

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

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Jesus is Lord

Youths take turns leading prayer in small groups during Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference on Nov. 23. **Page 13**



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Front page main photo by Riley Greif, WKC.

Submissions

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

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

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A Word From Bishop Medley: *Reasons for our hope*

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

There is an ancient tradition in the Catholic Church of observing some years as Holy Years, also known as Jubilees. Historically these have been designated in recent centuries at least every 25 years, marking the quarters of centuries. St. Peter's Basilica and the other major basilicas of Rome each have a special door opened ceremonially only for the Holy Year. Going back centuries, a Holy Year was a time to make a pilgrimage to Rome and the designated doors were places of symbolic passage to consummate the pilgrimage and receive the special indulgences attached to the journey and prayer.

2025 is a Holy Year. It formally began on Christmas Eve 2024 with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica. The year will extend to January 6, 2026; the Feast of the Epiphany. Our local participation in the Holy Year commenced on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph when I presided at the Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral this past December 29.

The Holy Father designated a theme for the Holy Year and that theme is Hope. Hope is a common theme in the bible and Pope Francis specifically referenced a passage from Romans 5:5: "Hope does not put us to shame." Other translations may say, "Hope does not disappoint because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

Pope Francis, in the proclamation of the Holy Year, wrote, "In the course of the year every effort should be made to enable the People of God to

participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God's grace and in the signs that attest to their efficacy."

"Everyone knows what it is to hope," wrote the pope. "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future will bring."

In our world marked by war and violence, racism and contempt for others, the theme of hope is a timely one for all believers. We hear many people say, and perhaps we say ourselves, that we experience divisions in our society, and even in our

families, like never before. Yet, hope is a virtue and must be pursued – just as the virtues of faith and charity must be pursued. Hope is a gift from God, but gifts must be accepted and then utilized and shared.

Pope Francis asks how we can spread hope and cultivate signs of hope. Just last month he called for the nations of the world to eliminate the death penalty, that prisoners might look to the future with hope and renewed confidence. Further he urged that hope be offered to the sick, to the young and to the elderly, to migrants and to the poor.

The pope insists that Christian hope for each

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Hope does not disappoint

Romans 5:5

Celebrating the Jubilee of Hope in the Diocese of Owensboro



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



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

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



Bishop column continued from page 3

human person, rooted in Christ's death and resurrection, points to our final destiny, eternal happiness with God in heaven.

Anyone can find abundant reasons not to abandon hope. This Holy Year gives us all a reason and opportunity to look again, to consider again, what God has promised and to embrace the hope for us in this life, but even more so in eternal life.

May God bless you all,

+ William F. Medley

Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

BISHOP MEDLEY'S JANUARY 2025 CALENDAR	
Jan 4	10 a.m. Conrad Jaconette Ordination to the Diaconate – St. Stephen Cathedral
Jan 5-9	Region V Bishops' Retreat – New Orleans Retreat Center
Jan 13-16	Convocation of the Priests of the Diocese of Owensboro – Saint Meinrad
Jan 27	8 a.m. School Mass – John Paul II School, Morganfield
	5 p.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
Jan 28	9:30 a.m. School Mass – St. Mary School System, Paducah
Jan 29	9:45 a.m. School Mass – St. Joseph School, Bowling Green
Jan 30	9 a.m. School Mass – St. Romuald Interparochial School, Hardinsburg

Bishop Medley congratulates Brescia University on new president



TINA KASEY | WKC

The arch of Brescia University is seen in this 2018 file photo.

BY WKC STAFF

Bishop William F. Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro has issued his congratulations to Brescia University in Owensboro on the selection of Madison Silvert as its sixth president.

"I have every confidence that the Ursuline identity will continue to prosper under Madison's leadership," said Bishop Medley. "I want to congratulate Brescia on the selection of their new president here in the 100th year of the university."

A press release from Brescia University stated that current Brescia president, Fr. Larry Hostetter, had shared with the university's board of directors in October that he wished to complete his contract at the end of May 2025. It went on to say that Silvert will begin his role prior to the end of the academic year, and work in tandem with Fr. Hostetter until May 31.

"I would like to say a particular word of gratitude for Fr. Larry's 18 years of leadership at Brescia," said Bishop Medley. "He has helped continue the tradition of educational excellence begun by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, and which continues to flourish."

Currently, Silvert is the president of BryantCorp, where he manages and develops hospitality and commercial real estate holdings nationwide; prior to that he was the president of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation. He and his wife, Amy, and their children belong to St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro. ■

Happy anniversary to the following priests:

Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds
Ordained 1/12/1980

Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro

Fr. Brad Whistle
Ordained 1/10/1981

Pastor of St. Paul Parish in Princeton, and St. Mark Parish in Eddyville

Fr. Tony Stevenson
Ordained 1/10/1981
Retired

Fr. Ken Mikulcik
Ordained 1/10/1998

Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville, and Sacramental Minister for St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Todd County

Fr. Anthoni Ottagan
Ordained 1/8/2003

Pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish in St. Joseph, and St. Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville

Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara
Ordained 1/17/2004

Pastor of St. William Parish in Knottsville, and St. Lawrence Parish in St. Lawrence/Philpot

Fr. Suneesh Mathew
Ordained 1/2/2008

Pastor of St. Paul Parish in Leitchfield, and St. Elizabeth Parish in Clarkson

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN
Ordained 1/6/2008

Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield, and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Sunfish

Pray for vocations in the Diocese of Owensboro and learn more at owensborovocations.com

In new role, Dcn. Tim Nugent looks forward to serving the servants of the Church

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Permanent deacons are “servants of the Church – called to serve the Church,” according to Dcn. Tim Nugent, the new director of the permanent diaconate program for the Diocese of Owensboro.

“I just love walking with people as they journey through their lives of faith (in the) joys and the struggles,” said Dcn. Nugent of the permanent diaconate, to which he was ordained 12 years ago. He was made diocesan director of the permanent diaconate effective Dec. 2, 2024.

Dcn. Nugent previously served as the coordinator of academic formation for the deacon candidates studying at Brescia University, and so has worked closely with Fr. Ken Mikulcik, director of formation for the diaconate, for the past five years.

He is also currently working on his doctorate, and said his study was focused on ongoing formation needs for permanent deacons. In his new role, he looks forward to not only working with deacon candidates but assisting with ongoing formation for the approximately 50 deacons in the diocese.

Dcn. Nugent explained that the vocation of a permanent deacon – which is different from the transitional diaconate, to which a man is ordained



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

In this file photo, Dcn. Tim Nugent proclaims the Gospel during a Nov. 21, 2021 Mass in the presence of relics of St. Pio of Pietrelcina at St. Anthony Parish in Browns Valley, Ky.

as a step toward the priesthood – is dedicated to preaching and teaching. He said deacons are assigned to parishes for the most part.

“We are very regularly assigned to sacramental prep, religious education, and adult faith formation,” he said. Dcn. Nugent himself is assigned to St. Anthony Parish in Browns Valley, Ky., and will continue to serve the parish in that capacity in addition to his new role with the diocese.

He said the program has a cohort of men currently discerning the permanent diaconate, and that the program is actively interviewing men for the next cohort.

“That’s something I’m already looking forward to,” he said. ■

To learn more about the permanent diaconate, visit owensborodiocese.org/permanent-diaconate.

‘Prayer changes us’ says evangelization speaker, emphasizes interior life as key to missionary discipleship



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley addresses participants of during the Diocese of Owensboro's Eucharistic Revival Gathering: Year of Mission on Dec. 3, 2024 at the Owensboro Convention Center.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Two parish leaders pray together during the Diocese of Owensboro's Eucharistic Revival Gathering: Year of Mission on Dec. 3, 2024 at the Owensboro Convention Center.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Julianne Stanz speaks on Dec. 3 at the Owensboro Convention Center. Stanz is an internationally known speaker and retreat leader, director of outreach for discipleship and evangelization for Loyola Press, and a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Approximately 231 pastoral leaders came together on a cold December day for the Diocese of Owensboro's Eucharistic Revival Gathering: Year of Mission on Dec. 3, 2024 at the Owensboro Convention Center.

Continuing the tradition begun in 2017, the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship helped coordinate the annual gathering, which was open to pastors, associate pastors, parish staff and volunteers, and others involved in ministry across the diocese.

About 51 of the diocese's 78 parishes were represented, and staff from several Catholic schools and Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center also attended.

Stanz, who spoke at the diocese's inaugural parish leadership evangelization event in 2017, is today the director of outreach for discipleship and evangelization for Loyola Press, and a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This past summer, she served as one of the Impact Session speakers at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

"The teachings of the faith we share should go on for generations," said Stanz during the Dec. 3 event, which included prayer, small group sharing, lunch, and the official announcement of the Diocese of Owensboro's plans for the Jubilee, or Holy Year, of Hope.

"How to be missionaries of hope as we approach the jubilee year," was the theme of Stanz's presentation as she emphasized the importance of having a

strong interior prayer life as an evangelizer.

"Prayer doesn't change the world; it changes us," she said. Stanz introduced the participants to a short prayer she composed at a time in her life when she was having a difficult struggle: "Jesus, I can't, but you can; show me the way."

"There's no magic bullet for missionary discipleship," said Stanz, but added that "we have everything we need to unleash the Gospel to this generation," in other words, the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Christian life.

Emily Gipson, the director of catechetical formation at St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville, attended with her parish and said she was glad to hear Stanz speak about "renewal and revival in each of our own hearts before trying to renew the hearts of others."

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RILEY GREIF | WKC

A woman bows her head in prayer during the Diocese of Owensboro's Eucharistic Revival Gathering: Year of Mission on Dec. 3, 2024 at the Owensboro Convention Center.

