and E-Mail.

For information, Contact Darlene White at 2031 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301 Phone:; 270-713-0144 Or Sharrie Cinnamond at sharriecinnamond@gmail.com.

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From Conflict to Communion

Christopher: Bearing Christ



In An Ecumenical World

By Deacon Terry Larbes

As confirmation approached I chose the name Saint Christopher. My parents asked me to change my confirmation name to Saint Andrew because Uncle Andy was my confirmation sponsor. I said, "No." Their request and my response went back and forth a few more times. My answer was, "No. I want Christopher." The next day my mother explained to me that it was family tradition that the person to be confirmed would take the sponsor's name. "Please take Andrew as your name." I replied, "I want to be Christopher."

A few weeks later when the bishop asked, "What name does he take?" Uncle Andy replied, "Saint Christopher."

Occasionally as confirmation names are discussed I will reveal that my confirmation name is St. Christopher. The common response is, "He is not a saint. He is a myth, he never existed." Then I explain. It does not matter to me if he is myth or real. I chose the name Christopher because of the role not the person. - Terry Larbes

"Every baptized Christian is a "Christopher", namely a Christ-bearer..."¹

When Jesus in the "Commissioning Gospels" told to his disciples to go forth, the purpose was to bear Christ to the world. For the past 2000 we have been doing that ... bearing Christ to the world. Unfortunately bearing Christ to the world has resulted in dividing the Christian Church.

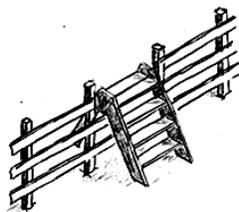
With multi-pluralism, e-media and mass media conflicting or contradictory messages are readily apparent. When the Christian Churches are in contested argument with one another - the fallen away Christians have an easy way out. When the Christian Churches frequently break the 8th Commandment against each other - the non-Christians can posture: If you acted like the Christ you preach then we would be interested in meeting your Christ. The divided Christian Churches are an obstacle to bearing Christ to the world.

The previous articles: "Harmonic Unity in Diversity", "Slack Water", and "Gospel Unity" broach the questions How to relate to other Christian? Can we relate to them? Should we? We ask these questions because we think we have an option. We have the free will to say, "No" but that is different than an option. The only way to be a credible Christ-bearer in today's increasingly secular societies is to maintain the goal of full, visible unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Progress not perfection is important as we work towards unity.

There are organizations that exist out of necessity to protect, provide for, and promote Christ-bearers as they work and relate to the world. One such organization is the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA). The ICMA is an ecumenical association of 28 Christian organizations, representing different churches and Christian communities. The members are all non-profit making organizations actively engaged in welfare work for people who work at sea, seafarers and fishers and their families. (The Roman Catholic Apostleship of the Sea, Pontifical Council for Migrant and Itinerant People is a member of ICMA.) The following comments are from an ICMA presentation titled "Ecumenism, New Evangelization and Maritime World."³

- It is in working together ecumenically and outside of the formal institutionalized churches that we have discovered that all the church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord, after all. Together we offer seafarers Christ, not church.

- Out here in the world where the umbilical cord to our own church is tenuous, stretched and strained, we have discovered others, from elsewhere, working as we do, and sharing a common love of Christ for people. And, strangely, this Christian love is shared by people we have in the past easily hated. In the remotest outposts, "the four corners of the earth, the edge of the world" - sea-going ships in ports - God has made us realize that we share faith and love with the same people we had



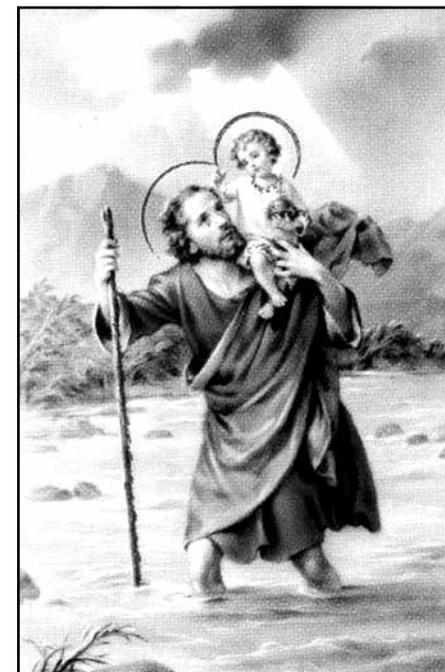
previously suspected of heresy. It is in the difficult context of people's working lives that God has offered us the gifts of unlikely friendship and unexpected support: partnerships through ecumenical working. New evangelization partners with ecumenical working.

- We have found more value in sharing ecumenically than in perpetuating the schisms, because in sharing we have re-discovered the vastness of Christ's love for us, the faithful and our churches. Due to our discovery that we are all loved, we are able to present to seafarers the foundation of all ecumenism. We can show seafarers real community, as an alternative to the rampant individualism of our time. If community is human, then loving communities are God's work.

- As we start to understand just how fundamentally our humanity is transformed by Christ, we realize that Jesus' incarnation touches all humans, even those farthest removed and militantly atheist. Not only can we, the churches, meet one another as friends and companions, we are brothers in Christ, children of one Father. But it goes even beyond the bonds of shared faith: the incarnational reality of Christ implies that we can partner with secular bodies in seeking the justice God wants. We can partner with secular bodies while overtly and explicitly Christ's, because through Christ all of humanity is again connected to God.

- Ecumenical focus on new evangelization acknowledges this one simple tie that binds us all, both churches and humanity as a whole, to the God and Father we know through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, whether the world believes it or not. What's important is that it's the truth. That Christ is real and that we are his church.

In a few weeks we will celebrate the infant birth of Christ into the world.



A popular image of Saint Christopher.

Source: <http://www.divinemercygiftshop.org>

So let us ask the first Christopher:

"Mary, the church across the street claims to know your son. Should I share your son with them?"

"Mary, I know you were poor and the gentile kings brought gifts to your family. When my church provides for the poor should we work with the church across the street?"

END NOTES: 1.) Address Of Pope Francis To Participants In The Plenary Of The Pontifical Council For Promoting The New Evangelization Clementine Hall Monday, 14 October 2013

2.) Cardinal Koch, Ecumenism at the Heart of New Evangelization, 10 December 2012

3.) Ecumenism, New Evangelization And Maritime World. Rev. Hennie LA GRANGE' Secretary General', International Christian Maritime Association, GB

Ecumenical Calendar

- Dec. 15, 2014 Ecumenical Commission Meeting: Christ the King, Madisonville-11am to 2pm
- Dec. 21 - 25 Ecumenical prayer gathering for Christmas: celebrated locally
- Jan. 18 - 25, 2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: celebrated locally
- Mar. 16, 2015 Ecumenical Commission Meeting: Christ the King, Madisonville-11am to 2pm
- Apr. 5, 2015 Ecumenical prayer gatherings for Easter: celebrated locally

Happy Holidays! - Season's Greetings!

By Deacon Terry Larbes

The salutations, *Happy Holidays! - Season's Greetings!*, represent a rather broad time period on the annual calendar. During this time period there are a variety of memorials, celebrations and remembrances many of which cause us to come together as family and community: tokens of care are exchanged; expressions of love are made, tables of food are shared.

For some the Holidays remind them of brokenness and hurt; it is not a happy time.

For others the Season reminds them of lost relationships; there is no one to greet.

How do I rejoice with those present when someone I love is absent?

How do I give thanks while I sit in alone - ness?

The mix of care, brokenness, love, hurt, sharing, alone-ness is bittersweet. The bittersweet mix is the substance of Advent. Advent is where we are! We are hopeful of who is to come.

A very long time ago in the Garden of Eden humanity broke the relationship of unity with God. The incarnation of God as the infant is the beginning of the healing. It is a turning point in time when God re-establishes our relationship with Him. The infant grows so that he can die ... thereby inaugurating the Kingdom of God of heaven on earth. The inauguration of the Kingdom was like planting a seed; the seed sprouts, grows and becomes more visible over time.

We thought that God would extend his staff over the world and the world would be transformed... fixing what we broke. We were surprised. Why the surprise?

Every time I broke something as a child my dad made sure I participated in fixing it.

Every time one of my children broke something I made sure they participated when it was fixed.

As Church we participate in mending brokenness, healing hurt, and uniting the divided.

We have been broken, hurt and divided for a very long time. Jesus, the infant who grows to die, prays for us ... "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. (John 17: 20-21) We as church are to grow visibly in the world through the power of God.

To grow visibly ... we need to recognize that the one body of Christ is inclusive.

To grow visibly ... the faith traditions need to find ways to worship in unity.

The salutations, *Happy Holidays! - Season's Greetings!*, do not ring with the Good News of mending brokenness, healing hurt, uniting the divided. Advent is the time to realize that brokenness needs unity. When brokenness is mended, unity is re-established. The incarnation of God is God seeking unity. It is God's invitation.

To Report Allegations of Sexual Abuse

Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1; 1-877-597-2331).

In addition, to report to the diocese abuse by church personnel (paid or volunteer) to report abuse by diocesan personnel (paid or volunteer; ordained or non-ordained) either past or present, please call the Pastoral Assistance Coordinator at this confidential phone line: 270-852-8380. The Diocese of Owensboro revised its sexual abuse policy, effective July 1, 2014 and it is available at parishes and also on the diocesan web site (www.rcdok.org/safe <<http://www.rcdok.org/safe>>).

The members of the Board who deal with sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Owensboro are as follows: Mr. Ken Bennett (Vice-Chair), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty (Chair), Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, and Ms. Kelly Roe. Sr. Ethel Marie Biri, SSND, serves as the Bishop's liaison to the Review Board. The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian.

God's invitation:

You are invited to the Family Reunion

What to bring:

Humility, Desire for Unity, Empty-handed

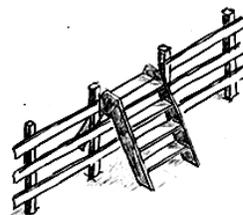
Food:

The bread and wine will be provided

RSVP:

Not required.

Come when ready



Family Activities:

Build a bridge to span

the gap that separates us.

Erect a ladder over the fence

that divides us.

Your Unwanted Items Can Bring Hope To Struggling Families

When you donate your gently used clothing, furniture and household items to St Vincent de Paul, you are helping families right in your local community. Proceeds from our Stores-Donation Centers help local families in need. See below to find a store near you:

- Beaver Dam - 213 Midtown Plaza 270-274-5118
- Bowling Green - 655 US 31 W Bypass 270-904-1832
- Bowling Green - 1901 Russellville Road 270-783-7533
- Fordsville - 327 East Main St. 270-276-5102
- Henderson - 116 North Alvasia St. 270-827-4138
- Hopkinsville - 902 East 9th St. 270-885-8522
- Lewisport - 8185 US 60 West 270-295-3494
- Madisonville - 101 East Arch St. 502-821-2159
- Morganfield - 218 Jim Veatch Road 270-389-4281
- Oak Grove - 15088 Ft. Campbell Road 270-640-6241
- Owensboro - 200 East 18th St. 270-683-1747 (new location)
- Paducah - 2025 Cairo Road 270-442-9351
- Whitesville - 10534 Walnut St. 270-233- 5118

As always, volunteers are needed and welcome to help at any of the stores. Please call the store location for information on how you can volunteer."



