



## A Word From Bishop Medley

### *An abundance of charity*

My dear sisters and brothers,

As communities across our country and indeed the whole world have struggled to adapt in an age of pandemic, almost all places have found it necessary to implement guidelines and restrictions. These have included stay-at-home directives, distancing guidelines, and the wearing of masks in public or any place where one is in contact with others.

Often when these directives have been issued, we have been told that we take these measures with “an abundance of caution.” This acknowledges that in reality there is far more we do not know about the COVID-19 virus than what we do know. It may come to pass that some of our precautions have been excessive, though, from all indications with surging numbers, we may need to enact even more restrictive measures.

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Fr. Mike Williams wears a mask while leading a holy hour on July 8, 2020; the second day of the Owensboro location for Gasper on the Go. Since summer camps on-location could not take place this year, Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center brought camp to the youth. [Page 8](#)



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The Igleheart family, who belong to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro, watch and pray as their pastor, Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, celebrates Mass via livestream in spring 2020. Around the diocese, pastors have found ways to continue serving their parishes while following COVID-19 safety standards. **Page 4**



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Front page photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | 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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**Publisher** ● Bishop William F. Medley

**Editor** ● Elizabeth Wong Barnstead

**Contributors** ● Laura Rigsby, Tina Kasey

Send change of address requests to  
[cathy.hagan@pastoral.org](mailto:cathy.hagan@pastoral.org)

View current and archived issues at  
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## *A Word From Bishop Medley continued from the front page*

An abundance of caution is a good guideline. Is that not a wise and prudent measure in any realm of life? If we all spoke with an abundance of caution, imagine how many hurtful words would never be uttered?

I want to propose yet a higher standard for caution and courtesy as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. I suggest that our standard for caution be an “abundance of charity.” Not all the restrictions we have been asked to embrace are easy. Wearing a mask can be irritating and unpleasant. For some people it may be such an obstacle that they would chose as best they can not to be in public. I have experienced extreme coughs at times well before this pandemic that have led me to avoid public places. Yes, I do these things out of an abundance of caution but even more so out of abundance of charity.

When we act with an abundance of charity, we demonstrate a concern for our neighbor. Would there ever be a proper time to not exercise charity to the greatest degree that we can? Jesus taught us that the greatest commandment is to love God with heart and soul and mind and strength. He said the second commandment is like the first, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” This second commandment leads us to the golden rule to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

From these commandments comes the Church’s teaching on what we call the common good. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “In keeping with the social nature of man, the good of each individual is necessarily related to the common good, which in turn can be defined in reference to the human person.” The Catechism even prescribes that it is the role of the state to defend and promote the common good of civil society, its citizens, and intermediate bodies.

Though the national and worldwide trends regarding the virus are not encouraging, Christians are people with hope. The Resurrection of Jesus is our prime cause for hope. Even in the face of the death of Jesus, the Son of God, we are assured that we are never abandoned. Though the reality of a pandemic may require us to distance ourselves from one other, to mask our faces, to forego many of the good things of human community and interaction, we are never separated from the love of God.

In the eighth chapter of his letter to the Romans, St. Paul writes: “I am certain of this: neither death nor life, nor angel, nor prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, nor any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

People of hope, as followers of Jesus we are called to “go the extra mile.” As we accept the restrictions we face, let us strive to embrace them with as much cheerfulness as possible. If we act with an abundance of charity God will indeed hear our prayers. ■

Sincerely in Christ,



**Most Reverend William F. Medley**  
Diocese of Owensboro

## BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR

### AUGUST 2020

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>AUG 5</b>     | 5:30 p.m.   Confirmation – Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville                 |
| <b>AUG 11-12</b> | Catholic Conference of Kentucky and Bishops of the Province Meetings – Louisville |
| <b>AUG 13</b>    | 6 p.m.   Diocesan Review Board Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center (MCC), Owensboro |
| <b>AUG 17</b>    | 10 a.m.   Priest Personnel Meeting<br>1:30 p.m.   Priests' Council Meeting        |
| <b>AUG 18</b>    | 6 p.m.   Confirmation – St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho                         |
| <b>AUG 20</b>    | 6 p.m.   Confirmation – Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawesville                  |
| <b>AUG 24</b>    | 6 p.m.   Confirmation – St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield                            |
| <b>AUG 25</b>    | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.   Paducah Office – Mercy Health/Lourdes Hospital                 |
| <b>AUG 29</b>    | 10 a.m.   Confirmation – St. Pius X Parish, Calvert City                          |
| <b>AUG 30</b>    | 2 p.m.   Confirmation – Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green                         |

# In prayer, outreach and looking ahead to better days, priests continue to serve their flocks



COURTESY OF FR. JOHN THOMAS

Standing masked and socially-distant outside Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green are seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling, Fr. Jude Okeoma, Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than, Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara and Fr. John Thomas.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In the afternoon of March 19, 2020, Fr. John Thomas of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green took out his cellphone and, with fellow parish priests and seminarian intern, began to pray the rosary over

Facebook Live.

The COVID-19 pandemic was just starting to take the United States by storm, though multiple other countries were already reeling from rising coronavirus cases. A few days earlier, Bishop William F. Medley had announced a temporary suspension of

public Masses to help stop the spread.

At Holy Spirit, Fr. Thomas asked Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara (from India), Fr. Jude Okeoma (from Nigeria) and seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling (from Myanmar, also known as Burma) to lead their respective decades in their native languages, “and we’ll respond in English.”

*“This is a worldwide pandemic. Let’s make this an international rosary.”*

“This is a worldwide pandemic,” he said. “Let’s make this an international rosary.”

Much has changed – and continues to change – in the Diocese of Owensboro since March 19. Beginning on May 20, public Masses were permitted once again within the diocese.

Restrictions remain, however.

Masks are required at Mass and social distancing is enforced in churches. The bishop has extended his general dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice, keeping in mind the needs of those especially vulnerable to the virus, who cannot yet safely attend public gatherings. Some parish and Catholic school activities have resumed – but with significant restrictions and guidelines to foster the safety of all involved.

Fr. Thomas told the WKC that Holy Spirit has had a revolving door in past months. While Fr. Vadakumkara remains as a parochial vicar, Ma Na Ling

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## *Priests serving continued from page 4*

has moved to Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson for his summer internship, and Fr. Okeoma is now the parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville and St. John the Baptist Parish in Fordsville.

Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than, who was ordained to the priesthood in May, has joined Holy Spirit as a parochial vicar.

But Holy Spirit's multilingual, international rosary is still prayed Mondays through Fridays at 3 p.m. on Facebook Live, with a dedicated digital following.

Fr. Thomas said that despite the anxiety about the ongoing pandemic and what the future may bring, this routine of the rosary has been "enriching" to pray with his brother priests "and to reach out."