"I have been encouraged to seek healing, revival, and renewal for the leaders of our parish and become healed people who heal one another, as well as to foster opportunities for both our leaders and all parishioners to have profound encounters with the Holy Eucharist," said Gipson.

Another parish leader who enjoyed the day of "learning, reflecting, and praying as a diocese" was Ranni Dillard, the coordinator of social action at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson.

She was moved by Stanz's story of a newborn baby whose cries were calmed by the sound of her father's voice, and said she was reminded to "listen for my Father's voice and act accordingly" in her ministry of social justice.

"(Stanz's) presentation and discussion questions were insightful and inspiring," said Dillard. "Reflection prompts forced me to open my heart and gave me a glimpse into the hearts of my co-workers as we shared." ■

Taking Jesus to the wounded of the world *Parish continues Eucharistic Revival's mission with personal visits to neighbors*

BY ANDY TELL, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Since Angela Mills returned from the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis this summer, she's been looking for opportunities to bring Christ to the people around her.

"I have been praying for fruit of the Eucharistic Congress every day ever since we returned," she said. "And then I've just been amazed at how God keeps opening doors and things keep opening up."

One of those doors opened for Mills and a group of her fellow parishioners from Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro on Sunday, Dec. 8. After a period of Eucharistic Adoration and a Eucharistic procession through the surrounding neighborhood, the parishioners went out two-by-two to knock on doors and to ask the residents how they could pray for them.

They then returned to the parish to offer the prayer intentions before the Eucharist in Adoration.

"I just thought the whole thing was beautiful," Mills said. "I loved the procession through the neighborhood with Jesus and then going out two-by-two and bringing Him personally to them, and then bringing their prayer intentions back. I just thought it was all what missionary discipleship is about. I think it's what God expects of us."

The event, including the Eucharistic procession through the neighborhood and then sending out the "prayer warriors," was a part of the three-year



ANDY TELL | WKC

Angela Mills, a parishioner at Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro, collects a prayer intention from a resident in the neighborhood around the church. Mills was one of the "prayer warriors" from the parish who went out two-by-two into the neighborhood to bring Christ to the people on Dec. 8, 2024.

National Eucharistic Revival, launched by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Fr. Carl McCarthy, pastor of Precious Blood Parish.

"The National Eucharistic Revival movement is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the Church in the United States to the divine invitation to be united once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist," according to a statement on the Revival's website, eucharisticrevival.org. "Through the Eucharist, God desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world."

As part of the Revival, the U.S. bishops are asking dioceses across the country to join their "Walk With One" initiative."

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“This is your opportunity to be God’s instrument in the life of another person. Imagine how our families, neighborhoods, and country will be transformed if every active Catholic answers this call!” the bishops stated on the Revival’s webpage dedicated to the initiative.

“This is the third year of the Revival, and this is the year we are to be missionary disciples of the Eucharist,” Fr. McCarthy explained. The mission is not to keep our love for the Eucharist inside our parish churches, he said, “but it is to take what Jesus is in the Eucharist and then do what he told us to do. He gave us a Great Commission, and that commission was to go out and to bind up the wounds of the world.”

As a parish church, Fr. McCarthy said, “We’re here to feed our neighbors,” he said. The food the

parish offers is not only food for their bodies, but for their souls, Fr. McCarthy said, “through the sacraments, through the Church, through who we represent as a faith, which is Jesus Christ.

“If people have that hungry heart fed, they can respond in greater ways to the world,” Fr. McCarthy said.

“Pope Francis says that the Church should be a hospital for those who are wounded in the world, wounded spiritually, wounded physically,” Fr. McCarthy said. Some of those wounds were reflected in the prayer intentions brought back to the parish.

“It was powerful to hear the prayer intentions for people who have cancer, for a family member who died this week, for people who’ve been away from the Church, for children who were born early and

still need to gain weight,” Fr. McCarthy said.

As Mills walked through the neighborhood meeting people and asking for their prayer intentions, she was struck by “how open everyone was to answering the door, to having prayers that they wanted to be heard,” she said. “Smiling faces but suffering souls too.”

While some might be anxious asking strangers for their prayer intentions, for Mills, “It’s just been kind of easy,” she said. “You know God’s at work when things come easily.” ■

Editor’s note: Year Three of the National Eucharistic Revival is focused on going out on mission, especially via the USCCB’s initiative called Walk With One. To learn more, visit www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one.

Welcoming the stranger: Catholic Charities looks forward to helping refugees become ‘self-sufficient’

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Refugee resettlement “is a life-saving project,” according to the director of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS), a new program with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

“You are providing life-saving support to refugees,” said Khaibar Shafaq, the director of the program, which launched in late 2024 and is affiliated with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ longstanding resettlement efforts.

Shafaq himself had to flee his home country of Afghanistan after the Taliban’s 2021 takeover of the

country, following the departure of United States troops. Shafaq was in danger of being targeted by the Islamic State group because he had worked with and supported the U.S. government.

After Shafaq – and two years later, his wife and young children – were brought to the U.S. and safely resettled in Owensboro, he knew he was called to help serve others forced from their homelands by dangerous circumstances.

After months of planning, consultations, and training with other refugee-resettlement agencies, MRS, through the Diocese of Owensboro, now joins the broad network of migration and refugee resettlement support within Kentucky.



RACHEL HALL | WKC
Khaibar Shafaq, director of Migration and Refugee Services with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., smiles with Susan Montalvo-Gesser during an Oct. 17, 2024 training with the Kentucky Office for Refugees.

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RACHEL HALL | WKC

In this Oct. 17, 2024 photo, Catholic Charities' Migration and Refugee Services staff participate in a training led by the Kentucky Office for Refugees, which is based out of Louisville.

"Our objective, at the end of the day, is to make them self-sufficient," said Shafaq.

This program continues Kentucky's longtime tradition of resettling people forced from their native lands, which began after the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of Louisville received the commonwealth's very first group of refugees, which came from Vietnam.

Today, Kentucky is home to three refugee resettlement agencies with five offices across the state. The agencies in Kentucky operate the Reception & Placement program, meeting refugees' needs upon arrival.

MRS will assist each refugee family with intensive case management services for 90 days, in addition to support until they are employed, for up to 12 months. It will serve a cross-section of refugees being resettled from across the world, and currently anticipates welcoming people from Afghanistan, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala – all of whom have been forced from their homes by persecution and/or threats to their lives or their families' lives.

"These people are vetted and screened and came through legal channels to the United States," said Shafaq.

MRS will help newcomers find housing, learn about life and customs in America, secure jobs, learn English, and ultimately become U.S. citizens.

Shafaq said welcoming the stranger is "nothing new" in the Catholic Church; the Church has welcomed and cared for the marginalized from its beginning.

That being said, he added that "people were sent here for a reason: we were 'chosen' to welcome them."

"That's in every religion, to welcome the stranger, even if they are not one of you," he said. ■

To learn how to help MRS's efforts, visit owensborodiocese.org/migration-and-refugee-services.

Just Need to Talk?



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

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

Confidentiality assured.



Catholic Charities
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WE ARE THERE.



Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro is dedicated to serving the societal needs of our entire community, including both Catholics and non-Catholics.

Services include:

- Pregnancy resource centers
- Counseling services
- Homeless shelters
- Immigration services
- Disaster relief
- Resettlement of refugees

‘A community of people who have been through what I’ve been through’ *Life-Giving Wounds retreat for adult children of divorce/separation to be offered in March*

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

For people who not only witnessed their parents’ divorce, but were also “caught up as collateral damage,” the Life-Giving Wounds retreat provides a space to explore their own experiences, according to a participant at the retreat.

“The reality is that children, no matter what age, are not meant to see their parents’ marriage end,” said this participant, who attended the August 2022 retreat – the first of its kind sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro and the Diocese of Evansville. The participant asked to remain anonymous in sharing their testimony with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Life-Giving Wounds is a ministry dedicated specifically to adults whose parents are divorced or separated.

The retreat, which is offered around the United States, “acknowledges the wounds caused by divorce and proclaims the truth about marriage, divorce, and how to bring our wounds to Christ,” said the participant, who appreciated the “time and space with peers who had also experienced a parents’ divorce.”

On March 14-16, 2025, the Owensboro and Evansville dioceses will again collaborate to offer

a third Life-Giving Wounds Retreat for the region. More information, including how to register, may be found at owensborodiocese.org/life-giving-wounds.

Mike Flaherty, a retired Catholic psychologist based in Owensboro, serves as a counselor for these local retreats. He explained that the retreats are not therapy, but that “sometimes the retreat can become intensely emotional, so a participant may need a little extra support.”

“Early in my career and working with children primarily, and with my wife working in education, recognized a cause-and-effect of potential emotional and psychological problems in children whose parents have divorced, especially if it was a contentious divorce,” said Flaherty.

When he learned about Life-Giving Wounds and saw how it was set up “to address spiritual healing for adult Catholics,” Flaherty was further impressed that the program “utilized and incorporated the research on children of divorce and the effects it had on them.”

This twofold approach created “an incredible, robust retreat,” he said. Plus, “it’s very lowkey and accepting” and the team is “an accepting, understanding, caring group. Your comfort level is always taken into consideration.”

Charlie Hardesty, a past retreat participant, said the Life-Giving Wounds retreat was “a great



COURTESY OF LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS
Participants attend a Life-Giving Wounds retreat in Washington, D.C., in this undated photo.



COURTESY OF LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS
A speaker addresses participants at a Life-Giving Wounds retreat in Washington, D.C., in this undated photo.

experience to be with a community of people who have been through what I’ve been through and understand.”

“I highly encourage anyone to consider this retreat whether you were a child when your parents got divorced or if you were an adult like I was,” he said, adding that Life-Giving Wounds provides “an opportunity to heal, to encounter the Lord, and to grow in your faith in a deeper way.”