A Christmas Story *A lonely little man offered his heart and became Santa Claus*

By Rev. Gerald J. Glahn

Once upon a time, in the little town of Bethlehem, there lived a strange little man. His house was the last house on the last dusty street on the last little hill leading to the rolling hill country.

The little man seemed strange to the town folk because no one really knew him. A few times during the summer days he would venture into the town to market with a bag of cabbages and dates taken from the far side of his little hill. He hardly spoke at all, but when he did, his words seemed strange and told us that he was, indeed, from a far away country.

In the marketplace, when you might draw close to him, you could see his round face and his large gentle eyes. From beneath the hood that he always wore protruded a long white beard. Even though his skin seemed young – though wrinkled in places – his beard was older than his face. His rounded body seemed healthy and young, but he walked slowly, as though he was carrying a heavy load of years upon his back. No one could guess his age, although everyone tried.

Not only his age was a whispered question by the market people, but his



Portraying Santa

Fr. Joseph Marquis is a Catholic priest (Byzantine Rite) serving as pastor of Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church, Livonia, MI. Fr. Marquis, a ventriloquist, entertained children being prepared for surgery. Needless to say, he was often called upon to arrange clinical visits from Santa Claus during the Christmas Season. Source: <http://www.stnicholasinstitute.org/fr-joseph-marquis.htm>

whole life was an unanswered riddle in the tales and stories told about him by the townfolk. Even his name was foreign and strange. The children called him “Santamal” which, in their language, means “Evil Man.” The children had woven together all kinds of stories from the whispers of their parents about spirits and ghosts around the house and the life of the quiet little man. In the evening when the cool air invited the children to play out of doors, the voices of the more naughty ones could be heard chanting a cruel song, “Santamal, Santamal, go away, go away.” Some of the older boys, at night, would throw sticks and stones into his yard and run away, again with the taunt, “Santamal, Santamal.”

Around the first of winter, the hushed voices of the old folk fed the minds of the young people with yarns about Santamal. Some people told of peering through his window and seeing a treasure chest hidden beneath his bed. Others pierced together tales, told by travelers, of a distant place and of a cold snowy kingdom. Behind all the tales and yarn, though, there was a true story.

Santamal was indeed a king. Once upon a time, his name was “Sans Mal, which in the language of the people who loved him, means “Without Evil,” or “Our Good King.” Sans Mal, in the days of his majesty and glory as a king, had a great love for children. In fact, sometimes he was called “The Children’s King.” When he was still a young king, a son was given to him by his beautiful wife. He loved his son beyond words to tell. But the very month his boy turned 2 years old, a great sickness covered the land and his little boy died. Soon afterward his beautiful wife died. His heart was buried with them in sorrow and grief.

After that, Sans Mal wanted to be king no longer. His heart was broken with sadness and he thought he could not be a happy king to teach his people to be happy and to love one another and to love the children. Sans Mal wandered away to this foreign land to hide himself in the silence of his pain. Of all the treasures of his kingdom, he carried with him only two: a bundle of beautiful clothes and a little golden heart. The clothes were rich, regal robes he wore as a king, and included a long red cloak he wrapped his little boy in when he held him. The golden heart

had once hung around the neck of his beautiful wife. He kept these treasures in a trunk stored beneath his bed. These two prized possessions and his memories seemed all that Sans Mal wanted out of life. He closed his door and his heart to all others and left the world to its tales and pain of living.

The silence of his hidden life should be the end of the story of Sans Mal. This would have been the end of his love, except for that night that changed the history of the world and love.

It was a night in the middle of winter and lonesome wind was trying to hide in every nook and alley. Sans Mal was started from his thoughts by a gentle but steady knock at the door. No one every knocked at his door and he wondered all the more.

“Please, sir,” came a man’s voice, “Can you help us?”

Sans Mal, without pausing to question the plea for help, opened the door. He saw there in the doorway a traveler of the night.

“What can I do for you?” he asked.

“We need some place to stay tonight.” The young traveler glanced over his shoulder at a shadow behind him. “My wife is expecting a baby and we have no place to go.”

“Oh...a...a...this house of mine is...so...dirty. No place for a mother...as...have you tried the inn?”

“There is no room,” came the answer.

Sans Mal looked beyond the man to the bent figure on the donkey. The young woman lifted her head and looked at him. He saw that she was very beautiful and was indeed heavy with child.

His own heart remembered another beautiful mother and cries out in silent tears.

“Oh...oh...yes...yes...” he stammered. “You can’t stay here, but I have a place over the next hill. It’s warm. The shepherds use it during the stormy season for shelter. It is a stable, but it is clean,” he apologized humbly. “I’ve just put new straw down. I will come down later and see how it is with you and bring you some cheese and milk. Here take some bread with you and some water...and her is a lantern.” He seemed hurried in giving his gifts and could find nothing that would silence his love. “Off with you now and

I will come down soon...”

The traveler’s eyes welled up with joy and relief. “Thank you, may God bless you and may the promises of Abraham, our Father, be upon you and your family.”

The muffled hoof beats trailed off into the darkness. The lantern disappeared over the rise of the hill as Sans Mal watched. He turned and shut the door again the night and sat for long silent hours of thought. The memory of a gentle woman and a smiling child called his heart to love again. With his mind still in hazed thoughts, he opened the trunk and removed the golden heart and the royal red robes. Slowly and thoughtfully, he put on the royal red trousers and the white ermine lined coat. On his head he placed the cap that kings use when not wearing a crown. He wrapped himself around with a wrinkled, but regal, cloak and buckled it at the neck. In his hand he held the golden heart. It was time for him to pay a royal visit.

As Sans Mal approached the cave, a presence pervaded the night and embraced him. A light filled him as though morning was at hand and was breaking in the midst of darkness. Inside the doorway, he immediately beheld the child was already born. The Love of Mother and the presence of the Child filled the cave and washed over him like a giant wave and forced him to his knees. His years of pain began to melt beneath a soothing peace. His heart bowed down in adoration and sang for love reborn.

He reached out his hand and extended toward the Mother the golden heart.

“Here...for you. It is my own...my heart. It is all I have. It is all my past...take it for him.” He gestured toward the infant lying against her breast. Great tears of joy streamed down his red cheeks to his white beard.

The woman raised the babe for him to hold and she placed Him in the folds of the red cloak. She said, “Your own heart will be like His. He is love and henceforth, everywhere you go children will know love.”

Sans Mal unbuckled the royal belt and with the Child still in it, handed the Child and the robe to the mother. In a trance of love and peace, he rose as if to leave. Again the woman spoke, “Your

Continued on page 33

God's Loving Arms Persecution and Atrocities in Our World

If you read the newspaper, watch the TV news, or listen to the radio, you probably have seen or heard about the persecution of Christians, Jews and even Muslims of different tribes. You've probably read about the outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in Africa. All over the world, the news seems to tell us about utter chaos and destruction. With the invasion of ISIS in Iraq, women and children have been killed in unspeakable violence. One might ask; "Where is God?" Then I think about the atrocities of the holocaust of WWII and the Rwandan genocide.

God has never left us and I believe God is even closer to today's victims than we will ever be able to comprehend because of the ugliness of the crimes. It is just so hard to grasp such violence as

this because it isn't a part of our world in Kentucky. It would be quite understandable for some to question God, especially when trying to understand the evil atrocities we've seen and read from the world news. But this evil can also be our answer. It seems that evil and evil actions are the answers for some to so many questions.

Evil is in this world and Satan prowls seeking the ruin of souls throughout the world. Consider the free will that was given to us from God, and our choosing to do good or evil. Temptation is all around us. But there is added a mixture of hate being instilled in the hearts of men, along with lust, and envy, and Satan stirring the pot, one can see that a dark evil has darkened in the hearts of some men. God never left; He was kicked out. As for the innocent victims and the grieving families, we rely on our faith that God was with them in their darkest hour.

A Christmas Story *(Continued from page 32)*

name should not be Santamal to the children, for it means "Evil Man." From now on you shall be called "Santa Claus" or "Holy Friend."

His clothes, that before seemed wrinkled and old, now began to shine with royal brightness. He repeated his name several times, "Santa Claus, Santa Claus, Holy Friend." He walked as if in a dream toward the doorway, "Holy Friend, Holy Friend."

Over the crest of the little hill toward his house, he heard the sounds of beautiful singing. The night was filled with the song of angels, praising God and the new born King of Love. Santa Claus fell to his knees before one great shining angel and prayed, "O Holy Angel of God, take me with you. I want to love the whole world and all its children and my own son. Show me how to fly to Heaven and back again and to every place on earth. Take me with you."

The Angel said, "Be it done according to your wish. You have a heart worthy of a King and the Kingdom."

That very night, all over the world, children of every kind and nation told stories of seeing a little man all in red, bringing candy and fruit and toys. From that night on, the little man filled with love born in Bethlehem, carries love to every heart and home.

Even though only a few claim to have seen him, everyone knows he is real. He shall live as long as there is love.

The end of the beginning.

Editor's note: Father Jerry Glahn, of fond memory, was the pastor of St. Pius Tenth Catholic Church in Owensboro in 1983 when this story was printed on Christmas Day in the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer.



McLean County Tax Site Needs Help

By Richard Murphy, Director, Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Owensboro

Deacon Nick Nichols is the Tax Site Coordinator for the Green River Asset Building Coalition in Calhoun Ky. He had a resignation of one of his key staff and is looking for help to operate the free tax site this year at the McLean County Library. They help low and moderate income families file their taxes for free. They helped 195 families last year and saved these individuals at least \$100 in filing fees each.

Are you living in McLean County, or know someone who is and might be interested in this type of volunteer service? Training is available to help pass certification and Nick will coach whoever might be willing to step up to help in this type of work. If you are interested or may know of someone who is, then please call or email Richard Murphy at 260-683-1545 or email richard.murphy@pastoral.org. It is very rewarding work.

God is love, and the suffering is such a mystery, as is His suffering on the Cross and its redemptive power to save us. Satan entered into the hearts of men then and they crucified our beloved Lord, but He won victory over death and he saved us from death because of His Holy Cross.

It is also our duty to pray and do whatever we can to help those in these times of great suffering through our prayer and sacrifice. Go to Mass an extra day in the week and offer it up for the conversion of the world. Pray a Rosary or make a holy hour. Praying for others all over the world is pleasing to God because it takes our focus off of just our

problems. Prayer puts things in perspective as we may be complaining about something trivial when there are others dying for their faith. Keep watching the



news, keep up with current events in the world and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who depend on our prayers, our compassion and our charity.

+JMJ+,

By Julie Murphy

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 2 Evening with an Ursuline presentation: Receiving the Gift of Gifts
- 3 Advent Day of Prayer
- 3 Lunch and Learn
- 11 Study of Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel
- 18 Senior Moments
- 19-21 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program

Center-sponsored programs are in **BOLD type**. Please call to register.