"I have done my best to look for the positive in the worst," he said.

## **Needing to be patient**

Fr. Suneesh Mathew, HGN, pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro, admitted that the pandemic shutdown was difficult for him in the beginning, "as I am an extrovert and like to meet and be with people."

"At the same time it was a constant realization that without the people, the priests are 'zero,'" said Fr. Mathew. "I never imagined celebrating Mass in an empty church."

He said that like many other parishes in the diocese, Precious Blood began livestreaming their Masses when the suspension of public liturgies was announced.

"That was the only way to pray with people in the beginning," said Fr. Mathew. He also mourned the loss of the ability to visit the sick in hospitals and nursing homes, and of not being able to take Holy Communion to the homebound.



COURTESY OF FR. SUNEESH MATHEW

On July 6, 2020, Bishop William F. Medley confirmed the youth of Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro. As is currently required at Masses in the Diocese of Owensboro, masks were worn by all and social distancing was enforced.

Fr. Mathew said he was touched by the generosity of parishioners who, even though they could not be physically present during the shutdown, would send their Sunday offerings in the mail - "which made me realize their love and sense of belonging for the parish."

*"Time is the best healer, but we need to be patient."*

Now that public Masses may be celebrated again, he said most of the people who had participated via livestream have started coming back to in-person Mass. His daily Mass regulars have returned for the most part, but weekend Masses are still "not very well attended."

"I see only a few young people at church," he said. "Most of the people that come to church here at Precious Blood have been elderly."

Since there are multiple reasons why people have chosen to postpone returning, Precious Blood con-

tinues livestreaming Mass.

"Time is the best healer," said Fr. Mathew. "But we need to be patient. Let us continue pray for one another and reach out to one another as we can."

## **Gratitude for committed staff**

Fr. Brad Whistle, pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, said he really missed his parishioners during the shutdown, especially the familiar faces of his daily Mass goers.

"There was such a spiritual hunger to share the Eucharist with the people," he told the WKC.

With in-person Masses starting up again, he said the number of people attending Sunday Mass "is far from normal... the majority of our people are still not coming to Sunday Mass."

They have added two extra weekday Masses as options for people not yet comfortable attending the larger Sunday liturgies. Fr. Whistle said this system has been "working well and consistent."

St. Thomas More has also continued to livestream Mass, since "word got to us very quickly that

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COURTESY OF ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

Families sit together but remain physically distanced from other families during the celebration of First Holy Communion at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah on June 14, 2020.

## *Priests serving continued from page 5*

the people wanted to watch Mass (celebrated in) our church,” he said.

***“There was such a spiritual hunger to share the Eucharist with people.”***

Fr. Whistle credited the parish’s “dedicated and committed staff” who have been conducting Zoom meetings for RCIA candidates and sponsors as well

as for the stewardship committee members; providing children’s Liturgy of the Word materials; perfecting the livestream for Masses; communicating weekly with parishioners; helping Fr. Whistle film “mid-week reflections” for the website; remaining conscious of the business aspect of parish life; and overall just being there for anything.

“Over these past four months this staff did a lot of their ministry from home,” he said. “They have just been phenomenal.”

Fr. Whistle also added “a tremendous ‘thank you’ to the many offices at the McRaith Catholic Center.



COURTESY OF STS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH

Christine Weatherford, a parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, shows pictures on her iPad of her daughter’s military promotion ceremony to pastor, Fr. Richard Meredith, in summer 2020.

You were there to answer questions when we needed you. Thank you.”

## **A spiritual ‘sheltering in place’**

Fr. Richard Meredith, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, said his philosophy over the past months has been “to be careful but not fearful, cautious not to spread contagion to others, using masks, distance, and hand sanitizer.”

During the shutdown, he said he viewed the experience as a “spiritual ‘wartime’ sheltering in place,” and gave himself more time for prayer, reading and

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**Priests serving continued from page 6**

writing.

Fr. Meredith said he was quickly taught how to video the Mass with his phone and post it to Facebook, later transitioning to “even better technology.”

With public Masses happening again, he said many people still pray the Mass over livestream and/or radio; the parish currently livestreams at least one Mass a day, and on Sundays one in English and one in Spanish.

“We have many parishioners for whom this is the only way to pray with us, given their concern for their vulnerability,” said Fr. Meredith. “Information from Facebook indicates that we have people participating from around the U.S., sometimes Germany, and sometimes Argentina.”

He is thankful for his parish family and staff who “acted with a very positive ‘can do’ attitude even while experiencing anxiety and fear.”

“All look forward to better, less dangerous times,” he said. “We keep this in prayer together.”

Fr. Meredith also believes God has made the pandemic “an occasion of evangelical grace.”

*“...we have people participating from around the U.S., sometimes Germany and sometimes Argentina.”*

“By and large the faithful have met it with prayer and spiritual resilience,” he said. “The suffering of the pandemic and the disruptions and losses have been met with determination and with hope.” ■



COURTESY OF STS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH  
Fr. Richard Meredith, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, wears a mask while lifting up the Eucharist during Mass in summer 2020.

## Parish uses bulletin to raise funds for quality livestream equipment

**BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC**

People still read the bulletin!

So much work goes into collecting all the announcements and information for the bulletin each week. The hope is that everyone is reading through it and doing their part to help their parish live the mission of Jesus. Even during the pandemic, the bulletin has been an important tool for communication and the proof is in the camera equipment. Here is a story that has been echoed in many of our parishes across the diocese.

The people of Immaculate Parish in Owensboro, as in many other parishes, have really appreciated the livestreamed Mass. Immaculate decided they would like to improve the quality of the broadcast, both during COVID-19 and for others in the parish that have found it so helpful. They

looked into the installation of professional cameras and equipment that they have at St. Stephen Cathedral and other places. The initial estimate was \$10,000.

Two weeks ago, Immaculate’s pastor, Fr. John Vaughan, mentioned this need in the parish bulletin and asked for help, since this was not in their budget. In four days, they had more than enough money for the project! In telling the story Fr. Vaughan responded, “And to think that I have often said no one reads the bulletin.”

People still read the bulletin – and this pandemic has forced us to find new ways to share the good news of Jesus with others. Livestreaming the Mass is a great way to serve our elderly population when they are sick and should not attend. Furthermore, COVID-19 has taught us that it is our people that are most important and the mission of sharing the love of our great God with everyone is core. ■

# Having fun and staying safe while growing in the Catholic faith

## *'Gasper on the Go' provides camp experience at parish sites*



COURTESY OF ST. THOMAS MORE FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY FACEBOOK PAGE  
Gasper staff lead the morning session during the first day of Gasper on the Go at St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm on July 21, 2020.



COURTESY OF ST. THOMAS MORE FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY FACEBOOK PAGE  
A small group reads the Bible during Gasper on the Go at St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm on July 21, 2020.