Flaherty agreed.

“I believe this retreat is a pathway to healing, and I hope people take advantage of it,” he said. ■

Catholics and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., honored annually on the third Monday of January in the United States, remains one of the most influential leaders of the 20th-century civil rights movement. His teachings and leadership resonate deeply with principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST), bridging denominational boundaries. CST emphasizes social justice through human dignity, solidarity, and care for the marginalized – which were values central to King’s mission of equality, nonviolence, and justice. His legacy provides Catholics with a powerful example of living out their faith in the world.

A foundational principle of CST is human dignity, affirming that every person, made in the image and likeness of God, has inherent worth. King championed this belief, envisioning a racially integrated society where segregation and discrimination would be abolished. His famous “I Have a Dream” speech calls for individuals to be judged by their character, not their race, reflecting his conviction that racism undermines human dignity. Rooted in the Christian belief in the imago Dei, King’s vision aligns with CST’s call to respect the value of every person, inspiring Catholics to work for a society that affirms the dignity of all.

The principle of solidarity, another cornerstone of CST, aligns with King’s commitment to civil rights. Catholics hold that all humanity is interconnected, sharing a collective responsibility for justice and peace. Solidarity requires recognizing that the suffering of one person impacts everyone.

King’s vision of a “beloved community” emphasized the importance of people from all backgrounds uniting for the common good. His famous declaration, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” reflects CST’s teaching that true justice must encompass all members of society. For Catholics, this means addressing systemic issues such as racism, poverty, and violence as acts of solidarity and discipleship.

CST’s preferential option for the poor and vulnerable also finds resonance in King’s life work. Catholics are called to prioritize the needs of the marginalized, a principle reflected in King’s advocacy for economic justice. His “Poor People’s Campaign” extended beyond civil rights, seeking to address systemic economic disparities. King’s focus on uplifting the socially and economically oppressed, particularly African Americans, mirrors the CST commitment to serving the vulnerable. For Catholics, this principle entails not only alleviating poverty but addressing the systems that perpetuate inequality.

Baptism, for Catholics, signifies both an initiation into the Church and a call to discipleship—a responsibility to work toward building God’s kingdom through mercy, compassion, and justice. King’s leadership against inequality offers an inspiring model for how Catholics can fulfill this call. Like King, Catholics are called to combat injustice in their



OSV NEWS PHOTO/COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Holy Cross Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, then president of the University of Notre Dame, second from left, joins hands with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Edgar Chandler and Msgr. Robert J. Hagarty of Chicago, far right, in this 1964 file photo.

communities, embodying the values of justice and compassion in the world.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life and teachings closely intersect with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. His dedication to nonviolence, human dignity, and justice serves as a model for Catholics striving to live out their faith in tangible ways. By engaging in social justice efforts, Catholics not only honor King’s legacy but also fulfill their baptismal call to work for a more just and compassionate society. ■

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

The local parish



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Eucharistic Adoration takes place at Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville on July 1, 2024, during the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage's visit to the Diocese of Owensboro.

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

"The community of faith is a place of invitation, welcome and hospitality, especially for those who are inquiring or returning. Fellowship and solidarity with one another in the community of faith is a reflection of the Trinity" (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Living as Missionary Disciples," pg. 16).

The Trinity is not a word found in the bible; rather it developed as the Early Church began to understand the revelation of God through the Son, followed by the descent of the Holy Spirit. This communion of love between the three persons in one God is the model, image and desired reality for the local parish.

How have you experienced communion in your parish faith community both today and throughout your life as a Catholic? In the Eucharist we receive what we are called to be, the very Body of Christ living in and through us. While as individuals, our journeys of faith are indeed our own, for many people, the closest we have felt to God or have grown deeply in our walk

with the Lord has been because we were participating in vibrant parish opportunities and growing with others.

Our Acts 2:42 small groups meeting this January will talk about the importance of the local parish. It is here where people experience the Catholic Church in the gathered community and in all its parishioners as we begin the week. The challenge is that while we go to Church to receive Jesus, we are sent on mission to be Jesus to others. Our parish needs our involvement, creativity, and engagement to be a place of invitation, welcome, and hospitality. Go to our diocesan YouTube channel @dioceseofowensboro and look up Session 5, The Local Church, and listen to this beautiful witness.

It takes all of us growing in our communion with the Trinity and with our local brothers and sisters in our parishes to engage in the renewal that our Church is striving to live. The scriptures exhort us to tithe 10% of our income. What if we took this further to say 10% of

our time should be in service to the Church and God's people? While this is not found in the bible, it might be a good place to start. What if we took the 16 hours a day that we are awake, over seven days a week, and tried to spend 10% of these hours growing in our relationship with God and serving others? That is a total of 112 hours, so, 11.2 hours each week. Options include Adoration, personal prayer, being active in a small group, serving on a parish committee, and countless other ways to grow and serve.

It will take all baptized Catholics living and serving in our local parishes to be the face of Jesus to the world. Watch next month for information on "Walk With One!" ■

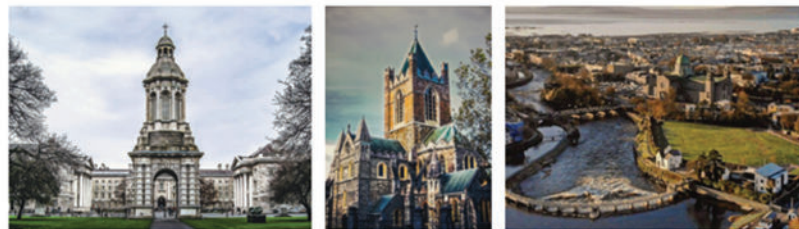
Happy New Year!

Jeff

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

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

October 7-16, 2025



Contact: Fr. Chris Kight: St. Peter and Paul, Hopkinsville, Ky, at christopher.kight@pastoral.org

For more details and to register, visit: stcharlespilgrimages.com/kight-dennis

**Dublin: Shrine of Our Lady of Knock * Kylemore Abbey * Connemara National Park * Galway Cathedral
* Wild Atlantic Way Cliffs of Moher Killarney * The Ring of Kerry * The Rock of Cashel *
Kilkenny Castle Glendalough Walking Tour of Dublin * St. Patrick's Cathedral * Christ Church Cathedral**

‘Jesus is Lord’ the theme of Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

“Jesus Christ!” responded the participants at ODYC 2024 as Bishop Medley asked throughout the closing Mass over and over, “Who is your king?”

The Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference took place Nov. 22-23 at The Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville. The theme for the conference was “Jesus is Lord/Jesús es El Señor.” Our goal for the weekend was to help the youth of our diocese find rest in the Lord, learn to pray more consistently, and see the world around them as a space to share the Good News of the Gospel.

We were blessed with around 380 participants representing 25 of our western Kentucky parishes and schools. We’d especially like to thank all the adults who accompanied the youth of our diocese to the conference and gave of their time. We also thank Fr. Corey Bruns, Susy Solorza, and Wade Gaynor, who were our keynote speakers. We thank Ben Warrell, Lisa Higdon, and the staff at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center for serving as emcees and helping throughout the weekend. The Scally Brothers from Toledo, Ohio, did a phenomenal job sharing music throughout the weekend. We are so grateful to the priests of the diocese who came late Friday to hear confessions and to staff at the McRaith Catholic Center who helped in so many ways. The conference was surrounded by numerous adults who taught in breakout sessions, prayed with and mentored young people, and simply shared joy and laughter.

ODYC alternates with the National Catholic Youth Conference which occurs next Nov. 20-22, 2025, in Indianapolis. Be on the lookout for more information about NCYC 2025 and for many other opportunities for youth that happen throughout the year. ■

Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Approximately 380 participants fill The Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville during ODYC 2024, which was held in November.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Lisa Higdon and Ben Warrell, emcees for ODYC 2024, speak to participants from the stage at The Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Kristin Dorth speaks to ODYC 2024 participants during a breakout session at the conference, which is held every other year.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Youths smile and laugh while playing a game requiring them to find people with whom they have something in common.

Bishop blesses site of future OCHS chapel

BY WKC STAFF

On Dec. 12, 2024, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bishop William F. Medley joined the Owensboro Catholic High School community to bless the site of their future new chapel, which will be built in the school's smaller gym space. To donate to the chapel in memory or tribute of a loved one, visit owensborocatholic.org/support-ocs/memorials-tributes and select OCHS Chapel. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Students, faculty, staff, and supporters gather in the small gym of Owensboro Catholic High School on Dec. 12, 2024, for Bishop William F. Medley's blessing of the space, which will be renovated into a new chapel.



ELIZABETH WONG
BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley stands before an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12, 2024, while blessing the small gym at Owensboro Catholic High School, which will be turned into a new chapel for the school.

28th Annual YOUTH 2000

A Eucharistic-Centered
Retreat

March 14-16, 2025



**Brescia University
Owensboro, KY**

For more information:

owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000

270.683.1545

270.993.3393



Bishop celebrates sisters' 75th anniversary at motherhouse in Mexico



COURTESY OF DCN. CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez, Bishop William F. Medley, and Fr. Carmelo Jimenez are seen with the Misioneras del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus ad Gentes at their motherhouse in Huamantla, Tlaxcala, Mexico.

BY WKC STAFF

From Dec. 6-9, 2024, Bishop William F. Medley visited Huamantla in Tlaxcala, Mexico, to celebrate with a community of women religious who have served the Diocese of Owensboro for many years.

The Misioneras del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus ad Gentes (Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) were celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of their order, and had invited the bishop to celebrate with them. Bishop Medley traveled to Mexico accompanied by Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez, director of Hispanic/Latino ministry for the diocese, and Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Sebree.