To register or schedule an event, call Kathy McCarty

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

www.ursulinesmsj.org



Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

The Mount Saint Joseph Gift Shop is open Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 - 2



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Discover your place in God's plan...



JANUARY

- 6 Evening with an Ursuline presentation: Learning to See as the Mystics See
- 8 Rediscover Catholicism
- 15 Senior Moments
- 17-23 St. Meinrad Retreat Week
- 23-25 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program
- 26-30 Spiritual Direction Training Program (Week 6)
- 30-1 Retrouvaille Weekend

FEBRUARY

- 3 Evening with an Ursuline presentation: The Art of Simplicity
- 4 Lunch and Learn
- 7-8 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 12 Rediscover Catholicism
- 19 Diocese of Evansville Board
- 19 Senior Moments
- 20-22 Yarn Spinners Weekend
- 22-25 MSJ Quilter Friends
- 27-28 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program

St. Romuald School Lending A Helping Hand

By Lori Carwile,
St. Romuald Preschool Director
HARDINSBURG, Ky. - St. Romuald School was presented with a wonderful opportunity to participate in a very worthwhile service project. Some ladies in our local community have been crocheting rest mats / blankets out of plastic grocery bags for the homeless. The concept is purely amazing and very functional and beautiful.. It takes over 600 bags to complete a mat.

Carol Wilson came into the classroom to demonstrate how to cut the bags and make the strips into balls ready to crochet. We will be giving these plastic balls of "yarn" to the ladies so they can crochet the mats. The students may even possibly be able to learn to crochet them at a later date.

The 8th grade students partnered with their Kindergarten buddies and implemented the idea of cutting strips and making the balls of yarn. The whole school



"... how to cut the bags and make the strips into balls ready to crochet."

has been able to help in some way with this project. It has been a great opportunity to work together as a whole to reach out and help those less fortunate.



"... 8th grade students partnered with their Kindergarten buddies ..."

It takes over 600 plastic bags to complete a mat as shown in this picture.



Bringing The Rosary To Life

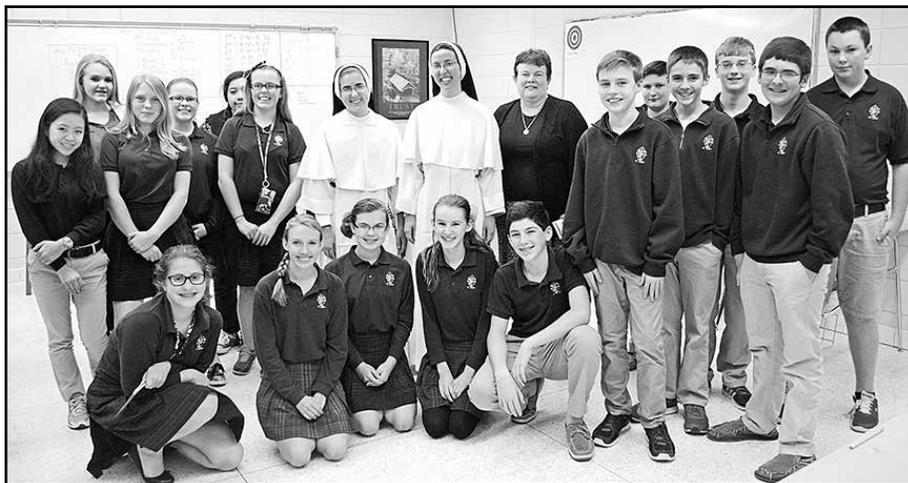
Commemorating October as the month of the Holy Rosary, the St. Mary High School Catholic Youth Leaders led a living Rosary for the SMHS student body. At St. Mary Elementary, students ended a school day afternoon with a Living Rosary, led by members of the 4th and 5th grades, who formed the shape of a rosary as they prayed. Photo by Heather DeHart



HEY! OCS After School Workers Are Cool!
Workers from the K-3 Campus ASP pose for a picture during the Halloween Party for the students in the After School Program on Friday, Oct. 24. Photo by Lucy Rhoades-Supervisor, After School Program, K-3 Campus.

In Our Catholic Schools

Encouraging Catholic School Students To Answer God's Call To Vocation



Mr. Ballard's 8th grade religion classes had several special guests on Election Day, Nov. 4: Sister Martha, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Maple Mount, and Sister Anne and Sister Anne Therese, Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. The Sisters spoke about and answered questions surrounding vocations.

In Your Prayer, Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Sister Mary Catherine Vukmanic, OSU



Sister Mary Catherine Vukmanic, OSU, 95, died Saturday, November 22, 2014, at Mercy Sacred Heart Home in Louisville, KY. A native of Pittsburgh, she entered the Ursuline Sisters there in 1936. Sister Vukmanic was the last member of that congregation, the Ursuline Sisters of Pittsburgh, which amalgamated with the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1958.

She earned a B.A. in English from the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, NJ; an M.A. in English from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, and a Th.D. in Theology from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Sister Vukmanic taught at Ursuline Academy in Pittsburgh (1942-1958), at Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville (1958-1962) and at Ursuline College in Cumberland, MD (1962-1966). During her expansive teaching and administrative ministry, she was an adjunct faculty member at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh (1950s); and in Kentucky, a professor at Ursuline College, Louisville (1960s); St. Mary's Seminary-College of Theology, South Union and at St. Catharine College, St. Catharine (1970s and 1980s).

She served in Catholic parishes in Kentucky (1970s, 1980s and 1990s): St. Stephen Mission Church, Cadiz; SS. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville; St. Augustine, Lebanon; St. Mary, LaCenter, and St. Luke Mission Center, Salyersville. She was a Rural Religious Education Consultant for the Archdiocese of Louisville (1991-1993). She was in volunteer ministry with the Mount St. Joseph Ursuline Sisters in Maple Mount, KY (2004-2005).

Sister Vukmanic was a guest lecturer and an accomplished writer having published more than 200 poems in various periodicals. She wrote numerous articles for Catholic journals and magazines, and was a book review editor for the Catholic Home Journal between 1949 and 1959.

She is survived by her brother Walter Vukmanic in Harmony, PA, nieces and nephews and her Ursuline Community. The Funeral Liturgy was celebrated on November 26 in the Motherhouse Chapel with burial in Calvary Cemetery in Pittsburgh. Arrangements are under the direction of Bosse Funeral Home. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Ursuline Sisters and mailed to the Mission Advancement Office, 3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206.



Fr. Jason McClure, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Owensboro, visited the 8th grade religion classes Nov. 6, encouraging students to answer God's calling, whether it be to a religious vocation or elsewhere. Thank you, Fr. Jason!
Photos by Heather DeHart

Join us for a Women's Retreat

March 20-22, 2015

Holiness in Family Life: Lessons from Saint Monica and Elisabeth Leseur

Presenter:

Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

Time:

Begins 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday

Cost:

Residents \$180, Commuters \$130

**Contact Kathy McCarty to register
270-229-0206**

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

 **Mount Saint Joseph**
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8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org

The fourth-century **Saint Monica** and the 19th-century **Elisabeth Leseur** experienced family struggles firsthand.

Saint Monica, famous for her faithful praying for the conversion of her son, Saint Augustine, lived with a violent and unfaithful husband. Neither her husband nor her son shared her faith for most of their time together.

Elizabeth was married to an atheist, but her spiritual journals, left for him to read after her death, so moved him that he became a Christian.

Participants will learn about these two remarkably different women who were united in constant prayer that their loved ones would someday share their faith in Christ and love for the Church.

Get a 10% discount if paid in full by Feb. 20, 2015

A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact Sister Ann McGrew: 270-229-0200



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Father Bruce McCarty Celebrates 25 Years Of Priestly Ordination

By Chrissy Axley

On October 5, 2014, Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro, Ky. celebrated Fr. Bruce McCarty's 25th Anniversary of being ordained a priest. Mass was held at 10:30 a.m. with many of his family members present. Father Emmanuel Udoh, "adopted" son of Precious Blood Parish and newly ordained priest, gave the homily at Mass. Father Bruce was presented with a monetary gift from the parish as well as a photo quilt, designed and made by parishioner Rita Elder.

The celebration continued after Mass with the parish coming together on a perfect fall afternoon to celebrate outdoor games followed by a sit-down dinner. Guests were invited to sign their congratulations and well-wishes on a banner made for Father Bruce. The quilt was also on display for everyone to see. Father Bruce was presented with another gift from the Knights of Columbus and Father Emmanuel was presented with a chalice, also from the Knights.

We, Parish Blood Parish Community, are thankful for Father Bruce's service to our parish and to the diocese, and wish him many more years of blessings in his priestly ministry.



Father Bruce with his mother at Precious Blood celebrating his 25th anniversary!



Father Bruce stands in front of the quilt that was presented to him at mass on October 5 in Precious Blood Church, Owensboro. The quilt depicts scenes in collages and prints from the priestly life of Father Bruce McCarty.



Father Bruce with some of his family who came to celebrate with him on his 25th anniversary: from left to right: Laquita McCarty, Diane Haynes, Fr. Bruce, Janice Brett, Steve McCarty, Teresa Payne, his mom, Jean McCarty and his aunt, Mahaley McCarty.

*How beautiful
are the feet of
those who bring
good news.
Romans 10:15*

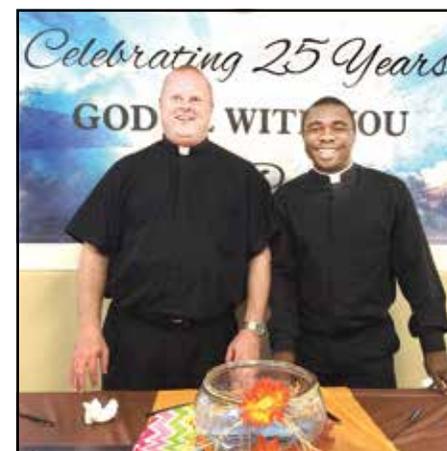


Photo above, left, "Oh, My!" said Father Bruce, at left, holding the quilt made by Rita Elder, and presented to him by Brad Wimsatt, Pastoral Council President, at right. The pictures in the quilt, were printed from photos onto fabric and show a lot of Fr. Bruce's history.

Photo above right, Father Bruce and Fr Emmanuel standing in front of the banner for Father Bruce's 25th anniversary! Fr Emmanuel preached he homily at the Mass.

We All Need A Little Comfort Now And Then



A group of ladies meet at The Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro on Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to make quilts that comfort people.

These Comfort Quilters make quilts for Hospice and for people who are going through a medical treatment and need some extra warmth. People who receive one of the group's quilts say, "Your quilts warm us inside and outside, especially when we are going through chemo."

You do not have to know how to quilt; just be willing to learn. If you want to help to make these comfort quilts for people who really need a warm hug, then call Rita Elder at 270-903-2285.

A Comfort Quilters group signature on a quilt back.