COURTESY OF OLIVIA ROMERO  
The high school and middle school youth participating in Fancy Farm's Gasper on the Go on July 21, 2020, along with Gasper staff.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

It is an understatement to say that Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center is “significant” for the Reffitt family at St. Stephen Cathedral.

“It has become a huge part of our children’s lives,” said mom, Amanda Reffitt. “They call Gasper their ‘home away from home.’”

Reffitt said her children were disappointed when summer camp on location had to be cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

So when Gasper River announced that instead of having youth come to camp this year, they’d bring camp to the youth, the Reffitt kids were thrilled.

“Gasper on the Go” took place in Owensboro on July 7-9 and in Fancy Farm on July 21-23. The Owensboro location was hosted at St. Pius X Parish and the Fancy Farm location was hosted at St. Jerome Parish.

“Gasper on the Go was a blessing to be able to have a mini Gasper experience with Adoration, the gift of the holy Mass, the opportunity to learn and grow in their faith, and the fun and games with the amazing Gasper staff,” said Reffitt. “They even brought the Gasper River with them in a jar!”

The three-day weeks featured morning sessions from 8:30-11:30 a.m. for incoming third through sixth graders, and afternoon sessions from 1-4 p.m.

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## *Gasper on the Go continued from page 8*

for incoming middle school and high school aged youth.

The facilities were sanitized and mask wearing was required, per state and Diocese of Owensboro guidelines.

Ben Warrell, Gasper's director, said they had researched how to provide safe, fun games under the unusual circumstances caused by the pandemic, and it paid off: "The staff said (the children) had a blast."

"The kids didn't seem to mind that they had to wear a mask; they were just having a good time and being joyful," said Warrell.

Gasper on the Go was originally supposed to take place at eight locations around western Kentucky, but six had to be cancelled due to low registrations. Warrell said he understands that many families may have been uneasy about sending their children to activities.

A significant part of Gasper on the Go was the opportunity for small group discussion. Warrell said the staff had come prepared with questions to prompt conversations, but they didn't really need them.

It turned out the biggest thing the kids wanted to talk about was "what they've been going through, what they've been experiencing," said Warrell; in other words, how the pandemic has been affecting their own young lives.

Just like for adults, the world has been turned upside-down for kids, and Warrell said that during these day camps it was helpful for them to safely "be around other people and friends from camp."

"The Holy Spirit has definitely had a hand in that in terms of bringing the kids together," he said. He added that registrations saw both Gasper regulars, as well as children who had never before gotten to experience the youth camp.

These campers, he said, were able to recognize that "my Church cares about me!"

Kelly Groves, family life coordinator for St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, was present at the Gasper on the Go morning session in Fancy Farm on July 21.

"It was so wonderful seeing and hearing the children run, play, laugh, and dance together," she said. "It was obvious that they have really missed being part of a group! Children that play and pray together are children that stay together."

She said she is grateful to God "that these children are building friendships and growing in their Catholic faith while having fun and staying safe."

Groves added a thank-you to Warrell, program director Olivia Romero, "and the entire staff for providing this wonderful opportunity for our children and youth ministries."

Warrell agreed that his staff has done a terrific job during the summer of 2020, even with these drastic changes to their plans.

"This staff is the cream of the crop of the young adults in the diocese," he said. "It gives you such great hope."

He also expressed his gratitude to the host parishes, youth ministers and parish staff willing to provide a space for Gasper on the Go.

Warrell hopes that even post-pandemic they can continue to offer these types of day camps, especially on the far western end of the diocese - bringing Gasper River to families for whom the distance has been prohibitive.

"We're looking to do that in the future as Gasper continues to grow," he said. "We're here to serve the diocese, and we want to let people know we're willing to go to them." ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Gasper River staff member Cecilia Morris, far left, directs her small group in playing Waffleball GolfFun during Gasper on the Go at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro on July 8, 2020.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Youth pray in Adoration during Gasper on the Go at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro in the afternoon of July 8, 2020.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
High school and middle school youth participate in a small group discussion during Gasper on the Go at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro in the afternoon of July 8, 2020.

# ‘You have to lean into God, his people, and grace’

*A conversation with retiring director of social concerns, Deacon Richard Murphy*



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

On June 30, 2020, during a small Mass at the McRaith Catholic Center (central offices of the Diocese of Owensboro) Deacon Richard Murphy is given a picture of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. The Mass was held in the large lower level of the MCC so that participants could be physically spaced apart.

**Note:** The following is edited from an interview with Deacon Richard Murphy on June 24, 2020.

“I started in July 2001... The people of God are the greatest blessing to work here. Both in my work associates and the people that God’s given me to work with as well... they’re full of love and endless energy to serve and they truly are champions of love. If anything got done in this office, it was because of them!”

“Most of the time, to be able to do this work, you have to lean into God, his people, and the grace that he provides to get the work done.

“The one thing that stands out in my mind is the one quote from St. Pope Paul VI, ‘If you want peace, work for justice.’ I see justice as the highest form of charity. And that to be able to get through the many aspects of our current crises, we have to learn to walk in the peace of justice.

“Social justice helps us to live the faith a great deal more clearly and purposefully. It calls into question all that we believe and all our connections with God and it’s something that I think, as the years go by, will become more and more important.

“The people are up for it. They need to be encouraged by their leaders to step out and empowered to do so. When they are, surprising results happen.

“I have no doubt whoever will take my place will have the same experience that I did. Every single aspect of their personality is going to be called upon; they’re going to be called upon to collaborate with people across the wide spectrum of the community – some faith believers and some not – but they’ll work together on social justice issues. That’s what social justice does. It calls us past our own theological differences, to help people. And that’s really at the heart of the Gospel: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

“I have no doubt that whoever does this job will be called in that same attitude.” ■

- Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, *The Western Kentucky Catholic*

# ‘Charity to our neighbor’ is driving force behind worship office’s pandemic protocol for parishes



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Tape marks off pews and people are spaced with social distance during the May 23, 2020 Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

BY LAUREN JOHNSON, OFFICE OF WORSHIP

Just as parishes have had to adjust their services during the Coronavirus pandemic, the Office of Worship has adapted how we reach out to meet the changing needs of the time by a special focus on the domestic church (the family) in providing resources for them to pray together at home.

These resources include adapted popular rituals of devotion (such as the Mary Crowning in May) and other prayer resources available on the diocesan worship page, which includes a weekly Liturgy of the Word for Sundays. Several parishes that have parishioners unable to access their livestream Masses have mailed or even hand-delivered our weekly Liturgy of the Word so they can pray with the diocesan community of the faithful. This resource has been a made possible with many helping hands: local priests, deacons, and religious have provided reflections, Mike Bogdan in the Office of Music has provided hymns,

Patti Gutiérrez has provided Spanish translation services, and the Office of Communications has shared the resource directly to parishes and on social media.