Several of these sisters currently serve in Hispanic ministry in parishes of the diocese. To learn more about their vocation, visit <https://adgenteshuamantla.blogspot.com>. ■



COURTESY OF DCN. CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

Bishop William F. Medley, Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez, and Fr. Carmelo Jimenez are seen at the Basilica of Our Lady of Charity in Huamantla during their December 2024 visit to Mexico.



COURTESY OF DCN. CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

Bishop William F. Medley and Archbishop Joseph Spiteri, apostolic nuncio to Mexico, are seen during Bishop Medley's December 2024 visit to Mexico to celebrate the 75th founding of the Misioneras del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus ad Gentes (Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus).

Parishioners welcome neighbors at annual Nativity on Ninth' Hopkinsville tradition

BY DAWN C. LIGIBEL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Nearly 200 people visited the “little town of Bethlehem” on Friday, Dec. 13, during Sts. Peter and Paul’s third annual live nativity event. The event is dubbed “Nativity on Ninth” due to the parish’s location on 9th Street in Hopkinsville. Unfortunately, the weather was not conducive on Dec. 14, and the event was canceled due to heavy rain.

However, on Friday evening the weather was mild, and the event attracted parishioners, members from the community, and visitors from out of town. More than 50 parishioners from Sts. Peter and Paul participated as role players in costume throughout the event which took place from 6-8 p.m.

One of the parishioners dressed in costume was Fr. Christopher Kight, associate pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul. Fr. Kight portrayed one of the three kings and celebrated his birthday while handing out candy and cookies to the visitors.—

As guests approached the gate displaying the name of the town, they first encountered two Roman soldiers and a census taker. The census taker was responsible for handing out “coins” to be redeemed at the bakery and ensuring all visitors documented their visit on the “census” sign. Guests could see Mary and Joseph directly across town waiting in the stable under the star

of Bethlehem where the baby Jesus laid in the manger.

Calvin the camel next to the stable also claimed much of the visitors’ attention as he does each year. In addition to Calvin, other live animals included a donkey named Diego, a Jacob ram, sheep, and goats.

Visitors also enjoyed their time in the synagogue learning about the Hebrew language from the rabbi, portrayed by Sts. Peter and Paul’s deacon, Dr. Bill Sweet. Another favorite stop was the bakery where visitors redeemed their “coins” for a free cup of hot chocolate and a sugar cookie. The sugar cookies were baked and donated by countless parishioners of the parish.

The remainder of town consisted of seven additional buildings, including a basket maker, guard tower, marketplace, candle maker, butcher, carpenter, and inn.

As with the previous two years, numerous additional parishioners assisted “behind the scenes” by helping to set up the town, clean up at the conclusion of the event that night, break down all the buildings, and provide traffic control to ensure safe passage for the visitors from the church parking lot to the live nativity.■

Dawn C. Ligibel is a parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville.



COURTESY OF DAWN C. LIGIBEL
Allison and Brian Miller portray Mary and Joseph during Sts. Peter and Paul’s third annual live nativity held in Hopkinsville on Dec.13.



COURTESY OF DAWN C. LIGIBEL
Fr. Christopher Kight (right), associate pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, portrays one of the three kings, with parishioners Franco Cincotti (left) and Pedro Rodriguez (center), during the parish’s third annual live nativity held on Dec. 13.

Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear' raises almost \$60,000 for pro-life pregnancy care centers



COURTESY OF PICKIN' LIFE PROJECT

H.O.P.E. Clinic receives three checks totaling \$43,175 from the Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council and the Pickin' Life Project on Nov. 19. Pictured (left to right): Deputy Grand Knight Sonny Finnegan of the Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council; receptionist Delores Drish-Young of H.O.P.E. Clinic; client services director Jennifer Wright of H.O.P.E. Clinic of Lyon County; Grand Knight Barry Whitledge of the Knights of Columbus; treasurer Jeff Smith of the Pickin' Life Project; Grand Knight Ed Georgen of the Calvert City Knights of Columbus; executive director Lisa Holland of H.O.P.E. Clinic; and nurse Penny Woods of H.O.P.E. Clinic.

BY JEFF SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The 11th annual "Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear" one-day music fundraiser, created by Resurrection Church (Dawson Springs) parishioners Laura and Jeff Smith through their Pickin' Life Project charity and sponsored by 10 Knights of Columbus councils from the Owensboro Diocese, set a new record on Oct. 12, 2024, by raising \$49,514. The Knights of Columbus' national Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program will add another \$9,900, making the total benefit of the event \$59,414 for local life-affirming pregnancy care centers: Alpha PCC in Hopkinsville, Door of Hope in Madisonville, H.O.P.E. Clinic in Benton and Eddyville, and Pathway of Hope in Greenville.

Knights of Columbus councils from Murray, Bowling Green, Calvert City, Hardin/Aurora, Oak

Grove, Hopkinsville, Madisonville, Princeton/Dawson Springs/Eddyville, Fort Campbell and Beaver Dam sponsored the event this year – the most ever.

The first "Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear" music event was held in 2014 and raised a modest \$2,600. Ten years later, the original idea has spawned a charitable organization, the "Pickin' Life Project," whose mission is to support life as a gift from God from conception until natural death. It has raised almost \$300,000 and distributed all of it to pregnancy care centers, who are on the front lines protecting babies and their families. The music event also created relationships that led to establishing a pregnancy care center in Eddyville in 2017 and procuring two ultrasound machines for the center.

The 12th annual "Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear" music festival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025. More information is available at www.bluegrassonbeshear.com. ■

Meals packed during Oct. 26 event are headed to the Dominican Republic

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

The more than 50,000 meals packed by Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and their friends on Oct. 26, 2024, are destined to feed the people of the Dominican Republic.

Erika Kvak, development officer with Cross Catholic Outreach, the international organization that worked with representatives of the Ursuline Sisters on the project, emailed that the food donations would feed needy families in the Dominican Republic through a partnership with FUNDASEP, the foundation in charge of social outreach for the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana.

An update completed for the Ursuline Sisters said FUNDASEP can use the food donations to deliver directly to some of the most impoverished communities in the Dominican Republic.

"Hundreds of children and their families in the communities of El Lechal, El Palero and Los Auquyes will now receive monthly deliveries of food over the course of a year," the update said.

The Ursuline Sisters organized the food packing event as a way to join with the public to celebrate their 150 years of ministry since arriving in Daviess County in 1874. More than 160 people gathered at the Brescia University Moore Center in Owensboro to pack the 50,000 meals in about three hours. ■

Sisters conclude anniversary year with Evening Prayer

BY DAN HECKEL, MSJ STAFF

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph began their year of celebrating 150 years at Maple Mount on a rainy Jan. 27, 2024, joined by many friends for the feast of Saint Angela Merici. They ended the year on a rainy Nov. 25, the day Saint Angela founded her Ursuline company, with just their Sisters gathered for Evening Prayer.

Sister Ann McGrew, a member of the Leadership Council, planned the 4:30 p.m. celebration with Sister Mary Henning, who played the hymn “Today in Celebration” on the piano. Sister Ann served the role of leader during Evening Prayer, which the Ursuline Sisters participate in each late afternoon. Sister Sharon Sullivan, congregational leader, read the following:

“On this date, November 25, 1535, Angela Merici, with 28 companions founded the Company of Saint Ursula. Angela chose the feast of Saint Catherine of Alexandria because of Catherine’s spousal relationship with Christ and her own devotion to strong and learned women saints. Angela and her companions assisted at Mass and received communion together. Then each signed her name in the Book of the Company, the equivalent of a solemn promise of fidelity, and the Ursulines were born.”

Sister Cecelia Joseph Olinger then carried in a pot of incense and placed it on a table in front of the altar. Sister Nancy Murphy carried in the Book of the Company and placed it on the table. After the ceremony concluded, several Sisters gathered around the book to find where their name was written.

The Sisters – both those living at Maple Mount and some who came in from Owensboro – concluded

the evening by praying for the following:

That Ursuline Associates embody in our time the charism of Angela Merici

That women today respond to your call and seek to follow the Ursuline Way of Life

That Ursulines and Associates experience Jesus as friend and spouse

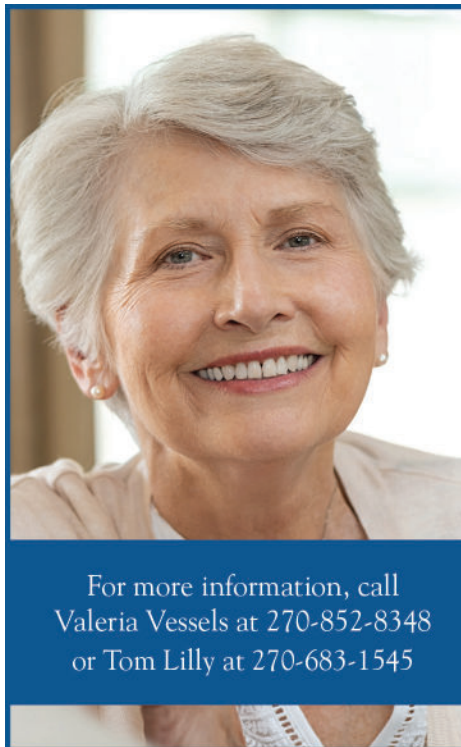
That the apostolic work of Ursuline Sisters and Associates continue to flourish

That all Ursuline Sisters, Associates, family members, friends and benefactors who have died join Angela and her Company in heaven. ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Foundation Day for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph is celebrated on Nov. 25, the date in 1535 when Angela Merici founded the Ursuline Sisters in Brescia, Italy. To honor the occasion, the sisters planned a special prayer program in their Motherhouse Chapel.