A Very Colorful Tradition On The Day Of The Dead

December, 2014 37

By Abraham Brown

HENDERSON, Ky. - To prepare for the November 2nd to commemorate the Hispanic tradition of Day of the Dead or Dia de Muertos Faithful, an enthusiastic group of women from our Latino community at Holy Name in Henderson, met on the afternoon of October 24 to prepare the Altar with that remembers and celebrates the faithful departed. This Altar is a cheerful and respectful way to honor the memory of our loved ones who went ahead in the road to heaven. The Altar prepared this year features the most important elements of the traditional altar starting with a staggered structure that creates different levels symbolizing the way in which souls must pass on their journey to heaven, with God on the highest level. Flowers of Cempasúchil are used as our ancestors believed that because of its unique smell attracted the spirits of the dead to the altar, water to help relieve their thirst for the long journey back home. Salt is placed on a container for them to come and remember the earthy flavors and a diverse range of food offerings, each recalling the specific tastes of each of the deceased whose photos are placed in different locations of that altar. A very important element is the Bread of the Dead, which is delicious bread with the same bread lumps that simulate the bones of the earthly remains of the deceased and sprinkled with sugar for a sweet enjoyment of their most beautiful memories. Speaking of sweetness, Colorful sugar skulls are included with the same meaning. The ladies do this every year with lots of love, "it is a way to tell our loved ones that we love them and they live on in our hearts" one of them said.



Las muchachas hicieron un excelente trabajo con el Altar de Muertos este año! La verdad es que se han convertido en unas profesionales! The Holy Name ladies did a wonderful job with our Altar of the Day of the Dead, they are becoming professionals in celebrating our Traditions! Great job Muchachas! Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Iglesia Católica del Santo Nombre de Jesús, October 24, 2014 with Ana Castaneda, Lorena Vitervo, Alma Sanchez, Julia Martinez and Reyna Ovalle. HNS Photo

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Glenmary Sisters

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www.glenmarysisters.org

800-301-2689 / 270-686-8401

Spiritual Leaders:

Reverend Fr. Brandon Williams

Reverend Fr. Jaroslaw Skrzypek

Rediscover Catholicism

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015

Time:

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Presenter:

Sister Ann McGrew, OSU

Cost:

\$10 fee includes lunch

Contact Kathy McCarty to register:

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org
info.msj@ursulinesmsj.org



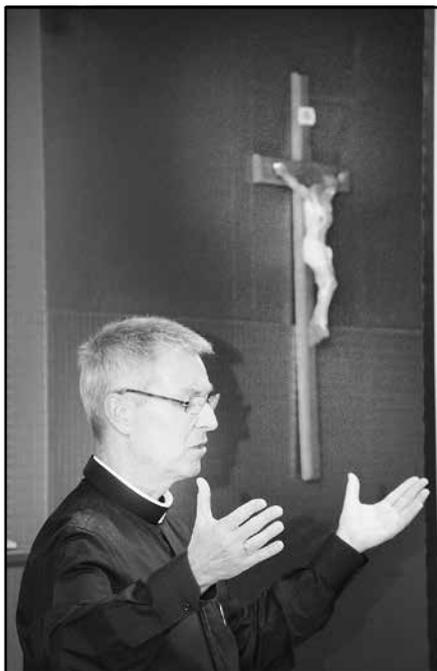
Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

This is a study based on the bestselling book, "Rediscover Catholicism" by Matthew Kelly, which is quickly becoming the most-read Catholic book of our time. He reveals the essence of authentic Catholic spirituality while addressing some of the most important questions we face today as individuals and as a Church.



This year-long program meets *the second Thursday of each month (except July) in 2015.*
The next session is **Thursday, Feb. 12.**

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Tuesday, October 28, 2014 the Diocesan Tribunal staff conducted a continuing education workshop for trained Advocates. Fifty-five lay advocates, priests, deacons and religious from throughout the diocese attended the day-long workshop at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The Advocates were updated on forms, jurisdictional issues as well as listened to a presentation on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by Dr. Tim Harris, a long-time Advocate from Paducah.



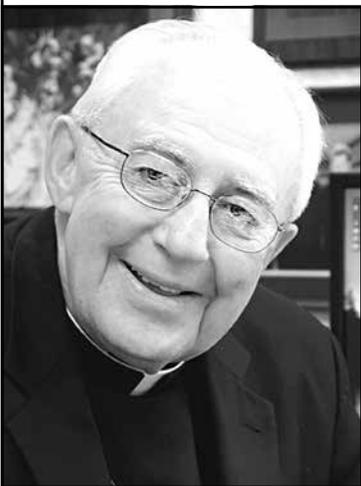
Very Rev. J. Michael Clark, Judicial Vicar, welcomes the participants and offers the opening prayer.



Barb and Deacon Terry Larbes of Paducah, replace outdated forms.

Nominations Now Being Accepted for the John J. McRaith Providing Help, Creating Hope Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2015 John J. McRaith Providing Help Creating Hope Award.



Bishop-emeritus John J. McRaith

Catholic Charities of the Owensboro Diocese established the John J. McRaith Providing Help, Creating Hope Award in 2014 to recognize individuals or groups in the Owensboro Diocese who abundantly show the virtue of charity in their work and deeds, aligned with the mission of Catholic Charities.

The criteria are broad and encompassing. Groups and persons who reside within the diocese are eligible, regardless of their religious preference or where their charitable assistance occurred. The award is named after Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith who retired as bishop of the Owensboro Diocese January 5, 2009.

The mission of Catholic Charities is--integrating and coordinating social and charitable works; providing spiritual, educational, financial, and emotional support to those in need; and engaging in works of charity.

To nominate a group or individual, please complete the form below. The deadline is March 1, 2015.

- Name of individual or group you are nominating: _____
- Address of nominee/s: _____
- Nominated by _____
- Parish of person or committee making nomination _____
- Who can we contact if further information is needed? _____
- Please provide contact information: Phone ___ Email address _____
- Please describe charity performed: _____
- Please mail form to: Catholic Charities, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301

In Your Kindness, Please Pray For The Soul of Sister Mary Clarentia Hutchins, OSU

Maple Mount — Sister Mary Clarentia Hutchins, 94, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Nov. 5, 2014, at Mount Saint Joseph, in her 75th year of religious life. She was a native of Louisville.

Sister Clarentia was passionate about cheering up children, especially those who were outsiders. A down-to-earth person, she was an animal lover who enjoyed collecting stuffed animals.

An educator for 46 years, she taught at St. Lawrence School, Daviess County (1941-42), St. Elizabeth School, Curdsville (1950-54), St. Rose School, Cloverport (1954), St. Paul School, Leitchfield (1955-56), St. Mary Magdalene School, Sorgho (1957-63), St. Joseph School, Mayfield (1963-65), St. Romuald School, Hardinsburg (1965-71), and Immaculate Conception School, Hawesville (1971-73). She also taught in the Archdiocese of Louisville.

From 1987 until her retirement in 2005, she was engaged in outreach ministry in Louisville, including work with the Red Cross, and visiting nursing homes and hospitals.

Survivors include nieces and nephews and the members of her religious community. The funeral Mass was Friday, Nov. 7 at Mount Saint Joseph, with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements. Memorial gifts for Sister Clarentia may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.



Do You Hear What I Hear? 18 Say Yes!

December, 2014 39

The third "Evening with an Ursuline Sister" brought 18 people to the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on a dark and rainy night on Nov. 4 to listen to Ursuline Sister Vivian Bowles discuss "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Sister Vivian has a doctorate in counseling psychology and education, and is a former president of Brescia University. She discussed ways to address communication styles and the roadblocks to quality communication. The "Evening with an Ursuline Sister" presentations will take place on the first Tuesday of each month through August 2015. The cost is \$15 for dinner and the presentation. Contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0206 for details.



Sister Vivian said often the best question one can ask another is, "Would it help if I listened?"



From right, Charlotte Hollis and her daughter Kara Hollis look over the prayer reading, as does Joy Keller.



Marty Clouse and Jan Young follow along in the program. Sister Vivian said, "I can't solve (a person's) problem, but if I really listen, that's the best gift I can give."

In the photo at right, from left, Sister Deborah Lynn Masterman, a Sister of the Lamb of God, Ursuline Sister Alfreda Malone and Ursuline Sister Frances Louise Johnson join in the prayer during the Nov. 4 presentation at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.



Stephanie Maiocco, left, Melissa Martin, center, Bobby Zimmerman and Sister Deborah Lynn Masterman, a Sister of the Lamb of God, listen to Sister Vivian Bowles. Sister Vivian said, "Most of us think we listen, but mostly we just hear."



Learning to See as the Mystics See: A Primer

Tuesday, Jan. 6

"Evening with an Ursuline"

Time:

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Presenter:

Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan

Cost:

\$15 fee includes meal

Contact Kathy McCarty to register

270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org



This program initiates an exploration into living in the "Sacrament of the Present Moment."



The Ursuline Sisters will present a new topic on the first Tuesday of each month through August 2015. Coming up on Feb. 3:

"Art of Simplicity: Living a Simple Life" with Sister Amelia Stenger



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

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on a Pilgrimage to

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

www.pilgrimages.com/bishopmedley



St Joseph's Holy Family Fifth Annual All Saints' Day and Fall Family Fest

BRISTOW, IN. - WOW! What a great day for our 5th Annual All Saints' Day and Fall Family Fest! We counted over 140 pilgrims to God's Country on Sunday Oct. 26, 2014. Almighty God gave us perfect fall weather and the colors were brilliant. Additionally, the fellowship among All Saints - little and big, was an incomparable blessing this side of heaven.

About half of the pilgrims were children. What a great sign of hope for a new springtime of the Church! We are an apostolate with the motto: To Learn, To Pray, To Work, To Play. On Sunday, we did all four of those activities together. Families came from Kentucky and Indiana and Massachusetts and Virginia and Illinois, to my knowledge.

Where else can such a wide variety of Catholic families celebrate together the great victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ over sin and Satan through the faithfulness of his saints?



(At left a photo of some of the little saints take a rest on the rosary trail.)

Thanks to so many donors and volunteers. We appreciate the donations of food by everyone in our pitch-in meal, but especially Stan and Martha Steckler of Grass Corp. and Steve Luegers for the meat. Thanks to the Stecklers and Steltenpohls for the apple cider, as well as the other donors of

drinks. Thanks to Ted and Tammy Glasser for the kettle corn. In addition to everyone's help for set up and clean up, thanks especially to Vicki Granacher for help in the kitchen.

Thanks to all of our musicians: David, Monica, and Cecilia Morris, seen here playing the harp. Thanks to Colleen Buechler and to Ivory Chandelier: Anna Buechler, Jenna Steltenpohl, Emma Steltenpohl, and Joy Seger. Thanks to Craig Gehlhause. Thanks, also, to Myron Fischer, who shared some of his poetry, and to Diane Ginter, who shared a reflection. Thanks to Steve Luegers who was the Master of Ceremonies for the entertainment. Thanks to Jeremy Goebel for leading some pilgrims on the Rosary trail and to the Resurrection Tomb and to Cris Goldbach who also led some pilgrims and provided the power for the waterfall. Thanks to Katie Goebel for the pinatas and for supervising their pleasurable destruction. Thanks to all of the families who dressed up in saint costumes and who joined us for this very Catholic festival.