The Office of Worship continues service to the parishes in all the usual ways; however, in addition, we offer adapted ritual scripts, collaborate with the Bishop’s Office on issuing liturgical guidelines, and consult with parishes on their implementation.

I don’t think anyone can say they like the temporary changes to the liturgy. In fact, most of the modifications are the opposite of good liturgy, but at the heart of every adaptation is the obligation of charity to our neighbor. I am reminded of Jesus healing the paralyzed man on the Sabbath and asking him to take up his mat and walk (John 5:1-17). The people who were accusing the healed man of violating the Sabbath for carrying his mat were completely missing the point. They should have rejoiced in this man’s wellbeing rather than uphold traditions that

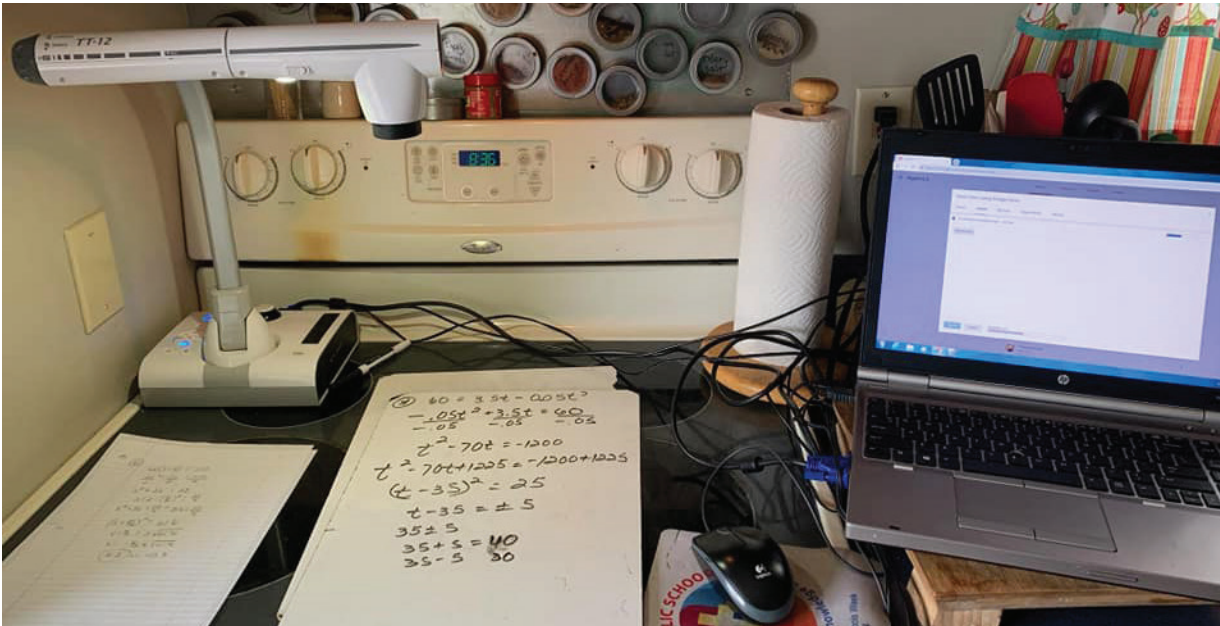
would have prevented his healing.

I believe it is our duty at all times to put our concern for the wellbeing of the person over our concern for perfect liturgical practice. This is true especially in a pandemic, though it means sacrificing some of the signs and symbols (although still important) that carry such deep meaning in our liturgy if they would pose a threat to God’s people in these circumstances. If the Lord wills it, these changes will not last forever. Until then, we can remember that our praying the liturgy well begins first within our own hearts open to the presence of God in our midst.

Whether we are celebrating the Mass in a school gym or a beautiful cathedral, with or without restrictions, “Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, para. 7). ■

*Lauren Johnson is the co-coordinator of the Office of Worship. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/worship](http://owensborodiocese.org/worship).*

# For Catholic schools, unexpected blessings show God is *‘writing straight with crooked lines’*



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Holly Farina, 7th/8th grade teacher at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson, taught full math lessons from her kitchen in spring 2020. She had projectors set up and could work out math problems live for students to see.

BY JO ANN MATHIESON, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

In Scripture, world history and our own history, we can sometimes see good coming out of trials. Only time will tell this pandemic’s effect on our lives and ways, but if we look for it, we can see some blessings now.

We all had to stop and think; to ask reflective questions. From a school’s perspective these questions included: Why do Catholic schools exist? What is the worst case scenario and our role in it? Parents are primary educators; what can we do to support them? How must we change our way of thinking? How can the school support the whole family? And,

of course, what would Jesus do?

We have had to reach out. The diocesan Catholic Schools Office had many open discussions and established relationships with other dioceses. On a state level, Catholic schools were allowed in state education conversations – which was a first. We became involved the local community like we have never before such as working with EMA (Emergency Medical Agency) on writing grants to FEMA (Federal Emergency Medical Agency) for masks and sanitizer for non-profits. (If you are reading this, we could still use donations of non-touch thermometers for our schools). Catholic schools are working with local public schools in a variety of areas, as well as with

the public health department.

We have gained a new understanding of faith’s role in difficult times. All of us must step out of our comfort zones and accept unknowns. Yes, this is Scriptural and the heart of what we profess, but this doesn’t lessen the experience.

We have had to work harder in the summer than ever before. We also do not anticipate a break anytime soon. But this is OK, because we know the mission of Catholic schools has eternal significance. We know students and their families deserve our best. We have confidence that our decisions are in line with the best advice at hand, from Catholic Social Teaching to the data-based recommendations of educational research and the department of public health.

Do we have concerns for schools’ reopening? Absolutely. We are acutely aware of helping students feel safe and loved in this social distancing environment. We anticipate a struggle with varied degrees of learning gaps and want to make sure each child’s needs are addressed. We are worried about how all this will burden our already-overburdened teachers.

We do feel like we’re being asked to make more bricks with less straw. But we also have the long view. We know God writes straight with crooked lines. We ask for prayers for our schools – and donations wouldn’t hurt either. ■

*Jo Ann Mathieson is the assistant superintendent of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Catholic Schools Office. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/catholic-schools](https://owensborodiocese.org/catholic-schools).*



COURTESY OF THE HALL FAMILY  
Matthew Hall, a young parishioner of Immaculate Parish in Owensboro, submitted this Lego altar during the social media “Lego Challenge” by the Office of Marriage and Family Life.

## Beyond ‘raising kids, keeping up on the house, and other daily responsibilities,’ marriage, family resources offered shutdown respite

BY DANNY MAY, OFFICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

For most of us, family life was spun on its head during the quarantine. But the Office of Marriage and Family Life is focusing on several unexpected opportunities that also arose during the COVID-19 shutdown.