For more information, call
Valeria Vessels at 270-852-8348
or Tom Lilly at 270-683-1545

You can earn 6.2% on your gift to The Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky

A 75-year-old donor can receive a guaranteed income for life by contributing to The Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky with a Charitable Gift Annuity! Rates vary based on age of donor.

For example, if you give a \$25,000 Charitable Gift Annuity to the foundation, your benefits include:

- \$1,550 annual income, which you may donate to your parish or diocese for additional tax credit
- generous charitable tax deductions
- over half the income tax free
- potential reduced estate taxes

You can designate the Diocese of Owensboro or your parish as the beneficiary of your generosity.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA ranks 59th on Forbes list of charities

PRESS RELEASE

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Inc. is both pleased and proud to announce SVdP-USA’s ranking of 59th this year, a gain on last year’s 75th position. The SVdP-USA, which serves more than four million people a year in the United States, also received high marks for its philanthropic commitment to efficiency and transparency in its fundraising work. The Forbes list of charities reflects each charity’s most recent fiscal year. The ranking is based exclusively on private contributions received.

SVdP U.S. national president, John Berry, said: “This is the result of the dedication and commitment of nearly 85,000 members to support people in need. It is a recognition that celebrates the generosity and support of our donors and benefactors.”

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky’s president, James Dale, said: “This accomplishment is achieved through a combined effort of donations and donors from every SVDP conference, district, and regional unit. Our Vincentians work tirelessly to serve our neighbors in need and our donors are always quick to give when a need is presented.”



OSV NEWS PHOTO/NATALIE HOEFER, THE CRITERION Outside of David’s House in Richmond, Ind., Sept. 10, 2023, Brandie Doan, center, explains how certain vegetables can be used in meal preparation. David’s House, a new ministry of the Tri-County Good Samaritans conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will offer fresh produce in an impoverished food-desert area of the city and offer various programs for residents to help them get themselves out of poverty.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky’s CEO, Richard B. Remp-Morris said: “It is through the good people of western Kentucky and God’s divine providence that we are able to assist the marginalized and underserved in western Kentucky.”

To join St. Vincent de Paul in this important work in serving neighbors in need, contact your local Catholic parish SVdP conference or visit svd-pwky.org. To make a tax-deductible donation, mail to P. O. Box 1203, Owensboro KY 42302. ■

JOY, LAUGHTER, & HOLINESS
Women's Retreat

FEB 8, 2025

8:00AM | DOORS OPEN
REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:00AM – 2:30PM | RETREAT
LUNCH SERVED AT NOON

REGISTRATION COST: \$30

ADDRESS:
ST. ANN PARISH HALL
304 S CHURCH ST.
MORGAINFIELD, KY 42437

**Register online
(encouraged) or at the door!**

To register scan our QR code or visit
<https://owensborodiocese.org/womensretreat/>

Or contact Kelly Joiner: 270-952-0696,
Kejoiner3@gmail.com

Jackie Angel
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
featuring local speakers
OLIVIA BURKE &
SARAH LILLY MALONE

**Catholic Men's Conference
of Western Kentucky**

**LIVING THE
MISSION OF
JESUS**

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday Feb 8, 2025

www.kycatholic.com

David Anders
John Edwards

Fr. Dennis celebrates annual Mass for the blind

BY WKC STAFF

On Friday, Dec. 13, Fr. Jamie Dennis, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, Ky., joined the clients and friends of the Xavier Society for the Blind to celebrate their annual St. Lucy Mass at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City, honoring the patron saint of the blind. Fr. Dennis is one of only several blind priests in the United States and has been a client of the Xavier Society for many years. The Xavier Society has provided free Catholic books in braille, audio and large print for people across the globe since 1900. To learn more visit xaviersocietyfortheblind.org or email info@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org. ■



COURTESY OF DONALD SALVATO

Fr. Jamie Dennis, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene in Sorgho, Ky., presides at the Dec. 13, 2024 St. Lucy Mass at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City, honoring the patron saint of the blind.



WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD,
THE DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY
AND
THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA
WITH THE FAMILY OF

CONRAD THOMAS JACONETTE

JOYFULLY ANNOUNCE AND REQUEST
THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT HIS

**ORDINATION TO THE
SACRED ORDER OF THE DIACONATE**

THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND
THE INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BY THE

PRESIDING BISHOP AND MINISTER OF ORDINATION
MOST REVEREND WILLIAM F. MEDLEY, D.D.

Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

WITH

PRINCIPAL CONCELEBRANT

MOST REVEREND TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO, J.C.D.

Archbishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

ON SATURDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF JANUARY
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE
AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, CENTRAL TIME

SAINT STEPHEN CATHEDRAL

610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

A reception will follow.

Please keep seminarian Conrad Jaconette in your prayers as he continues on his journey of formation and discernment of the diocesan priesthood, and pray that more men will open their hearts to discern this vocation.

Curious about the priesthood?

Contact vocations director Fr. Daniel Dillard at daniel.dillard@pastoral.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2025 BULLETIN BOARD

Support groups for victims/survivors of clergy abuse

The Diocese of Owensboro would like to share some support group opportunities made available through the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. These groups are open to all victims/survivors in the United States. Learn more at <https://owensborodiocese.org/support-group/> and <https://owensborodiocese.org/safe/>. You are also invited to visit <https://www.awakecommunity.org/>, a community of abuse survivors, concerned Catholics, and allies responding to the wounds of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.

Cursillo upcoming events

Men's and women's weekends are taking registrations now. Men's weekend is Feb. 27-March 2, 2025. Women's weekend is March 6-9, 2024. For more information or to sign up, contact Christy Allard at (270) 889-1526. And for those who have made a Cursillo, please think about Palanca and prayers offered for the team and those attending!

A scout is reverent

It is time to begin working toward Scout religious emblems. They include for Cub Scouts: Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei and for Boy Scouts: Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII and Light is Life (Eastern Catholic) and for Girl Scouts and others: God is Love, Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary the First Disciple, The Spirit Alive, and Missio. For more information on these, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/scouting>.

Support the Ursuline Sisters' ministries as they "Plant the Seeds" of faith

"We plant (the) seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing they hold future promise." – Prayer of Oscar Romero, Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) celebrated 150 years of service in 2024 by looking back at their history. Now they look to the future, serving as a voice of hope in a struggling world. The Sisters serve through prayer, in education, in parishes and in nonprofit organizations. Many people shared the impact the Sisters had made on them during the year-long 150th celebration (impact stories were featured in multiple issues of Ursulines Alive magazine). Saint Angela

Merici taught all her Ursuline Sisters to "Have hope and firm faith in God, for he will help you in everything." The Ursuline Sisters continue to need your support to carry on their mission. The Sisters appreciate any gift you can make as they "Plant the Seeds" of faith, love, hope, and peace through prayer and other ministries. To learn more, visit www.ursulinesmsj.org/get-involved.

Need a meeting space? Maple Hall is available at Mount Saint Joseph

Need a meeting space for up to 200 people? Maple Hall (formerly known as Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium/Gym) is available for rent. It is located on the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph campus, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky., 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56, across from the park. Maple Hall is an open space with a kitchen equipped for catering. It's perfect for hosting receptions, parties, reunions, etc. There are two rental options -- a partial rental for up to four hours (\$100) and a full rental which allows use for a full day (\$200). The use of 6-foot tables and chairs is included in the rental fee (user is responsible for setup, or this can be done for you for an additional fee). To reserve Maple Hall, contact the Mount Saint Joseph Finance Office by email: ap@maplemount.org or call the switchboard at 270-229-4103 and ask to speak to the Finance Office. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. You can find out more on this webpage: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/renting-maple-hall/>

Join Ursuline Sisters for Adoration on Fridays and first Sundays

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on the first Sunday of the month from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. at the Motherhouse Chapel, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky. (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). The Ursuline Sisters also have Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., and the public is welcome to attend. Adoration on the second Friday of each month is dedicated to praying for vocations. The Adoration concludes with evening prayer. To see Adoration and Mass times for the Ursuline Sisters, visit <https://ursulinesmsj.org/mass-prayer-times/>

Mass and confession times in the Diocese of Owensboro

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

Lexington bishop to speak at ecumenical gathering in Owensboro



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON
Bishop John E. Stowe of Lexington, Ky., is pictured in this 2015 file photo.

BY WKC STAFF

Bishop John Stowe of Lexington will speak at a gathering for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 3 p.m. at First Christian Church at Seventh and Daviess Streets in Owensboro. The gathering's theme is "Do you believe this?" from John 11:29. Refreshments and fellowship will be provided afterwards. All are welcome to attend.

Continues on page 22

Ecumenical continued from page 21

Every year, Christians come together to pray for Christian unity during Jan. 18-25; the final day coinciding with the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle. This year also marks the 1,700th anniversary of the world's first Ecumenical Council – the Council of Nicaea in 325 – which was a significant milestone in Christianity's ecumenical journey.

The Jan. 26 gathering is sponsored by the Office of Ecumenism of the Diocese of Owensboro. Questions may be directed to Fr. Ray Clark, director of ecumenism, at (270) 231-1705. ■

Fr. Joseph Edward Bradley (1943-2024)



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Fr. Joseph Edward Bradley, 81, of Owensboro, passed away Nov. 30, 2024. Fr. Bradley was born in Hart County, Kentucky, in 1943, and was the son of Martin Ward Bradley and Anna Lee Sims Bradley. He was raised on a farm in Grayson County, where he attended St. Anthony's Parish and graduated from St. Paul High School in 1960.

After one year at Bellarmine University, Fr. Bradley entered the Congregation of the Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis in Cincinnati, Ohio, taking the name of Brother Vincent de Paul Bradley. He taught in schools in

Ohio, New York, Arkansas, and New Jersey for 10 years before entering the Josephinum Seminary to become a priest.