Thanks to Greg and Elizabeth Haas and to their family who have made a gift of themselves through the inspired beauty of God's Country.

Although they could not be with us physically on this day, thanks to Margaret Bolin and her brother, Vince Peter, for cleaning the statue of Our Lady of Grace and of the Body of the Lord on the Crucifix on Calvary Hill. They did so in memory of Warren Bolin, Margaret's husband, and Brian Peter, Vince's son. Thanks to my family, especially Diane, for working so hard to prepare the natural beauty of God's Country to welcome all of the pilgrims on this day and all of the many days before and since.

Did I forget anyone? If so, I am sincerely sorry because this apostolate is Catholic families working together for the renewal of Catholic family life. We are all working together to support one another on our journey toward eternal happiness with all of the rest of the angels and saints giving glory to God in the Holy Spirit

We do this because we love the Lord Jesus Christ, His Holy Catholic Church, and a world in need of a witness to the joy of the Gospel. May all of the saints intercede for the needs of all of our benefactors and for the prayer intentions of all of the pilgrims and visitors to God's Country.

God's PEACE! Mark Ginter, Head Coordinating Servant

By God's grace, may I be mistaken someday as the Gardener's servant (see Jn. 20:15).



Children dressed as Saints for the St Joseph's Holy Family Fifth Annual All Saints' Day and Fall Family Fest.



Dr. Ginter commented that the David and Monica Morris Family is an integral part of our community. They share their musical talents with us regularly at our events. At left are David and Monica; at right are Monica and daughter Cecelia playing a harp. Photos used with permission.



Saint Edward Parishioner Recognized For His Encouragement and Faithfulness To Parish

St. Edward's Church parishioners can hardly remember when Ben Davis, 2014 Sophia Award winner, did not painstakingly and loving care for the grounds of St. Edward's in Fulton. The fruits of his labor make church members feel good about their environment while Ben's encouragement and positive attitude make them feel good about themselves. Shown here is Ben receiving his award from Father Robert Drury. Photo by Tommie Briggs.

Building Strong Catholic Families... It Takes a Partnership!

Partnering with Parents to Bring Home the Faith



All across the country, pastors—along with parish and school leaders—are asking for effective ways to engage parents in the life and mission of the church, as well as seeking ways to help them take ownership as the primary leaders of faith within their families. To work together toward

this desirable goal, we invite you to consider a dynamic grassroots process, designed to reach out to parents in a way that empowers and challenges them to form *Strong Catholic Families*.

What is Strong Catholic Families About?

Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth is an ongoing parish- or school-based process that engages and strengthens parents and families in growing as a domestic church through a close and vital partnership with the parish and school community.

How Does it Work?

The *Strong Catholic Families* process is made up of four distinct steps that lead to numerous avenues of faith growth within families and the entire faith community.

The process begins with consultations between a diocesan consultant and parish/school leadership. During these meetings, the consultant presents an overview of the *Strong Catholic Families* dynamic and assists the leaders in assessing their readiness to begin building strong Catholic families and in thinking through the implications this direction will have upon current programming and structures. Once the leadership is prepared to make this initial commitment, it begins to assemble a local team of parents and staff to prepare for the next steps.

Step 2 seeks to engage parents through presentations and dialogues with a diocesan-trained presenter who uses contemporary research combined with engaging visuals and pertinent stories to help parents understand the critical role they possess in how faith is lived in their home and especially in their children's lives. Follow-up gatherings will help engage parents in exploring their

emerging needs and concerns while exploring practical strategies for how to best grow in faith as a family.

Step 3 involves additional critical reflection and discernment by all involved: staff, leaders, parents, and the local *Strong Catholic Families* Team, concerning the next steps in partnering with one another to empower and support family faith growth.

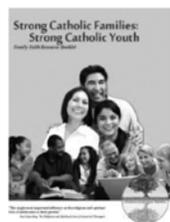
Step 4 is an ongoing and evolving movement comprised of implementing new strategies, further reflection and evaluation, and continued commitment to supporting the growing partnerships between the institutional church/school and the domestic church. This cycle continues throughout the years ahead as more and more families become empowered to grow in their Catholic faith.

What Happens as a Result?

In a nutshell, evangelization! But the specific look is as diverse as the hundreds of parishes and schools and the dozens of dioceses who make up the growing *Strong Catholic Families* network because each local community decides its best direction given the unique resources, culture, and history of the community. Some local responses have included the following:

- *Adjusting program structures to accommodate family faith gatherings between Masses.*
- *Parent groups that meet during sacramental sessions.*
- *Sessions on how to lead prayer and share faith in the home, developing family mission statements, and more.*
- *Coaching parents to pass on the Catholic faith to kids.*
- *Intergenerational Vacation Bible School programs.*
- *Online webinars for parents on Catholic faith topics.*

What Is the Cost?



There is very minimal cost for this initiative because *your diocese has already purchased the copyright permissions for you to use every year!* A community may choose to purchase color copies of the *Family Faith Resource Booklet* and table tent prayer cards, which each family receives during the initial parent session, but permission is granted for these resources to be copied locally as needed.

Who is Behind This Initiative?

The *Strong Catholic Families* initiative is presented in partnership by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM), and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). It is also available in Spanish!



Catholic Campaign for Human Development Awards Over \$12 Million in Grants to Antipoverty, Human Life and Dignity Projects

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) was taken up in parishes nationwide on November 22-23, the weekend before Thanksgiving. Echoing the teaching of Pope Francis, the collection focuses on the theme: "CCHD: Working on the Margins."

"In the United States, many Americans continue to face the effects of a stagnant economy, debilitating unemployment, a dehumanizing cycle of poverty, and growing civic disenfranchisement," said Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. "Families are choosing between food and rent and are worried about job security and low paychecks. Poverty affects us all. Following the mandate of Jesus, CCHD creates opportunities for communion and solidarity that help us all, especially the most vulnerable. Through CCHD we foster the common good and work to build a society where no one is left behind."

This national collection is the primary source of funding for CCHD, the anti-poverty program of the bishops of the United States. CCHD's grants empower communities to build pathways out of poverty and isolation. For over 40 years, community organizations supported by CCHD have brought the joy and hope of the gospel to those lost on the margins of society.

Last year, CCHD provided 209 grants, totaling just over \$12 million. CCHD-supported projects help people and communities in a number of ways.

More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is available at www.povertyusa.org. A new radio public service announcement on the CCHD collection featuring Bishop Soto can be downloaded free of charge at: www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/collection/index.cfm.

Going Forth Into The World From Holy Trinity Church, Morgantown

By Donna M. Elmer

MORGANTOWN, Ky. - Go forth, the Mass has ended. Go in Peace. Thanks be to God.

When I was a young child, I wondered if these words at the end of Mass were a proclamation of, in my words, "Thank goodness, the Mass is finally over; we can go now. Go now and do whatever we deem important."

Thankfully, I had parents who deemed that my baptism, attending mass on all days of Holy Obligation, and receiving the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation were most important to my life. For as an adult, I drifted away from the Church, not in my beliefs, just in my practice of faith. At last, MY priorities prevailed.

You know, those negotiable options. Such as, should I stay home to watch the game or go shopping or spend time with family instead of going to church?

Humbly, I admit, I was wrong. Through my upbringing (God's hands



Welcome the new Couple! Pedro & Eulalia are pictured with Fr. Kalombo.

at work through my parents), I was clear in which direction to turn during difficult times later in life. Toward God.

An AHA! moment! Go forth, the Mass has ended. Go in Peace. Thanks be to God! Go in Peace, live your lives as Christ did, Christ-like, so as to send the message of His Good News to those who do not know Him or those who are not walking with Him or those who do not realize that God is carrying them.

God loves us so much, He died for us, taking all of our sins with Him, so that we may be with Him for eternity, sharing in his goodness. Go out unto the world and make disciples!

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Should we eat in or eat out today?

Wait, eating. That is not a negotiable option; we must eat to live. Just as breathing is to life, God breathed life into us to carry out His mission of going out and making disciples, followers of Christ. AHA!

Go unto the world and make disciples! Go where? Unto the world? How did Jesus do that without phones, airplanes, or the Internet? He did that through living his life as He did, through a small group of believers, sharing their experiences, beliefs and Hope through Jesus with others through families and communities. Through his followers, the message of Jesus and HIS priorities spreads across land and water.

God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows what we need and will always provide what we need. So, don't be surprised if He says, "No," a lot to our wants.



Welcome to the Church, Carson!



Small Groups are in the final Season of the ARISE program. The sessions provide a great forum to share personal experiences of living our faith with one another.

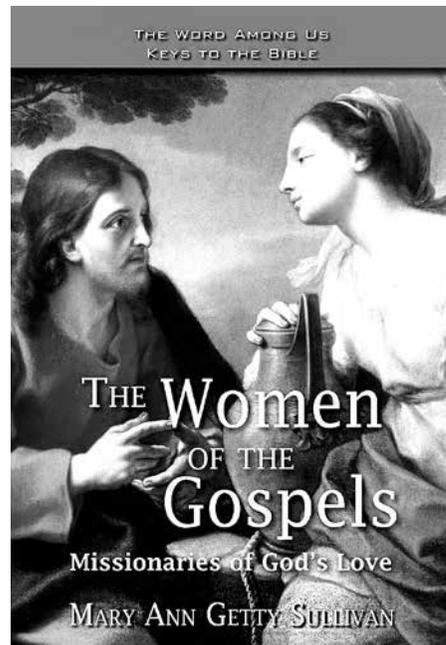


Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to support Christmas in July activities for the residents at Morgantown Care & Rehab.



Coffee and fellowship in the hall after Mass.

Jesus met up with plenty of detractors, and so will you, if you are following him.



A new Bible Study group started this summer featuring Women in the Gospels. Yes, men joined the group, too! Planning for future topics is underway! Cover photo used with permission of the book's publisher, Word Among Us.

December is a gift

By Chris Gutierrez

The month of December always brings us a beautiful opportunity to renew our faith. We are about to finish another year and even though I'm sure it has been probably a difficult year for many there is also a lot to be thankful to God for. As immigrants and many of us being so far from home and away from part of our families, December reminds us that we can count on a Mother that walks with us. We have a Mother in Guadalupe that like with St. Juan Diego she meets us on the trail and she desires to show us which way to go. She wants to lead us and



Uniontown Knights of Columbus Cook Burgoo To Support Charities

On Monday, November 3rd the Uniontown Knights of Columbus cooked over 200 gallons of burgoo to support several local charities. They were assisted by Project Graduation. Pictured are Benny Crowder, Eric Clements, Mike Clark, Greg Greenwell, David Clements, Gary Utley and John Baird. Submitted by Kathy Humphrey, St. Agnes Parish



cover us under her motherly cloth. The celebration of our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us that we don't journey through this world alone. She accompanies us at every moment, and through every difficult situation and problem. Her intercession like never becomes so palpable and she reminds us: "Am I not here, who am your Mother"?