We had fun with the “Lego Challenge” where children from around the diocese submitted photos of their Easter-inspired creations through social media platforms. We promoted the online virtual retreat for graduating seniors offered by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Gasper River’s “Gasper on the Go” when summer camp was canceled.

We also held our first-ever virtual PreCana on May 1, which went over surprisingly well.

But it was marriage enrichment opportunities in response to the COVID-19 shutdown that got the

most positive feedback from participating couples in our diocese. Thankfully, two marriage enrichment models had similar ideas that if couples were stuck at home during quarantine, why not offer “at home date nights” using pre-recorded videos and discussion guides? The result was “Be Light” (presented by Witness to Love) and “Grace Marriage @ Home” (presented by Grace Marriage). We offered both versions to couples in our diocese and received great feedback on each of them.

Since both formats consist of a short video and a follow-up discussion guide, couples appreciated that the date nights were something simple they could do at home in about an hour. As one couple said, “It helped that the videos were only about 15 minutes each because we didn’t feel the pressure of trying to



COURTESY OF THE KORTE FAMILY  
Hunter Korte, who belongs to St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, displays his Lego cross for the Office of Marriage and Family Life’s social media “Lego Challenge.”

accomplish an hour-long video each night.”

The topics are real-life kinds of things married couples may not typically talk about in the midst of raising kids, keeping up the house, checking on family, and other day-to-day responsibilities.

One couple commented they had never done an online date night before but found the time very beneficial and more enjoyable than they expected. Another couple decided to do their sessions on Sunday evenings and then kept another date night they called “Fun Friday” where they just did something fun, like play a board game together, during quarantine after the kids went to bed. I heard another story from a couple who kept a journal together to write down what they came up with in their discussions.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response

*Continues on page 14*

## Family life continued from page 13

to the quarantine date night sessions, Be Light and Grace Marriage @ Home are both releasing monthly date night sessions from now on that will be available for couples in the Diocese of Owensboro through the Office of Marriage and Family Life webpage under the marriage enrichment section. This is especially

exciting because marriage enrichment is a great discipleship tool for parishes. Now couples in the diocese have two great options for monthly marriage enrichment they can do right in their homes at their own convenience. These monthly date nights will only further support future marriage enrichment opportuni-

ties as they come available. ■

*Danny May is the director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life](https://owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life).*

## ‘Tirelessly providing opportunities’ Catechists, youth ministry leaders refuse to give up during COVID-19



COURTESY OF KELLY GROVES

Kelly Groves, family life coordinator at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, and her children, 10-year-old Colin and eight-year-old Sydney, lead a virtual children's Liturgy of the Word in their home on Sunday, April 26, 2020.

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

On Sunday, March 8, Youth 2000 - our annual retreat for middle and high school youth hosted by the Marian Shrine at Brescia University - had its typical closing Mass with Bishop Medley. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry had finished up a very busy season of ministry and was looking forward to a time of recovery and planning for the coming summer and fall. Within the following two weeks, the world, as we knew it, completely shut down to gathered events as we found ourselves in the grip of the COVID-19 virus. Youth ministry efforts in the diocese faced a new and unexpected reality. How do we minister to youth without in-person gatherings?

Crissy Stevenson, director of youth ministry at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro reflected, "Youth ministry is based on relationships. We all knew this before the pandemic, but it became very clear that it was an even bigger foundation than we may have realized. Everything just came to an immediate stop."

Initially, many youth ministry leaders found success in gathering with young people in video conferences, like Zoom, but as the youth utilized that space more and more for school, it became less effective.

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## COVID and youth ministry continued from page 14

“There are only so many postcards, emails, texts, Instagram invitations/messages, cards, etc. that you can send. When only a couple participate in what you are able to offer, it can be deflating and leave you feeling like you aren’t making an impact,” Stevenson said.

Creativity with ministry efforts became critical to stay connected to young people. Kelly Groves, family life coordinator at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah shared, “We had to think out of the box as how to reach people while not being able to be with us physically. We then created Facebook and YouTube videos to reach out to them.”

Several parishes took to the streets meeting with youth and families safely in their front yards, delivering care packages, prayers, and sharing laughter and joy.

Stevenson shared, “Just after Easter, Hannah Bland, Fr. Sinoj (Pynadath), and I delivered the Jelly Bean Prayer and a bag of jellybeans to each child in our parish. It probably was the best thing I have ever done in ministry. I got to visit and check in with almost every youth/family in the parish.”

As the world has begun to slowly reopen, new ministry opportunities have emerged. Matt Knight, director of youth ministry at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro, shared “For the longest time I have been trying to get our ministry to move into a small group model. Once the diocese said we could meet in small groups, I immediately sent an email to all of our parents. That has developed into five groups of four to seven youth with a parent helping us dive deeper into the Alpha Youth Video Program.”

Youth ministry is normally a pretty difficult challenge. The limitations presented by the current pandemic have, at times, made youth ministry feel pretty much impossible. As director of youth and young



COURTESY OF CRISSY STEVENSON

Breandan Murphy of Owensboro receives a visit from Hannah Bland, director of children’s ministry at St. Stephen Cathedral. During the Easter season Bland, youth ministry director Crissy Stevenson, and parochial vicar Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN, visited and checked in with youth and parish families to deliver bags of jellybeans and the “Jelly Bean Prayer,” which talks about the different colors of the jellybeans as representing the different colors of Jesus’ Passion and Resurrection.

adult ministry for the diocese, I am extremely proud and impressed by the parish youth ministry leaders who refused to give up and worked tirelessly to provide opportunities and engaging experiences for the youth.

As Kelly Groves expressed, “We felt challenged

but determined to find ways to reach our young people.” ■

*Charlie Hardesty is the director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry](http://owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry).*

# Pandemic won't stop the Tribunal from ministry to the Church and the people



COURTESY OF MARTHA HAGAN

On June 7, 2020, Emily Danchisin (right, foreground) is sworn in as Judge for the Tribunal and Patti Bartley (right, background) is sworn in as Ecclesial Notary for the Tribunal as chancellor, Tom Lilly (left, foreground), and Bishop William F. Medley (left, background) look on.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

**Note:** The Diocese of Owensboro Tribunal renders decisions in matters of Church law dealing primarily with issues related to the validity of marriages. Like other diocesan offices, the daily life of Tribunal staff was impacted by the pandemic. The Western Kentucky Catholic spoke with Louanne Payne, Tribunal director and auditor/case promoter; and Fr. Patrick Cooney, OSB, judicial vicar, about their experience.

**WKC:** Were you able to continue “as usual” during these past few months, or did it become necessary to cut back on work due to the closure of “non-essential” businesses, social distancing rules, etc.?