After his ordination to the priesthood in 1975, he was assigned to Owensboro Catholic High School for 10 years as the dean of students and then as principal. During this time, he also served as the diocesan vocations director.

In June of 1985, he began serving as pastor and rector of St. Stephen Cathedral and pastor of Blessed Sacrament Chapel, where he remained for 10 years. In 1995, he was appointed pastor of Holy Name Parish in Henderson, Kentucky, where he served until 2011.

In addition to these pastoral assignments, Fr. Bradley also served as confessor to the Passionist Nuns in Whitesville; associate pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro, Immaculate Parish in Owensboro, and St. John Parish in Sunfish; and pastor at St. Elizabeth Parish in Curdsville, St. Michael Parish in Sebree, and Holy Cross Parish in Providence; and priest pastor for the Owensboro Consolidated Catholic School System.

Fr. Bradley's heart for the poor led to the establishment of a soup kitchen at St. Stephen Cathedral and then of the Daniel Pitino Homeless Shelter in Owensboro, the St. Joseph Community Apartments for low-income residents in Henderson, the Fr. Bradley Shelter in Henderson, the Henderson Emergency Shelter for Women and Children, and the Women's Addiction Recovery Manor.

Fr. Bradley was the chaplain for the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville's men's

basketball teams.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Sue Garrett, Hubert "Buster" Bradley, Rose White, John Bradley, Sam Bradley, Anna Frances, Dorothy Clemons, and George Bradley.

He is survived by a sister, Mary Lou Patterson.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 5, 2024, at St. Stephen Cathedral. Fr. Bradley was laid to rest at Saint Anthony Cemetery in Utica.

Memorial contributions will be equally divided among the four charities chosen by Fr. Bradley, and may be written out to Diocese of Owensboro, 600 Locust St, Owensboro, KY 42301, Memo Father Bradley. ■



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Fr. Brad Whistle delivers the homily for his close friend, Fr. Joseph Edward Bradley, at the Dec. 5 Mass of Christian Burial at St. Stephen Cathedral. Having once served as Fr. Bradley's vocations director, Fr. Whistle reflected on his friend's accomplishments and his kindness toward everyone he met.



COURTESY OF KAMUF FAMILY

Charles "Charlie" Joseph Kamuf died Nov. 30, 2024, at 85, having served as the attorney for the Diocese of Owensboro for many years.

Longtime diocesan attorney passes away at 85

Charlie was passionate about his faith and was a longtime member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro. His Catholic faith was the cornerstone of his life, guiding his actions and inspiring his dedication to serving others. Charlie gave generously to his alma maters, Owensboro Catholic High School and Brescia University, believing deeply in the power of education and the importance of nurturing future generations. He is survived by his devoted wife of 56 years, Linda Goetz Kamuf. Together, they raised three children: Karen Kamuf Head (Jody), Charles Joseph Kamuf II (Clint), and Christy Kamuf Hayden (Matt). He is also survived by seven loving grandchildren: Chandler, Caroline, Catherine, Maddie, Christina,

Isabella, and Sophia. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Rachael Ann Keelin. Among his many roles of service to the Owensboro community, Charlie was a current board member and former chairman of Brescia University's Board of Trustees; had previously served on the board of St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter; and was a board member of The Help Office. A funeral Mass was held at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on Dec. 5 and Charlie was laid to rest at Resurrection Cemetery in Owensboro. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Charlie's memory to Owensboro Catholic High School or Brescia University, continuing his commitment to education and faith. ■

St. Benedict's Shelter invites community to sponsor a bed for 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Owensboro, KY – As we enter a new year filled with hope and opportunity, St. Benedict's Shelter expresses heartfelt gratitude to its valued partners for their continued support. Rooted in the mission of making a meaningful difference in our community, St. Benedict's Shelter operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the auspices of the Diocese of Owensboro as a Catholic ministry.

In 2023, an astounding 90% of St. Benedict's \$750,000 annual budget came from generous community contributions, highlighting the importance of local support in sustaining vital services. With less than 5% of funding sourced from Catholic communities,

St. Benedict's is calling on community members to help make a significant impact in 2025.

To kick off the new year, St. Benedict's Shelter invites individuals and organizations to sponsor a bed for just \$500. This contribution will directly fund the expansion and enhancement of programs that provide crucial case management and promote self-sufficiency for residents, creating a safe and supportive environment for those in need.

"We are proud to serve our community, but we cannot do it alone," said executive director, Harry Pedigo. "By sponsoring a bed, you are not just making a donation; you are becoming a part of a transformative journey for individuals and families seeking help."

In recognition of generous contributions, spon-

sors will have their names prominently displayed on a plaque in the facility, honoring their commitment to the mission of St. Benedict's Shelter. To participate in this important initiative, supporters can fill out the enclosed envelope with their preferred payment method and indicate any honoree if desired. Contributions can be mailed directly to St. Benedict's Shelter.

"Together, we can make 2025 a year of hope, healing, and transformation for our community," Pedigo added. "Thank you for considering this opportunity to partner with us."

For more information on how to get involved, please visit www.stbenedictsowensboro.org or contact Harry Pedigo via text/call at 270-315-4419 or harry@stbenedictsowensboro.org. ■

Miracle in Los Angeles: Priest recounts Frassati's intercession

BY OSV NEWS

BALDWIN PARK, Calif. (OSV News) ~ Prayer works ... and God is always listening to our prayers," said a Los Angeles priest, who as a seminarian experienced a miraculous healing that led to the upcoming canonization of an Italian youth. Father Juan Manuel Gutierrez, associate pastor at St. John the Baptist Church in Baldwin Park, California, spoke at a Dec. 16 press conference at his parish to share his experiences of being healed from a serious sports injury to his Achilles tendon after seeking the intercession of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Frassati, who died of polio in 1925 at age 24, was known for his deep faith, social activism and charity, and his love of the outdoors. Father Gutierrez's inexplicable recovery was judged by the Vatican to satisfy the final requirement in Frassati's canonization cause. On Nov. 25, Pope Francis formally recognized the miraculous healing of then-seminarian Gutierrez ~ whose name was kept confidential during the canonization process. He had previously announced that Frassati, along with Italian teen Blessed Carlo Acutis, would be canonized in 2025. Being part of Frassati's canonization cause has been "crazy, but it's a wonderful blessing," said Father Gutierrez. "Pier Giorgio wanted to spread faith in God. That invites us to take our Catholic Christian faith seriously, and to be willing to take it outside of the doors of the church to influence the life of society. Because that's where God, the love of God and Jesus, and what he brought to us, is so desperately needed." ■



CNS FILE PHOTO

Italian Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was a struggling student who excelled in mountain climbing. He had complete faith in God and persevered through college, dedicating himself to helping the poor and supporting church social teaching. He died at age 24 and was beatified by St. John Paul II in 1990. Pope Francis said he will canonize him in 2025. He is pictured in an undated photo.

Save the Date

An Evening in Italy

2nd Annual Fundraising Gala & Auction
May 10, 2025 | Bowling Green, KY
Benefitting St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home

Tribunal Explains

Question: *As a divorced person, how can the Tribunal help me?*

Answer: *Divorce is unique among life experiences. There is no precedent that can prepare someone for it. Divorce is a process, not an event, and the Catholic Church is aware of the pain and stress caused by divorce. While supporting the permanence of marriage, the Church bears in mind the needs of divorced individuals. One of the ways the Church addresses this need is through the ministry offered by the Diocesan Tribunal which is designed to help individuals in the healing process by seeking clarification with regard to their marriage. Further information will be published monthly. If you have questions, please contact the Tribunal at 270-683-1545 or Tribunal@pastoral.org.*

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

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Pete & Patty Johnson, 56
Terry & Jan Storm, 57

Christ the King, Madisonville

Billy & Patty Folk, 56

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Ted & Barbara Brown, 67

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Barry & Laurie Schneider, 25
Daryl & Jill Hagan, 40
Guy & Frances Hogan, 63
Ira & Ellese Hay, 53
Jack & JoAnn Jacobs, 53
John & Kathy Jenkins, 53
John & Phyllis Brown, 54
Joshua & Brittany Johnston, 5
Mario & Alma Sanchez, 25
Steve & Patty Tweddell, 54
Vernon & Melanie Humbert, 40

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Keith & Huggetta Dale, 53

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Basil & Joann Jones, 64
Don & Rachel Schmidt, 50
George & Barbara Powers, 65
Harry & Constance Largent, 65
Jerry & Joanne Wallace, 53
Kyle & Lillian Davis, 50
Thomas & Evelyn Pettigrew, 52
Tom & Rita Parrott, 57

Immaculate, Owensboro

Gary & Carol Jackson, 61

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Ken & Charlene Ackerman, 66
Larry & Charlotte Moore, 55
Mike & Melissa Helm, 10
William & Suzanne Blandford, 62

Precious Blood, Owensboro

George & WaNell Lanham, 52
Michael & Susan Johnson, 51

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Richard & Nancy Mayes, 67

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Marty & Marilyn Greenwell, 58
Tommy & Joycelyn Hagan, 57

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Gary & Imelda Cecil, 51
Mike & Audrey Clouse, 52

St. Ambrose, Henshaw

Donald & Aimee Russelburg, 5

St. Ann, Morganfield

Damian & Diane Alvey, 53
Jimmy & Carolyn Wedding, 53
Kenny & Teresa Lee Thomas, 59

St. Benedict, Wax

Michael & Patsy Campiglia, 54

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Bennie & Brenda Sims, 10

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Don Ed & Miki Wright, 57
Jerry & Brenda Stevens, 59

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Francis & Judith Taylor, 61
Scott & Debbie Jones, 40