It is my hope than, that this December will fill us with strength and consolation. During the second half of the month we will prepare for Christmas through the celebration of "Posadas". What a beautiful and rich tradition having the opportunity to prepare the heart transforming it into another Bethlehem. It is through each one of these nights of posadas that we are seriously questioned about how opened our own hearts will become to baby Jesus, the God that become flesh during Christmas. We're all in deep need of God's grace. We hunger for the many blessings God brings us through His incarnation. Let us than prepare our hearts to receive God in the humility of a manger during this Christmas. The posadas in their rich tradition and symbolism, in their music and fellowship between friends and the Hispanic community present to us once more an opportunity to grow in our closeness to God. May this Christmas bring you abundant blessings, peace and love.

Gospel of Life Committee Working to Raise Public Awareness With Billboards Asking For Defense of Life

Western Kentucky Catholic Readers may find interesting this information from "Billboards for Life Report," in the Sept. 18, 2014 Minutes of the Diocesan Gospel of Life Committee:

Deacon Nick Nichols reported that a fundraising mailing went out 2 ½ weeks ago and \$5,000 has been raised to date. Plans are in the works (as per Fr. John Okoro's offer) to install a private, permanent billboard at St. Lawrence & St. William parish in Knottsville, with the Knights of Columbus' assistance. This will be followed with the replacement of some Right to Life signs at St. William's and also at St. Sebastian's parish in Calhoun (as per Fr. John Ighacho's offer) with Catholic ones which include the 24/7 toll-free number for Opportunities for Life. Deacon Nick stated they would like to place private billboards on Catholic properties when opportunities arise as they are cost-effective with no rental fees. Signs are 6x12 feet and pastors choose which signs they prefer. The installation of the billboard at St. Pius X as a test site went well.



The photo of the billboard construction at St Lawrence Church is at top left.

An article has been published in the August, 2014 issue of the WKC. Fr. Fid reported that Stanley may be a good location and he will ask the pastor about it. Deacon Nick expressed that a goal is for the Knights of Columbus to eventually take this ministry over as they have the capability to both erect the signs and raise the money easily.

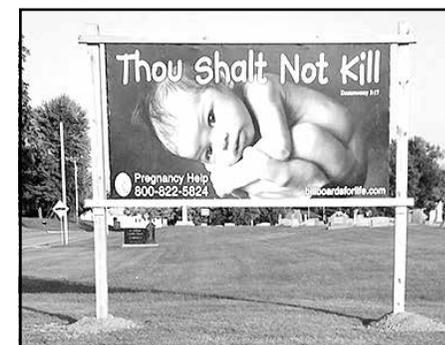
Jim Mathieu thanked the Committee for the money that was donated toward the replacement of the four vinyl sign replacements in the Union County area.



St. Williams' billboard photos are in the middle and bottom. Each billboard

They are waiting for better weather to erect the signs; the Knights of Columbus will assist in the installation.

The first private billboard was at St. Pius X. There was also one installed at St William, the 2nd private billboard'. The one pictured here installed at St. Lawrence parish was the 3rd private billboard. All 3 were installed by Knights of Columbus Council 817, with an assist from Todd Millay from Ward Pedley Builders. The Diocesan Gospel of Life (GOL) Committee also installed a 4th private billboard at



frame has two billboard faces.

St. Sebastian in Calhoun, with the assistance of the KofC Council of St. Charles & St. Sebastian.

Deacon Nick Nickols of the GOL committee commented, "All of these are Catholic billboards (from Billboards for Life) which include the 24/7 toll-free number for Opportunities for Life, providing crises pregnancy counseling. Private billboards are cost-effective since they carry no monthly rental fees and can typically be installed at a cost less than 2 months of a rental fee to a billboard company."

Encuentro Juvenil 2014

Noviembre 12, 2014 - Esta última semana pusimos "fe, esperanza, y amor", como jóvenes y jóvenes adultos en nuestro hermoso centro de retiro, Gasper River, como nos pide el Papa Francisco. El Encuentro Juvenil Hispano de este otoño fue una oportunidad para ser empoderado en el amor de Cristo y como comunidad. El fin de semana fue más frío de lo que habíamos previsto, pero esto permitió una fogata maravillosa con testimonios de como vemos a Cristo en nuestras vidas cotidianas. Nos aprovechamos de nuestro maravilloso ambiente para practicar diferentes formas de oración con el rosario a pie y el río. ¡Muchos fueron valientes y tomaron

un acto de fe en la tirolesa! Los elementos bajos permitieron que todos lograran trabajar en equipo para lograr metas comunes, que refleja nuestra meta más grande en la Diócesis como jóvenes latinos, para convertirnos en líderes fieles de la iglesia católica en los Estados Unidos. Por encima de todo, este fin de semana hemos trabajado en la construcción de comunidad en Cristo, compartiendo nuestras vidas con otros.

Nos gustaría dar

las gracias a todos los jóvenes que participaron y todos los adultos voluntarios que hicieron posible este fin de semana. ¡Juventud! Estén atentos a las oportunidades en su parroquia y en la diócesis para participar en eventos juveniles. ¡Feligreses! Háganos saber si usted desea participar en alguno de nuestros eventos de jóvenes hispanos. Nuestras comunidades están llenas de rica tradición lista para ser compartida, vamos a seguir construyendo la iglesia con colaboración y aprendizaje mutuo.

Feliz en Cristo,

Susana Solorza Shelman, Directora de la Pastoral Juvenil para la Diócesis de Owensboro, KY

Encuentro Juvenil 2014

Diciembre, 2014 5

November, 12, 2014 - This last week we "put on faith, put on hope, put on love" as Pope Francis told us, as youth and young adults at our beautiful camp, Gasper River. This fall's Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Encuentro was an opportunity to be empowered in the love of Christ and each other. The weekend was colder than we had anticipated but that allowed for a wonderful campfire with testimony of Christ in our everyday lives. We took full advantage of our surroundings by practicing different forms of prayer using the Rosary walk and the river. Many were brave and took a leap of faith on the zip line! The low elements allowed all to work as a team to accomplish our common goals, which mirror our larger goal in the Diocese as Latino youth, to become faithful leaders of the Catholic Church in the United States. Above all, this weekend we worked

on building community in Christ by sharing our lives with one another. We would like to thank all the youth that participated and all the adult volunteers that made this weekend possible. Youth! Look out for opportunities in your parish and in the Diocese to participate in events. Parishioners! Let us know if you would like to participate in any of our Hispanic youth events. Our communities are full of rich tradition ready to be shared, let us continue to build the church by collaborating and learning from one another.

Happy in Christ, Susana Solorza Shelman, Director of Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry



Coming up on December 12, 2014 is the annual feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Many

of our parishes have celebrations throughout the day (some in the very, very early morning) to celebrate as a community the apparition of Mary to Juan Diego. Celebrations usually consist of:

- Novena- the Rosary will be prayed in the weeks before the 12th
- Mañanitas- the community signs "Happy Birthday" to the Virgin, usually at midnight of that day
- Procession- around the church building led by a statue of the Virgin, along with candles, dancers, and the parishioners
- Mass- there is usually a Mass celebrated in the evening
- Reenactment- before/during/after Mass, a theatrical reenactment of Our Lady appearing to Juan Diego
- Feast- a celebration with food and dancing for Our Lady
- Roses- these flowers are brought as a symbol and offering to the mass

This is a great opportunity to partner with the Hispanic parishioners of our diocese to participate in this colorful, faith-filled celebration of Our Mother. As a youth group you could make dishes for the feast, participate in the procession and mass, play a part in the reenactment, create a dance, or bring an offering of roses. If you would like to call me to find a contact within your community, please do!!!! My number is (270)852-8332. Below are some of the parishes that have sent us their schedules for that day. If there is not a Hispanic presence in your parish, try finding a parish close by.

- Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam, December 12th Las Mañanitas at 5:00am
- Holy Redeemer Beaver Dam, December 13th Mass : Lady of Guadalupe
- St. Joseph, Bowling Green, Novena, December 3 to 11 at 6:30pm

El Sínodo Extraordinario ... *(Viene de la página 1)*

por Obispo Charles C. Thompson, Diocese of Evansville, IN

advirtió contra la tentación de dos posiciones extremas; es decir, por una parte, la tentación de la inflexibilidad hostil (o la rigidez) y, por la otra, la tentación de una misericordia engañosa que une heridas sin curar y tratarlos primero (o, como él ha explicado, trata los síntomas y no trata las causas y las raíces). La polarización frecuentemente se dirige a un sentido de irrespeto, la incapacidad para el diálogo y la eventual demonización de otros – todos son comportamientos contrarios a la cristianidad. Repetidamente, Papa Francisco nos exhorta a ser bien fundados en un tono de piedad, divulgación y compasión en una disposición de aceptarles y acompañarles a las personas necesitadas. Igualmente, tenemos que hacer lo mismo para familias necesitadas.

Otra dinámica activa parece ser la manera en que la gente percibe la persona de Papa Francisco. Algunos de los miembros más tradicionalistas de la Iglesia han sido un poco aprehensivos del estilo de liderazgo de Papa Francisco. He recordado a estas personas que el mismo Espíritu Santo que guió los conclave de los electores quienes escogieron los últimos grandes papas como Beato Papa Pablo VI, Papa San Juan Pablo II y Papa Benedicto XVI, guió el conclave de electores en escogerle a Papa Francisco. Sí, hay



personas que no querían un papa como Papa Francisco, pero eso no quiere decir que él es bien necesitado. Para un católico, la fidelidad no se trata de obtener lo que uno quiere sino tener una mente abierta a Dios proveyendo lo que se necesita. Ellos que se consideran liberales o progresivos, por otra parte, deberían recordar que Papa Francisco se describe como “un hijo de la Iglesia.” Mientras que algunos en la media tratan de hacer comparaciones contrastes entre Papa Francisco y su predecesor, uno solo necesita escuchar y leer las referencias frecuentes de Papa Francisco a Papa Benedicto XVI. Él quiere dirigir la Iglesia donde el Espíritu Santo la dirige más bien que preocuparse de agendas humanas. Personalmente, mientras que algunos le llaman un revolucionario o un reformador, yo creo que va a ser recordado como el patrono de misericordia. Él realmente quiere consolar a los afligidos y afligir a los cómodos. Cuando uno escucha atentamente a las palabras de Papa Francisco y observa sus acciones, uno es desafiado y consolado simultáneamente. Otra dinámica activa es la experiencia de la familia como una cosa común a todos los seres humanos. Porque no hay ningún ser humano perfecto, tampoco hay familias perfectas. Algunas aparecen ser menos perfectas que otras, algunas un poco más disfuncionales que otras, y

algunas un poco más tradicionales que otras. Las familias son de todas las formas y tamaños. Mientras que hay algunas personas que mantienen buenas memorias o conexiones fuertes de la familia, hay otras que llevan heridas profundas a causa de una familia disfuncional o la falta de la vida familiar. Muchas personas probablemente tienen ambas experiencias, reconociendo a la vez la bondad y el quebrantamiento en el sistema familiar. Sin hacer caso de donde nos encontramos en el espectro de la vida familiar, no hay muchas otras cosas o personas que nos forman como la experiencia familiar. Porque la experiencia familiar de cada persona es única, las expectativas, intereses y esperanzas para el Sínodo en la Familia de todas personas son de forma única. Si nuestra experiencia es una de una familia de dos o monoparental, un hogar de la familia ampliada o de mezclado, un hogar ecuménico o interreligioso, un hogar profundamente amoroso o abusivo, una familia acomodada o pobre, o algo más, las perspectivas influyen nuestras interpretaciones de la eficacia de los Sínodos en la Familia. Por supuesto, ellos que tienen la atracción al mismo sexo o ellos que tienen un miembro de la familia con la atracción al mismo sexo tienen sus propias perspectivas particulares.