**Louanne Payne:** While the time physically in the Tribunal office was drastically reduced in the beginning of the pandemic, we were able to maintain our workload using non-traditional methods such as working from home, forwarding phones, and staggering work schedules.

**Fr. Patrick Cooney:** As it turned out, the first day of work for our new Notary (Patti Bartley) was also the last day we were open before the offices were shut down due to the pandemic. The Tribunal marriage processes are heavily procedural, meaning that a case follows a required set of steps and has timelines that must be followed that hold up a case until something is received or the time period has elapsed. This dictated when members of the Tribunal needed to be in the office to check the mail and process cases depending on what stage they were in. I was in the office half days three days a week, writing sentences in my role as Judge and offering canonical consultations to the bishop and other diocesan offices. Other members of the staff were able to work from home when not in the office until we moved into our current staggered schedule.

**WKC:** Could Tribunal staff work remotely, or, considering the paper-focused aspect of Tribunal work, was this even possible?

**FPC:** Thanks to the Tribunal’s move to a different office software package last year, once a case is accepted, all the documents are scanned into that system which allows us to have remote access to the files. We are able to keep the process moving forward this way.

**WKC:** Did the Tribunal assist with liturgical decisions made, such as the bishop’s suspension of public Masses and the lifting of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass? What about the large recent liturgies, such as Chrism Mass and ordinations?

**FPC:** I serve as a resource person to the bishop and liturgical office and was informed and consulted as questions arose.

**WKC:** How has the pandemic affected Tribunal staff personally, and how have you kept carrying on and supporting each other during this time?

**FPC:** Yes. As a staff we would go to lunch a number of times a week and we used one another as sounding boards. The pandemic put a stop to most if not all of that. We still are unable as a staff to gather since the workplace requirements don’t allow for the whole staff to work the same days. There is some overlap, but it doesn’t allow for the sharing and comradery of the entire staff that has become a part of the office.

**LP:** With the pandemic, the Tribunal staff has felt a loss of community which has always been fundamental to our ministry. By the very nature of our ministry, we work closely with one another and not being able to have the physical closeness with staggered work schedules has given us that sense of loss. We have supported one another through prayer and via texts, telephone calls and occasional Zoom meetings. ■

*To learn more about the Tribunal’s ministry, visit [owensborodiocese.org/tribunal](http://owensborodiocese.org/tribunal).*



# *‘I put my life and that of my family in the hands of God’*

## Bowling Green man turns to Catholic Charities after testing positive for COVID-19

BY MIGUEL QUINTANILLA AND SUSAN MONTALVO-GESSER, CATHOLIC CHARITIES

When Diego Lopez started feeling sick, he never suspected COVID-19: “I’m a very clean person. I wash my hands throughout the day, I wear a mask, I even take off my work clothes in the laundry room when I get home,” Lopez said. When he felt weak and dizzy, on the verge of passing out, Lopez decided to get tested.

The test was positive, causing Lopez concern, not only for himself, but for his wife, Ana, who was nearly nine months pregnant.

“I put my life and that of my family in the hands of God,” Lopez said.

Ana also tested positive for COVID. Shortly thereafter, she gave birth to their son, Anthony. Because of the virus, she was not permitted to hold him. Ana was sent home without having caressed their newborn son. Anthony stayed at the hospital for 10 days.

Diego was placed in quarantine for 14 days after testing positive. His doctor told him he should feel better and be able to return to work in a couple of weeks, however, when he still felt extremely ill three weeks later, Diego knew there was something wrong.

“I really felt I could die. I mean, if there were so many other people dying from this around the world, why not me? It felt like someone was choking me and I couldn’t breathe.” Lopez said.

Lopez was not able to return to work for a month: “I couldn’t go back to work because I kept on testing positive for the coronavirus. I reached out to Fr.



COURTESY OF MIGUEL QUINTANILLA

Diego Lopez, now fully recovered from COVID-19, stands outside St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, where his family are parishioners, on July 15, 2020. Lopez has returned to working for the construction company that is restoring the bricks at St. Joseph, a historic church building.

Basilio Az Cuc for help. Fr. Basilio contacted Catholic Charities and Deacon Chris Gutiérrez at the diocese. They helped me by paying my rent and bills for the month I was out of work. I’m blessed to have received so much help from them,” Lopez said.

Diego is back working for the construction company restoring bricks at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, where the Lopez family are parishioners. He feels honored to take part in the restoration.

“I tell people that if they ever catch this disease, the first thing they need to do is put their lives in the hands of God,” Lopez said.

The Lopez family are one of hundreds of families that Catholic Charities has assisted during the pandemic. One of our first recipients of aid was a student at Brescia University; she had to move back with her mom and little brother. Her mom had lost her income due to COVID. They had no internet

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## Catholic Charities continued from page 17

for the children to do homework and no way to pay rent. Once Catholic Charities assisted and the family had financially recovered, they wanted to donate to help other families.

To date, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of

Owensboro has given \$137,719.14 in aid since late March to help over 300 families. We have received over \$100,000 in donations and grants to assist in this effort. The needs are still coming, but we are prayerfully ready to advise and assist. Please contin-

ue to keep our staff and those we serve in prayer. ■

*Miguel Quintanilla is the paralegal for and Susan Montalvo-Gesser is the director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/catholic-charities](http://owensborodiocese.org/catholic-charities).*

## Closed churches, digital messages & livestreamed Masses Office of Communications presses on through pandemic's 'uncertain journey'



FILE PHOTO

COVID-19 webpage created for the diocesan website. This page can be accessed by visiting [owensborodiocese.org/covid-2019](http://owensborodiocese.org/covid-2019).

BY TINA KASEY, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

If you would have told me in January what our diocese, state, nation and the world would be facing come March – I’m not sure I would have believed you. Yes, we had heard some rumblings regarding a virus in China in late January/early February but I still wasn’t convinced it was going to disrupt the workflow of communications and our entire lives. I never anticipated church doors closing and pastors learning on the fly how to livestream Mass from

their empty parish sanctuaries.

In the past few years, diocesan communications had already begun to shift from relying solely on print publications to more digital platforms such as social media and website stories as a timely way to release information. However, as new information was released daily from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, Kentucky’s governor began issuing guidelines that impacted the way our parish offices conducted business and the way our pastors offered Mass. We decided early on to create a specific webpage to house pertinent information ([owensborodiocese.org/covid-2019](http://owensborodiocese.org/covid-2019)). The diocesan website saw an 80% increase in website visits over the past four months compared to the previous quarter as people sought information regarding directives from the bishop, Mass announcements and liturgy/worship guidelines and resources.