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Robert & Peyton Hutson, 10

St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish

Estil & Paula Wilson, 53

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Frank & Patricia Royal, 57
Joel Camarena Ayala & Paola Mayela Guzman Salazar, 10
Oscar & Adriana Ramirez Casas, 25
Robert & Sandra Gasperetti, 59

St. Joseph, Central City

Wayne & Clara Johnson, 25

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Johnnie & Nina Justis, 56

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Larry & Betty Johnson, 56
Michael & Patricia Wright, 55

St. Leo, Murray

Glen & Alma Nunn, 50
Lawrence & Ida Ortega, 60

St. Martin, Rome

Tom & Mary Lucy Hines, 52

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

John & Mary Ann Ebelhar, 57

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Charlie & Ina Mattingly, 56
Dakota & Ariel Edge, 5
Dan & Sue Howard, 66
Tony & Vickie Morris, 52

St. Mary, Franklin

Larry & Michelle Anderson, 56

St. Mary, LaCenter

David & Gloria Henderson, 56

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Rodric & Earline Brady, 55

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Eddie & Jeanette Smith, 57
James & Mary Keller, 68
James & Patty Settles, 65
Scott & Jennifer Ebelhar, 25

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Carl & Shelia Moore, 51
Danny & Sue Castlen, 53
Gerald & Bonnie Castlen, 40
James & Cheryl Gerteisen, 52
James & Connie Nalley, 54
Leon & Cecilia Aud, 62

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Jerry & Pam Raymer, 52

Logan & Judy Tivitt, 60

Sammy & Brenda Duggins, 54

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Randy & Gerry Brown, 57

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Audie & Sue Cooper, 60
Don & Carol Ralph, 59
Jim & Janet Murphy, 53

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Rick & Gail Otte, 50
Robert & Carolyn Murphey, 52

St. William, Knottsville

David & Patricia Payne, 56
Donald & Martha Morris, 55
Patrick & Rose Meserve, 59
Vince & Irene Nealen, 53

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Carlos Earhart & Ann Kirby, 5

Got engaged over the holidays?

Don't forget to sign up for marriage prep before the wedding!

The Diocese of Owensboro has multiple marriage preparation opportunities in 2025!

Learn more:



Office of Marriage & Family Life
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO



Engaged Encounter:
January 10-12
Gasper River Catholic
Retreat Center
Bowling Green, KY
PreCana: March 29
Gasper River Catholic
Retreat Center
Bowling Green, KY

Do you have diocesan history in Grandma's attic?

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

History can never be completely recreated. However, an honest historian can always do their best to present the most complete and accurate account that can be mustered from the sources available. The fact of the matter is that much of history is lost and will never be recovered. But we can all do our part to help ensure that the most important aspects are preserved.

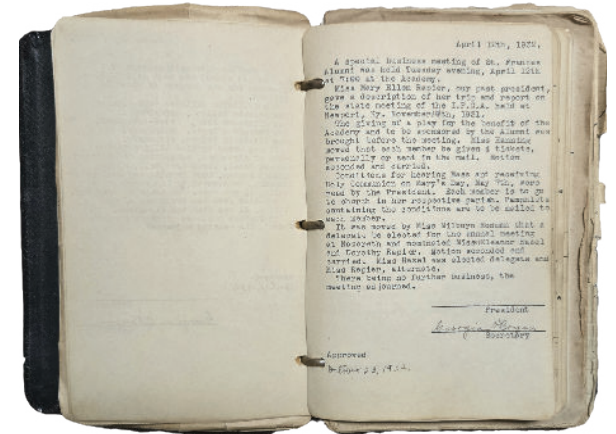
The primary event that inspired this article happened earlier this year.

I was contacted by a man who is very active in the life of the local Church. He told me that he had some of his mother's and father's things that he

wished to donate if we wanted them. He dropped them off, we had a nice conversation, and he went on his way. What he brought me was a treasure trove of local history: photos and documents dating back to 1921. It was primarily focused on two former local Catholic institutions, St. Hubertus Academy and St. Frances Academy; two schools that many people today are unaware had even existed. Among the items was something incredible: the 1929-1950 minutes of the St. Frances Academy alumni.

It is truly miraculous that this artifact made its way to the archive. This is a one-of-a-kind primary source, covering decades. It was a single breath away from being lost to us forever. Had it been in the hands of someone else, it may very well have been discarded. However, this gentleman had the foresight to bring in the things that had been accruing over generations.

The amount of raw history that finds its way to the archives in this manner is unbelievable. Recently, a local history enthusiast contacted us at the Mount Saint Joseph archive with multiple diaries. They spanned from 1916-1924. They had belonged to a woman who, in her youth, had attended the Mount's academy for several years and wrote many of the diaries during this time. Inside were descriptions of Sisters and events that help illuminate what life was like for the academy girls in the early 20th century. Likewise, a gentleman contacted me about a large, 200-lb concrete Station of the Cross that he had in his garage from the old St. Joseph in Owensboro. (St. Joseph is my favorite historic church of the diocese. The Station of the Cross is now on display in my office outside the



Courtesy of Archives
Pictured is a book of the 1929-1950 minutes of the St. Frances Academy alumni.

stacks.)

You can help the archives by being vigilant when sorting estates. Also, if you think you may have something of historic worth, it is best not to wait – you can reach out to the archive anytime; we are glad to help assess. My next article will likely cover the process of how to identify historically-significant items and how to go about donating them. Churches, priests, nuns and sisters do so much to help preserve much of our history, but vigilant parishioners can really help put even more meat on the bones. ■

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

**Don't miss the Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph
Quilt Sale!**

See them online:

ursulinesmsj.org/online-quilt-sale

Several quilts are still
available! All are one-of-a-kind.

Proceeds provide funding for the Ursuline Sisters'
ministries of education and Christian formation.

To buy a quilt, contact Carol Braden-Clarke
270-229-2008
carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org



**Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph**
8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356

A peek into the past: Holy Name Society celebration at St. Peter's



COURTESY OF GRADY EBELHAR

Men who are members of the Holy Name Society carry a banner and prepare to march into St. Peter's during the October 1910 celebration.

BY GRADY EBELHAR, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

One of the most elaborate religious celebrations ever held in historic Daviess County took place at St. Peter's Church near Stanley on Oakford Road in October 1910. (The parish was started in 1873; at that time the Diocese of Owensboro had yet to be established and the territory belonged to the Diocese of Bardstown.) It was held on a Wednesday in commemoration of the patronal feast of St. Peter. In conjunction with the celebration, the Holy Name Society of St. Peter's congregation was reorganized. There was a big number of the Catholic clergy in the county area as well as the

surrounding counties in attendance.

Their pastor at the time was Fr. Joseph Odendahl, the seventh pastor of St. Peter's, who frequently assisted in a number of celebrations at the Catholic churches in the Owensboro area. (His appointment at St. Peter's was met with a big approval of the people in the congregation.)

Fr. Joseph Wright, of the neighboring parish of St. Mary Magdalene in Sorgho and St. Elizabeth in Curdsville, was the celebrant. The sermon was delivered by Fr. Charles Roffo of Louisville. According to the newspaper article, Fr. Roffo was one of the most distinguished members of the clergy in Kentucky and "was a masterpiece in oratory" and abounded in patriotic sentiments and



COURTESY OF GRADY EBELHAR

Seen are the women of the Altar Society who prepared St. Peter Church for the celebration. They stand in front of the first wooden church of St. Peter's, located on what was called Oakford Road. In 1911 St. Peter's bought the Glendora Stanley farm, where the parish is now located. By 1923, it was under construction, and on June 16, 1929, St. Peter's in Stanley was formally open by Bishop John Alexander Floersht.

religious zeal.

During the Mass there was a renewal of the promises of the members of the Holy Name Society to faithfully observe the second commandment. Benediction was held at the conclusion. After the celebration, Fr. Odendahl entertained the visiting clergy with a banquet. ■

Grady Ebelhar is a parishioner of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley:

Razones para nuestra esperanza

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Existe una antigua tradición en la Iglesia católica de celebrar algunos años como Años Santos, también conocidos como Jubileos. Históricamente estos se han designado en los últimos siglos al menos cada 25 años, marcando los cuartos de siglo. La Basílica de San Pedro y todas las demás basílicas principales de Roma tienen una puerta especial que se abre ceremonialmente sólo durante el Año Santo. Desde hace siglos, el Año Santo era un momento para hacer una peregrinación a Roma y las puertas designadas eran lugares de paso simbólico para cumplir la peregrinación y recibir las indulgencias especiales asociadas al camino y la oración.

2025 es un Año Santo. Comenzó formalmente en la Nochebuena de 2024 con la apertura de la Puerta Santa en la Basílica de San Pedro. El año se extenderá hasta el 6 de enero de 2026, fiesta de la Epifanía. Nuestra participación local en el Año Santo comenzó en la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José, cuando presidí la Misa en la Catedral de San Esteban el pasado 29 de diciembre.

El Santo Padre designó un tema para el Año Santo y ese tema es la Esperanza. La esperanza es un tema común en la Biblia y el Papa Francisco hizo referencia específicamente a un pasaje de Romanos 5, 5: “la esperanza no defrauda”. Otras traducciones pueden decir: “Y la esperanza no quedará defraudada, porque el amor de Dios ha sido derramado en nuestros corazones por el Espíritu Santo, que nos ha sido dado”.

El Papa Francisco, en la proclamación del Año Santo, escribió: “Durante el Año Santo... ha de procurarse que el Pueblo de Dios acoja, con plena participación, tanto el anuncio de esperanza de la gracia de Dios como los signos que atestiguan su eficacia”.

“Todos esperan”, escribió el Papa. “En el corazón de toda persona anida la esperanza como deseo y expectativa del bien, aun ignorando lo que traerá consigo el mañana”.