Otra dinámica para considerar es la necesidad para una distinción clara entre doctrina (por ejemplo las enseñanzas de la Iglesia) y la divulgación pastoral. La doctrina de la Iglesia que se trata de la sexualidad humana, el matrimonio y otras cuestiones morales probablemente no va a ser cambiada por el Sínodo de los Obispos en la Familia en 2015. Mientras que la doctrina no se puede cambiar, la disciplina es otra cosa. Las noticias del Sínodo Extraordinario de los Obispos han indicado que se ha dado mucha consideración al tono y al lenguaje en que la Iglesia acoge, abraza y camina con personas de procedencias, situaciones, talentos y necesidades diversas. Se ha dado particular preocupación a los divorciados y los casados de nuevo, especialmente en términos del proceso de la nulidad y la recepción de los sacramentos. La esperanza, una de las tres virtudes teológicas, es esencial en la vida cristiana. La esperanza, sin embargo, tiene que ser basada en la aceptación de la voluntad del Espíritu Santo más bien que los sentimientos o deseos humanos.

Entre los principios fundamentales

de la Doctrina Social Católica es el énfasis principal del valor que se da en el matrimonio y la familia. Este énfasis es particularmente destacado en la enseñanza de la familia como una iglesia doméstica. La familia, la Iglesia dice, es la tela irremplazable de la estabilidad en la sociedad. Su significado no puede ser sobrevalorado. Su fallecimiento no puede ser subestimado. La fundación de la vida familiar, la Iglesia ha enseñado, es el matrimonio. Asociado cercanamente con la familia es el principio fundamental de respetar a la vida; es decir, la santidad de la vida y la dignidad de la persona humana. Siempre manteniendo la dignidad de todos seres humanos, incluyendo a las personas de atracción al mismo sexo, la Iglesia enseña que el matrimonio naturalmente involucra una alianza para la totalidad de la vida entre un hombre y una mujer. Aunque parezca difícil, especialmente en el clima social de hoy, la Iglesia tiene que mantener estos principios en equilibrio.

Yo creo que hay mucha bondad que va a venir de estos Sínodos en la Familia, además de la 8ª Reunión Mundial de Familias, esperada a tener lugar en Philadelphia, en septiembre de 2015, teniendo tremenda fruta para los individuos y las familias para crecer en la santidad. Al fin y al cabo, la santidad involucra el valor y la humildad a ser centrado en Cristo. Cuando alguien es centrado en Cristo, todas otras cosas caen en su lugar. Esto es verdad para individuos y familias, que últimamente dirige a la transformación de la cultura y la sociedad. A través de la oración, el respeto mutuo, el diálogo, la misericordia y el perdón, todas y cada familia, sin hacer caso de sus imperfecciones, es capaz de ser una familia santa. Papa Francisco pone mucho énfasis en la familia, frecuentemente notando que las semillas de su propia fe y vocación fueron sembradas y cuidadas por sus padres y abuelos. Repetidamente, él nos ha pedido a orar para la guía del Espíritu Santo en el proceso sinodal, involucrando una agenda muy amplia sobre los desafíos pastorales de las familias de hoy. No puedo pensar en una mejor manera de pasar nuestro tiempo y energía en estos meses que vienen. Oremos fervientemente en nuestras casas e iglesias para la intención del Santo Padre con respeto a “la vocación y la misión de la familia en la Iglesia y en el mundo contemporáneo.”

Reportar las Acusaciones de Abuso Sexual

Cualquier persona que sepa de un abuso de un menor de dieciocho años es obligado por ley informarles a las autoridades estatales apropiadas: policía local o la línea dedicada para el Abuso Infantil de Kentucky (gratis: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331).

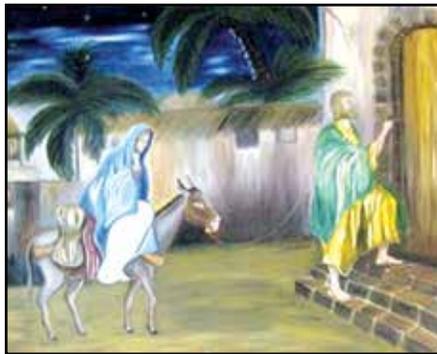
Además, para informar a la Diócesis sobre el abuso por parte de algún personal (pagado o voluntario) de la Iglesia, en el pasado o presente, favor de llamar a la Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral a esta línea confidencial: 270-852-8380. La Diócesis de Owensboro acaba de revisar su reglamento sobre el abuso sexual, efectivo el 1 de Julio del 2014 y está disponible en todas las parroquias y también en el sitio web diocesano (www.rcdok.org/safe <<http://www.rcdok.org/safe>>).

Los miembros de la junta que responden a las alegaciones de abuso sexual en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Mr. Ken Bennett (Vice-Presidente), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty (Presidente), Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Teresa Henry, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, y Ms. Kelly Roe. La hermana Ethel Marie Biri, SSND, sirve como enlace entre el Obispo y la Junta de Revisión Diocesano.

Diciembre es un regalo

Por Chris Guterrez

El mes de diciembre siempre nos brinda una oportunidad hermosa de renovar nuestra fe. Estamos a punto de terminar un año más y aunque seguramente ha sido un año quizás difícil para muchos hay también mucho de lo que tenemos que darle gracias a Dios. Como inmigrantes y encontrándonos muchos tan lejos de casa y de parte de nuestras familias diciembre nos recuerda que podemos contar con una Madre que camina con nosotros. Una madre que como a San Juan Diego nos sale al encuentro, nos quiere decir por donde, desea guiarnos, nos cobija con su manto. La celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe nos recuerda que no estamos solos en nuestra peregrinación por este mundo. Ella nos acompaña en cada momento, en cada situación difícil, en cada problema y dificultad. Su intercesión se hace como nunca más palpable. Y ella nos lo recuerda: “¿Acaso no estoy yo aquí que soy tu Madre?” Ojala pues y que este 12 de diciembre nos llene de consuelo y fortaleza. En la segunda mitad del mes nos prepararemos para la navidad a través de las posadas. Que hermosa y rica tradición el poder preparar el corazón



a transformarse en un Belén. Y es que las posadas en cada una de sus noches nos cuestionan seriamente sobre si cada uno de nosotros le abriremos el corazón a Dios niño, hecho carne en esta navidad. Todos estamos necesitados de la gracia de Dios. Estamos hambrientos de la bendición que Dios hecho niño nos brinda. Preparemos pues nuestros corazones para recibir a Dios en la humildad del pesebre en esta navidad. Las posadas con su riquísima tradición y simbolismo, su música y la compañía de los amigos y de nuestras comunidades hispanas nos presentan una vez más una oportunidad de crecer en nuestra cercanía a Dios. Que esta navidad les traiga abundantes bendiciones, paz y amor.



Las muchachas hicieron un excelente trabajo con el Altar de Muertos este año! La verdad es que se han convertido en unas profesionales! The Holy Name ladies did a wonderful job with our Altar of the Day of the Dead, they are becoming professionals in celebrating our Traditions! Great job Muchachas! Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Iglesia Católica del Santo Nombre de Jesús, October 24, 2014 with Ana Castaneda, Lorena Vitervo, Alma Sanchez, Julia Martinez and Reyna Ovalle. HNS Photo

Celebrar la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe

Join the students of
St. Mary Elementary and
Rev. Tom Buckman of
St. John the Evangelist Parish
for a special Spanish Mass
in celebration of the
Feast Day of
Our Lady of Guadalupe

Unirse a los estudiantes de
Primaria de Santa María
y el Rev. Tom Buckman
de la Parroquia San Juan
Evangelista de esta Misa
español especial en la
celebración de la
Fiesta de Nuestra Señora
de Guadalupe

Friday, Dec. 12, 2014 • 8:30 a.m.

St. Mary Elementary
377 Highland Blvd.
Paducah, KY 42003
270.442.1681

Una Tradición Muy Viva En El Día De Los Muertos

Por Abraham Brown

HENDERSON, Ky. - Para prepararse para el 2 de Noviembre en conmemoración de la tradición Hispana del Día de los Fieles difuntos o Día de Muertos, un grupo muy entusiasta de mujeres de la comunidad Latina de Holy Name en Henderson, se reunieron por la tarde del 24 de Octubre para preparar el Altar con el que se recuerdan y celebran a los fieles difuntos. Dicho Altar es una manifestación alegre y con mucho respeto de la memoria a nuestros seres queridos que se adelantaron en el camino. El Altar que prepararon este año cuenta con los elementos más importantes del tradicional altar, iniciando con una estructura escalonada creando diferentes niveles que simbolizan el camino por el que han de pasar las almas en su jornada hacia el cielo, teniendo a Dios en el nivel más alto. Flores de Cempasúchil que nuestros antepasados creían que por su singular olor atraían a los espíritus de los difuntos hacia al altar, agua para ayudar a aliviar su sed por el largo camino de regreso a casa, sal para recordarles el sabor del mundo y una diversa variedad de ofrendas, cada una recordando los gustos específicos de cada uno de los difuntos cuya foto es colocada en diferentes lugares del mencionado altar. Un elemento muy importante es el Pan de Muertos, el cual es un delicioso pan con protuberancias del mismo pan que simulan los huesos de los restos terrenales de los difuntos y espolvoreados con azúcar para disfrutar con dulzura sus más bonitos recuerdos. Hablando de dulzura también es acostumbrado incluir coloridas calaveras de azúcar que cumplen con el mismo significado y como comentaron las muchachas, lo hacemos todos los años con mucho amor, pues es una forma de decirle a nuestros seres queridos que los queremos mucho y siguen vivos en nuestros corazones.

2 Diciembre, 2014 **Les Exhorto a Todos Leer las Palabras Actuales del Relatio Synodi**



Mons. William F. Medley, Obispo de Owensboro

Queridos hermanas y hermanos,

Después del Concilio Vaticano II el Papa Pablo VI quería asegurar que siguiera el diálogo espiritual e intelectual que marcó las sesiones de aquel encuentro de todos los obispos del mundo. Sabiendo que estos encuentros de tal tamaño serían complejos y caros, tuvo la visión de tener sínodos de forma periódica, encuentros con obispos representativos de alrededor del mundo para reuniones relativamente cortas de dos a tres semanas para explorar cuestiones vitales de fe, enseñanza y práctica. Desde 1970 y hasta la fecha ha habido trece sínodos tales y las compilaciones de documentos, y enseñanzas producidas son vastas.