We quickly realized that providing guidelines and directives in only English wasn’t reaching a large population of the faithful in our diocese. Fifteen of our parishes have a Hispanic/Latino ministry so we began utilizing the services of our translator, Patti Gutierrez, on a nearly daily basis. She met the challenge for constant translations while quickly working to make our guidelines available in Spanish. She

continues to be a huge asset to our communications efforts.

Social media followers exponentially increased for our diocesan Facebook account as more people were finding themselves either working from home or home from work due to a job loss or layoff. Growth that typically would take us two years to reach, took only four months because of the insatiable need for information and the now-free time to look for said information.

Bishop William F. Medley began to release videos more frequently than normal, sharing that the catalyst behind complying with state and national guidelines was out of an “act of Christian charity for our brothers and sisters.”

Bishop Medley’s motto from the beginning of this pandemic has been, “We are never beyond the reach of God.” This phrase and mindset has carried me personally through this pandemic. And while there doesn’t appear to be an end in sight any time soon, I will continue to hold onto the promises of God in Scripture – knowing that He is with you and me every step of the way through this uncertain journey. ■

*Tina Kasey is the director of the Office of Communications. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/communications](http://owensborodiocese.org/communications).*

# A light shines in the darkness...

## for Latino Catholics struggling with pandemic realities



FILE PHOTO  
Deacon Chris Gutiérrez directs Hispanic/Latino ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro.

BY DEACON  
CHRIS GUTIÉR-  
REZ, OFFICE OF  
HISPANIC/LATI-  
NO MINISTRY

My dear friends, I know each one of us is hanging in there the best we can during this pandemic. Like never before, we need each other and our Lord Jesus calls us to be close to one

another and support each other, especially in a time of trial such as this. During this month of August, like every year, we also celebrate the Assumption of Our Lady. May we once again, with deep devotion, invoke our Mother's protection and intercession for all those suffering and in pain because of this crisis. During this time of trial, I am constantly picturing Mary traveling the hills of our fears and worries trying to get to us to help us and be with us on the journey just like she did with her cousin Elizabeth.

I appreciate Elizabeth Barnstead, our Western Kentucky Catholic editor, for asking me to share just a little as to how things are going regarding Hispanic Ministry under present circumstances.

For a community that greatly cherishes physically gathering as parish groups, families, and yes, in large numbers, this time of social distancing and new re-

strictions have been extremely hard and challenging for Hispanic Catholics. For example, it has been hard for a couple of the different Spanish-speaking ecclesial movements in our diocese such as Christ Renews His Parish and the Charismatic Renewal in the Holy Spirit, which are both vibrant with normally strong participation. One factor that concerns me greatly and is also hard to see, is so many immigrant brothers and sisters without work, not only struggling to sustain themselves but not being able to sustain those that depend on them back in their home countries. In Mexico and Central America the pandemic has gotten worse, and families residing in our diocese are worried about their loved ones and can feel despair or helplessness.

There is some light shining through this darkness. There have been steps taken to adapt to a new reality, learning new ways and using what is at our disposal. I am happy to see three of the established prayer meetings that were recently moved into the virtual world through one of our many diocesan Zoom accounts are starting to pick up. Many have been struggling to learn the ways of technology but are learning fast. These meetings are: a

weekly reflection each Saturday on Sunday's Gospel; a Christ Renews His Parish meeting for men on Sunday mornings and a Christ Renews His Parish meeting for women on Monday nights.

Please keep the immigrant Hispanic/Latino community in your prayers. Even before COVID-19 appeared, this community had been facing huge challenges. God bless each one of you and your families. ■

*Deacon Chris Gutiérrez is the director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano](http://owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano).*



COURTESY OF MIGUEL QUINTANILLA  
Parishioners participate in a COVID-19 education event following Spanish-language Mass at St. Michael Parish in Sebree on July 19, 2020.

The pandemic, and more recently the gross injustices toward African Americans, have brought so much suffering and pain to our country and world and the end is not in sight. In the Scriptures we find moments of deep pain and lament expressed by God's people. Even Jesus makes his own the words of Psalm 22:2, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me...?" However, the power of the Resurrection is also at work in our lives and there is always hope to be found and goodness to be celebrated. Thanks be to God, there have been signs of hope in our diocese and we want to name some of these to give God the glory.

As a diocesan staff at the McRaith Catholic Center, many of us would pray together at Mass in our chapel several days a week, but this stopped on March 17. As we sought God's wisdom on how we could connect, we decided to offer a Morning Prayer time for staff via Zoom. For the past three months every morning at 9 a.m., many of our staff have gathered to lift up the needs of our parishes, diocese and world. We have even used breakout rooms on Zoom where groups of 3-4 people shared personal struggles and we took turns praying for each other. This time of prayer has led to deeper friendships and is treasured by many of us as a way to connect with God

and each other.

We then had the idea of connecting with each priest and parish across our diocese. This began by phone calls to each parish and led to weekly Zoom

meetings beginning in May where Bishop Medley and the priests of the diocese gathered for prayer, support and conversation. Other diocesan staff led the effort to gather with parish staff members. These gatherings continue twice a month and have been a

source of important connection, collaboration and care for many.

Although it may sound strange to say, the pandemic has provided new opportunities to connect with one another. In sharing our hopes and struggles, we have found new ways to pray for one another and support each other. Some parishes are nearly three hours from Owensboro and gathering for meetings had been an all-day endeavor, but via Zoom, this can be accessed and the connection is better than anticipated!

Pain, suffering and difficulties in life are inevitable. It is essential to know that as we journey through difficult times, prayer and being connected to community – even if via the computer – we will see the power of the Resurrection in our lives. Perhaps the value of caring for and supporting co-workers and those ministering in parishes across the diocese will be a valuable lesson we will take with us when life

returns to a new normal. ■

*Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/evangelization](http://owensborodiocese.org/evangelization).*

## Lessons from a pandemic

### How prayer and staying connected to community can unleash the grace of the Resurrection in our lives

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF  
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP



(YOUTUBE)

A June 24, 2020 Zoom gathering is held for parish leaders across the Diocese of Owensboro, with a theme of "accompaniment."

meetings beginning in May where Bishop Medley and the priests of the diocese gathered for prayer, support and conversation. Other diocesan staff led the effort to gather with parish staff members. These gatherings continue twice a month and have been a

# Diocese responds to pandemic with service and charity

BY TOM LILLY, CHANCELLOR AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Nothing in this lifetime jolted the routines of humanity like COVID-19. It continues to be the world's longest real experience of Lent and it doesn't look like the threat is going away anytime soon. But while we continue to walk through this desert together, we're finding out a lot about ourselves as a Catholic community. It's in adversity where character can be revealed, and the Catholic Church of western Kentucky answered the call.

Within a few days in early March, it was obvious the entire world was going to address some unthinkable daily scenarios. There was little time to prepare, but the response was swift.