En nuestro mundo marcado por la guerra y la violencia, el racismo y el desprecio por el otro, el tema de la esperanza viene en un momento oportuno para todos los creyentes. Oímos a mucha gente decir, y quizá lo digamos nosotros mismos, que vivimos divisiones en nuestra sociedad, e incluso en nuestras familias, como nunca antes. Sin embargo, la esperanza es una virtud que debemos buscar, así como las virtudes de la fe y la caridad. La esperanza es un don de Dios, pero los dones deben aceptarse y luego utilizarse y compartirse.

El Papa Francisco pregunta cómo podemos difundir esperanza y cultivar signos de esperanza. El mes pasado pidió a las naciones del mundo que eliminaran la pena de muerte, para que los presos pudieran mirar al futuro con esperanza y confianza renovada. Además, instó a ofrecer esperanza a los enfermos, a los jóvenes y a los ancianos, a los migrantes y a los pobres.

El Papa insiste en que la esperanza cristiana para cada persona humana, enraizada en la muerte y resurrección de Cristo, apunta a nuestro destino final, la felicidad eterna con Dios en el cielo.

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ENERO DE 2025

4 de enero	10 a.m. Ordenación diaconal de Conrad Jaconette – Catedral de San Esteban
5-9 de enero	Retiro de obispos de la Región V – Centro de Retiros de New Orleans
13-16 de enero	Convocatoria de los Sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Owensboro – San Meinrad
27 de enero	8 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Juan Pablo II, Morganfield
	5 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith
28 de enero	9:30 a.m. Misa escolar – Sistema Escolar Santa María, Paducah
29 de enero	9:45 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela San José, Bowling Green
30 de enero	9 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Interparroquial San Romualdo, Hardinsburg

Cada persona puede encontrar abundantes razones para no abandonar la esperanza. Este Año Santo nos da a todos un motivo y una oportunidad para volver a mirar, para considerar de nuevo, lo que Dios ha prometido y para abrazar la esperanza para nosotros en esta vida, pero más aún en la vida eterna.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos,



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

El obispo celebra el 75 aniversario de las hermanas en su casa madre en México



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

El Obispo William F. Medley, el Dcn. Cristóbal Gutiérrez y el P. Carmelo Jiménez visitan la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad en Huamantla durante su visita a México en diciembre de 2024.

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Del 6 al 9 de diciembre de 2024, el Obispo William F. Medley visitó Huamantla en Tlaxcala, México, para celebrar con una comunidad de religiosas que han servido en la Diócesis de Owensboro durante muchos años.

Las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús ad Gentes estaban celebrando el 75 aniversario de la fundación de su orden y habían invitado al obispo a celebrar con ellas. El Obispo Medley viajó a México acompañado por el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis, y el Padre Carmelo Jiménez, párroco de la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree.

Varias de estas hermanas actualmente sirven en el ministerio hispano en parroquias de la diócesis. Para conocer más sobre su vocación, visiten <https://adgenteshuamantla.blogspot.com> ■.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, el Obispo William F. Medley y el P. Carmelo Jiménez están con las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús ad Gentes en su casa madre en Huamantla, Tlaxcala, México.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

El Obispo William F. Medley y el Arzobispo Joseph Spiteri, nuncio apostólico en México, están juntos durante la visita del Obispo Medley a México en diciembre de 2024 para celebrar el 75 aniversario de la fundación de las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús ad Gentes.

“Jesús es el Señor”, el tema de la Conferencia de Adolescentes de la Diócesis de Owensboro

POR CHARLIE HARDESTY, OFICINA DEL MINISTERIO CON ADOLESCENTES Y JÓVENES ADULTOS

“¡Jesucristo!”, respondieron los participantes de ODYC 2024 mientras el Obispo Medley preguntaba una y otra vez durante la Misa de clausura: “¿Quién es su rey?”

La Conferencia de Adolescentes de la Diócesis de Owensboro (ODYC por sus siglas en inglés) se llevó a cabo del 22 al 23 de noviembre en el Centro de Convenciones Bruce en Hopkinsville. El tema de la conferencia fue “Jesus is Lord/Jesús es el Señor”. Nuestro objetivo para el fin de semana fue ayudar a los adolescentes de nuestra diócesis a encontrar descanso en el Señor, aprender a orar de manera más constante y ver el mundo que los rodea como un espacio para compartir la Buena Nueva del Evangelio.

Tuvimos la suerte de contar con alrededor de 380

participantes que representaban a 25 de nuestras parroquias y escuelas del Kentucky occidental. Nos gustaría agradecer especialmente a todos los adultos que acompañaron a los adolescentes de nuestra diócesis a la conferencia y ofrecieron su tiempo. También agradecemos al Padre Corey Bruns, Susy Solorza y Wade Gaynor, quienes fueron nuestros presentadores principales. Agradecemos a Ben Warrell, Lisa Higdon y el personal del Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper por servir como maestros de ceremonias y ayudar durante el fin de semana. Los Scally Brothers de Toledo, Ohio, hicieron un trabajo fenomenal compartiendo música durante todo el fin de semana. Estamos muy agradecidos a los sacerdotes de la diócesis que vinieron el viernes por la tarde para escuchar confesiones y al personal del Centro Católico McRaith que ayudó de muchas maneras. La conferencia estuvo llena de numerosos adultos que



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Aproximadamente 380 participantes llenaron el Centro de Convenciones Bruce en Hopkinsville durante ODYC 2024, que se celebró en noviembre.

enseñaron en sesiones grupales, oraron y asesoraron a los adolescentes y simplemente compartieron alegría y risas.

ODYC se alterna con la Conferencia Nacional Católica de Jóvenes Adolescentes que se llevará a cabo del 20 al 22 de noviembre de 2025 en Indianápolis. Estén atentos a más información sobre NCYC 2025 y a muchas otras oportunidades para adolescentes que ocurren durante el año. ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Susana Solorza, coordinadora de pastoral juvenil de la Diócesis de Owensboro, habla durante ODYC 2024, que se celebró en noviembre.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Un grupo de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro asiste a ODYC (Conferencia de Adolescentes de la Diócesis de Owensboro) en noviembre de 2024.

El retiro Banquete de Bodas se lleva a cabo en el condado de Todd

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

En noviembre de 2024, 15 parejas asistieron al retiro matrimonial Banquete de Bodas, que se llevó a cabo esta vez en la Parroquia San Francisco de Asís en el condado de Todd. Este retiro se ofrece en la Diócesis de Owensboro para parejas hispanas/latinas. Para obtener más información sobre este ministerio o para asistir a un retiro futuro, comuníquense con Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez al (270) 880-8018. ■

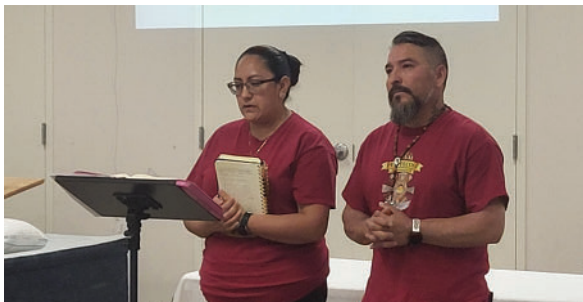


FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Blanda y Marcelo Resendiz hablan a las parejas participantes sobre tener un altarcito para la oración en los hogares, donde los miembros de las familias pueden hacer una pausa en cualquier momento y/o reunirse para la oración familiar juntos.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

El Padre Carmelo Jiménez, párroco de la Parroquia San Miguel en Seebree, da una plática durante el retiro matrimonial Banquete de Bodas de noviembre de 2024 que se lleva a cabo en la parroquia San Francisco de Asís en el condado de Todd.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Quince parejas asisten al retiro Banquete de Bodas en la Parroquia San Francisco de Asís en el condado de Todd durante el fin de semana del 16 de noviembre de 2024.

Celebrando a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe



(IZQUIERDA) FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SANTO NOMBRE DE JESÚS

Un altar en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se ve en la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson en la noche del 11 de diciembre de 2024, la víspera de la fiesta de Nuestra Señora.

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Para denunciar una sospecha de abuso, llame a la Línea Directa de Protección Infantil de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su Fiscal Local del Commonwealth. Para reportar abuso, actual o pasado, a la diócesis por parte de cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a Scott Ingram, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinadoras de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270-880-8360. También puede visitar la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro (owensborodiocese.org/safe) para obtener más información. Para hacer un informe de abuso sexual de un menor de edad o conducta inapropiada relacionada por parte de algún obispo, visite <https://reportbishopabuse.org/es>.



Celebrando a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SANTO NOMBRE DE JESÚS
Los hombres tocan música de mariachi durante las celebraciones de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson en la noche del 11 de diciembre de 2024.

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Durante la noche del 11 de diciembre y hasta el día siguiente, muchas parroquias alrededor de la Diócesis de Owensboro se reunieron para la querida tradición hispana/latina de celebrar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, cuya festividad es el 12 de diciembre.

Las celebraciones incluyeron Misas, oraciones, música, refrigerios y obras realizadas por jóvenes que representaban la aparición de Nuestra Señora a un catequista laico, San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatohuac, en el cerro Tepeyac en México. La fiesta conmemora la aparición en 1531 que más tarde condujo a la conversión de entre 6 y 9 millones de personas en todo México. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SANTOS JOSÉ Y PABLO
Un niño que representa a San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatohuac sostiene una representación de la tilma milagrosa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe durante una obra de las apariciones en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo la noche anterior a la fiesta de Nuestra Señora del 12 de diciembre de 2024.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SANTOS JOSÉ Y PABLO
Un arreglo en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se ve en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro en la víspera del 12 de diciembre de 2024, la fiesta de Nuestra Señora.