Estas reuniones sin embargo habían sido en gran parte planeadas por peritos y organizadores del Sínodo mucho antes de la convocación misma. Cuando el Papa Francisco envisionsó un Sínodo para el 2015 sobre problemas y retos afectando la familia en el mundo moderno, se dio cuenta de que quizás definir el diálogo de forma previa al Sínodo, probablemente no permitiría tocar los retos únicos de familias a través de nuestro mundo diverso y pudiera haber bien dejado sin cubrir bastantes y variadas consideraciones importantes. Por consecuencia de forma expedita el Santo Padre propuso que hubiera un Sínodo Extraordinario en el 2014 para comenzar el trabajo del Sínodo próximo.

Con la apertura del Sínodo urgió a los obispos y a las 13 parejas de matrimonios en asistencia a que hablaran con franqueza para así asegurar de que las crisis y retos reales de familias pudieran, en un ambiente de oración, ser consideradas. Los medios de comunicación ambos, seculares y religiosas al mismo

tiempo en que se daba esta reunión ellos intentaron describir los procedimientos cómo sensacionalistas. Y fueron sensacionalistas.--- pero no de estilo chismoso de Hollywood, sino más bien sensacionalistas en estilo y honestidad y preocupación genuina por la Iglesia y las familias del mundo.

Al haber seguido a cientos de escritores y comentaristas encontré una reflexión de lo más astuto sobre el Sínodo y muy cerca a casa. Leí un artículo del Obispo Charles Thompson de la Diócesis de Evansville que había preparado para el periódico diocesano, "El Messenger". Le pregunté si acaso podíamos nosotros reimprimir este artículo para el periódico diocesano nuestro el Católico Occidental de Kentucky y amablemente accedió.

Él ofrece un relato extenso y balanceado de lo que sucedió y lo que no sucedió. En los meses que vienen todas las diócesis del mundo serán invitadas participar en un diálogo que llegará al Sínodo del 2015. El documento final del Sínodo que se acaba de terminar servirá para dar inicio a estas discusiones. Este documento ("Relatio Synodi" a www.vatican.va – la página de la Santa Sede) se consiste de solamente 62 párrafos y es muy legible. No contiene lenguaje abstracto ni difícil.

Entonces les exhorto a todos leerlo. No dependan de lo que informaron los medios de comunicación, sino lean las palabras actuales del Sínodo. Recen que el Espíritu Santo, quien empezó este buen trabajo en la Iglesia, lo lleve a su cumplimiento más pleno.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos!

+ Mons. William F. Medley,
Obispo de Owensboro

Nombramientos Sacerdotales:

El Obispo William Medley ha hecho los siguientes nombramientos sacerdotales:

- Padre Joosa Marydasan, HGN ha sido nombrado Vicario Parroquial en la Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green, efectivo el 12 de diciembre del 2014.
- Padre Stan Puryear ha sido nombrado Administrador Pastoral de la Capilla del Rosario, Paducah y Santa María, LaCenter, efectivo el 26 de noviembre del 2014.

Calendario del Obispo Medley de Diciembre 2014

Diciembre 1-3	9:00 a.m.	Reunión Provincial del Consejo Sacerdotal, Nashville
Diciembre 4	9:00 a.m.	Reunión de la Junta Directiva del CCK, Louisville
Diciembre 6	9:30 a.m.	Encuentro Regional de Católicos en el Capitolio San Pedro y San Pablo, Hopkinsville
Diciembre 7	10:30 a.m.	Confirmación, San Eduardo, Fulton
Diciembre 8 de 4-6	9:00 a.m.	Misa Escolar, Escuela Católica de Owensboro Campus
Diciembre 12	5:00 a.m.	Mañanitas, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe San Pedro y San Pablo, Hopkinsville
	8:00 a.m.	Misa Escolar, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe San Pedro y San Pablo, Hopkinsville
	6:30 p.m.	Misa, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Sagrado Corazón, Russellville
Diciembre 13	4:00 p.m.	Confirmación, San Dionisio, Fancy Farm
Diciembre 15	9:45 a.m.	Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal, CPC
	1:30 p.m.	Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal, CPC
Diciembre 16	9:00 a.m.	Misa y Reunión del Personal del CPC
Diciembre 17	8:30 a.m.	Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas, CPC
Diciembre 24	11:00 p.m.	Misa de Navidad, Catedral de San Esteban

Sus Artículos No Deseados Puedes Traer Esperanza a las Familias Que Luchan

Quando usted dona su ropa, muebles y artículos para el hogar con poco uso a San Vicente de Paul, usted está ayudando a las familias allí mismo en su comunidad local. Los ingresos de nuestras tiendas y Centros de Donaciones ayudan a las familias locales necesitadas. Véase más abajo para encontrar una tienda cerca de usted:

- Beaver Dam - 213 Midtown Plaza 270-274-5118
- Bowling Green - 655 US 31 W Bypass 270-904-1832
- Bowling Green - 1901 Russellville Road 270-783-7533
- Fordsville - 327 East Main St. 270-276-5102
- Henderson - 116 North Alvasia St. 270-827-4138
- Hopkinsville - 902 East 9th St. 270-885-8522
- Lewisport - 8185 US 60 West 270-295-3494
- Madisonville - 101 East Arch St. 502-821-2159
- Morganfield - 218 Jim Veatch Road 270-389-4281
- Oak Grove - 15088 Ft. Campbell Road 270-640-6241
- Owensboro - 200 East 18th St. 270-683-1747 (Nuevo sitio)
- Paducah - 2025 Cairo Road 270-442-9351
- Whitesville - 10534 Walnut St. 270-233-5118

Como siempre, se necesitan voluntarios y la ayuda de todos está bienvenida en cualquiera de las tiendas. Por favor, llame a la ubicación de la tienda para obtener información sobre cómo puede ser voluntario.



El Sínodo Extraordinario provee una causa para gran expectación y esperanza



por Obispo Charles C. Thompson, Diocese of Evansville, IN

Los católicos y los no católicos fueron cautivados por el recién III Asamblea General Extraordinaria del Sínodo de los Obispos abordando “Los desafíos pastorales de la Familia en el Contexto de la Evangelización,” celebrada en Roma, los 5-18 de octubre – quizás más que con cualquier otra anterior Sínodo de los Obispos. Nuestro interés en este Sínodo particular alcanzó a causa de tres razones primarias: (1) La popularidad creciente de Papa Francisco; (2) La manera inclusiva en que la información fue recogida a través de darles una encuesta a las personas “en el banco”; y (3) el entendimiento compartido de la familia como un valor central de la experiencia humana además de la estabilidad social. Algunos observadores parecieron motivados por un sentido de preocupación o aprehensión de cambios posibles en la doctrina establecida de la Iglesia mientras que otros parecieron motivados por un sentido de anticipación de algún tipo de aceptación innovadora en la Iglesia. Mientras que ha habido algunos malentendidos e incluso frustraciones aparentes en lo que ha sido obtenida del Sínodo hasta el momento, yo creo que hay una causa para gran expectación y esperanza para cualquier y todos que están dispuestos a dejar sus agendas personales de lado para confiar en la sabiduría y la dirección del Espíritu Santo.

Para mantener bien un buen sentido de esperanza y expectación, es importante entender algunas dinámicas en el proceso. Por ejemplo, el propósito principal del Sínodo extraordinario de los Obispos fue determinar el alcance o parámetros para profundo discernimiento en la Asamblea General Ordinaria del Sínodo de los Obispos, el 14° tal Sínodo desde el Concilio Vaticano II, tiempo durante el cual los últimos frutos de divulgación pastoral y actividades pastorales pueden ser determinados y posterior-

mente implementados. El tema de este 14° Sínodo Ordinario de los Obispos, esperado a tener lugar en el Vaticano del 4 al 25 de octubre 2015, es “La Vocación y la Misión de la Familia en la Iglesia y en el Mundo Contemporáneo.” Ellos que esperan cualquier tipo de matices inmediatos de la misión de la Iglesia a la familia más allá de la finalidad real de un Sínodo Extraordinario tienen probablemente una sensación de perplejidad.

Otra dinámica activa puede ser la postura de algunos individuos o grupos quienes mantienen posiciones bastante extremas que suelen polarizarnos más bien que unimos en la mente y el corazón de Jesucristo con Dios y el otro.

Entrando en el Sínodo Extraordinario, Papa Francisco comentó que no había espacio para arrogancia entre los participantes. Más bien, el recordó a todos que la participación en tal experiencia exige el valor, la mente abierta y la humildad. El dialogo es esencial. Papa Francisco habló de posiciones extremistas en sus palabras de clausura en el Sínodo Extraordinario, que inspiró algunos minutos de una ovación de pie de los participantes del Sínodo. En sus palabras, notando que los espíritus de la colegialidad y de la sinodalidad involucran un camino de solidaridad, un “camino juntos,” nuestro Santo Padre

Continúa en la página 4

Una Comunidad Trabaja Unida para Ayudar a unos Niños Lectores Tener un Buen Inicio

21 estudiantes de la Escuela Primaria de West Louisville completaron un “Programa de Buen Inicio de Lectura” donde trabajaron con ayudantes en sus habilidades de lectura para tres semanas después de la escuela. Lo siguiente estudiantes participaron: Carlos Díaz, Ricardo Morales, Elena Tomas, Nathalia Hernández, González Tomas, Max Morales, Anahí Juárez, Brayán Pas-



El Obispo William Medley los invita a todos juntarse con él para celebrar el 80 cumpleaños del Obispo Juan J. McRaith con una Misa en la Catedral de San Esteban el Viernes, 5 de diciembre del 2014, a las 12:05pm.



Esta foto y artículo muestra como una parroquia Católica, las Hermanas jubiladas del Monte San José, y el CCHD trabajaron juntos para mejorar las vidas de los niños migrantes y de bajos recursos en nuestra comunidad. Sometido por Debi Hopkins.

cual Chum, Valentín Jiménez, Delupa Robinson, Leanna Hayes, José Juárez, Ashley Velásquez, Luke Murphy, Angelina Hernández, Deanna Hayes, Andrea Bautista, Kristina Bernal, David Murphy, Javier Hernández, Araceli Pascual, & Keylin Bautista.

Los ayudantes incluyeron: Hermanas Ursulinas del Monte San José, Allie Lindow, Carlos Earhart, Michelle Mattingly, Carvella Whorley, Katie Sims, & Don Peters.

La Iglesia de Santa María Magdalena recibió una beca de la Campaña Católica de Desarrollo Humano (CCHD) y colaboraron con el Centro de Recursos para Familias en WLES para proveer el programa para estos estudiantes. ¡Gracias a todos los que participaron!

Este artículo de Heather McCarty con el Centro de Recursos para Familias de la Escuela Primaria de West Louisville, en el Condado de Daviess, KY y fue sometido por Debi Hopkins.