Diocesan staff began accepting various roles to serve parish efforts from home. Bishop Medley issued two written communiques to parishioners around the diocese and he called every parish pastor to discuss responses. A fund was established through Catholic Charities to provide immediate help to families hardest hit by the work shutdown (to date \$130,000 has paid rent, utilities and other basic payments for economic hardships). In addition, St. Benedict's Shelter in Owensboro established a separate infirmary for the homeless.

Staff monitored the federal legislative effort to take advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program, and coordinated 78 submissions through Independence Bank. A total of \$6.7 million from the PPP was received in individual checks by parishes, schools

and other diocesan ministries serving the faithful of western Kentucky. About 90% of that amount was deposited directly into parish and school accounts to pay salaries. That effort preserved employment for about 1,000 teachers, administrators and staff working and ministering in diocesan entities. The other 10% was distributed to diocesan offices/ministries.

Nearly 5,000 phone calls were made to Catholics throughout western Kentucky to gather information and provide pastoral outreach. Those calls produced over 600 prayer requests that were placed at the foot of the altar in the McRaith Catholic Center chapel. Staff made thousands more calls to the vulnerable population of the Green River Area Development District.

The diocese offered communication assistance during the initial shutdown. Around 15 parishes utilized free mailings coordinated by the diocese and sent to parishioners' homes. Another 16 parishes received assistance in establishing online giving. The diocese released numerous social media videos outlining our response to the crisis - most coming from Bishop Medley - which were viewed by thousands of people. Weekend meals were provided in areas throughout the diocese, especially to areas largely populated by immigrant and refugee communities.

Many parishes began providing weekly communications to their own households and stepped up efforts to provide livestreamed Masses, which were viewed by thousands of homebound families. Zoom meetings were established to coordinate outreach,

## Bishop chairman comments on Paycheck Protection Program

July 10, 2020

WASHINGTON - Following the publication of a national news story on Catholic churches receiving loans through the Paycheck Protection Program, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, issued the following statement in response:

"The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental supplier of social services in the United States. Each year, our parishes, schools and ministries serve millions of people in need, regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. The novel coronavirus only intensified the needs of the people we serve and the demand for our ministries. The loans we applied for enabled our essential ministries to continue to function in a time of national emergency.

"In addition, shutdown orders and economic fallout associated with the virus have affected everyone, including the thousands of Catholic ministries - churches, schools, healthcare and social services - that employ about 1 million people in the United States. These loans have been an essential lifeline to keep hundreds of thousands of employees on payroll, ensure families maintain their health insurance, and enable lay workers to continue serving their brothers and sisters during this crisis.

"The Paycheck Protection Program was designed to protect the jobs of Americans from all

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## Diocesan response continued from page 21

which was extended to priests, employees of the Church, and even to other volunteer church leadership (parish councils, finance, etc.) Those meetings continue to take place.

The diocesan School Food Service office coordinated, through five different sites, an astounding 43,000 free breakfast and lunches for children under the age of 18 through the month of July. Locations in Owensboro, Madisonville, Henderson and Knottsville took advantage of the USDA-sponsored program.

Our Catholic schools quickly put together their best effort of non-traditional learning for a non-traditional ending to a school year. They are spending their summer trying to apply the state and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to their “back to school” efforts. These outstanding educators are figuring out the best way to provide the best education in the safest possible environment.

Applying the governor’s directive and information from the CDC took a diocesan taskforce to interpret and apply. The directives impacted retreats, parish services, picnics, and most importantly, our Mass. Parishes and administrative offices were bombarded with questions regarding employment, assembly rules, schools, and administering the sacraments.

It’s not over yet, but the Catholic Church continues to respond.

Despite growing weariness of “pandemic fatigue,” even parish giving has been stable. Some parishes have actually seen an increase in Sunday contributions because generous families see greater needs as a result of the quarantines and closings.

There is still much work to be done. But there are still plenty of faith-filled, generous people in our Catholic community willing to serve. ■

*Tom Lilly is the chancellor and chief administrative officer of the Diocese of Owensboro.*

## SVDP Central Council receives COVID-19 funds

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Vincent de Paul's Central District Council of Owensboro has received a \$100,000 grant from the Green River Area COVID-19 Response Fund, established by the United Way of the Ohio Valley and the Green River Area Community Foundation. The funds are to be used to assist Daviess County residents affected by COVID-19 with rent and utilities. On July 13, 2020, Faye May, Central District president, distributed the funds among the eight conferences which are located in Daviess County. This picture includes all eight presidents of the eight conferences at the St. Vincent de Paul Thift Store located at 200 East 18th Street in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF BELINDA ABELL

From front left: Dan Thomas (Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro); Bill Potts (Immaculate Parish, Owensboro); Faye May (Central District president); Bryan Jones (St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro); Nancy Harris (Sts. Joseph and Paul, Owensboro). Back row from left: Randall Murphy (St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley); David Carter (Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro); Larry Lyon (St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro); Tony Powers (Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro).

## Continued from page 21

walks of life, regardless of whether they work for for-profit or non-profit employers, faith-based or secular.

“Despite all of this, more than 100 Catholic schools have announced that they plan to close, with hundreds more facing an uncertain future. Businesses, hospitals, schools, and churches all across the country are facing many of the exact same problems.

“We will continue advocating for everyone negatively affected by this terrible pandemic, praying for all the sick, for all who have died and are in mourning, and especially the poor and vulnerable at this time of great need.”

Examples of the USCCB’s advocacy on COVID relief, which encompassed the needs of all of the poor and vulnerable, may be found here:

- <http://www.usccb.org/news/2020/20-43.cfm> (Chairman of U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development Encourages Lawmakers in Providing Aid and Relief to Those Affected by Coronavirus)
- <http://www.usccb.org/news/2020/20-51.cfm> (U.S. Bishops’ Chairman for Domestic Justice and Human Development Praises Lawmakers for Historic Emergency Legislation on Coronavirus Relief)
- <http://www.usccb.org/news/2020/20-80.cfm> (U.S. Bishops’ Chairman for Domestic Justice and Human Development Urges Care for the Poor and Vulnerable in Further Consideration of COVID-19 Relief Legislation) ■

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# Diocesan staff wish a happy retirement to longtime front desk receptionist

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A longtime face and voice of the McRaith Catholic Center moved on to a much-deserved retirement on July 1.

Rita Hayden started working for the Diocese of Owensboro in 2002, after working for 35 years in the banking industry. She told The Western Kentucky Catholic in a July 15 phone interview that she had been “burned out” from working at the bank, and needed to “regain my happiness.”

At the Catholic Pastoral Center – as it was known at the time she was hired – Hayden did.

Hayden started working in the diocesan Tribunal, and over the years held several other positions within the diocese. Most recently, Hayden served as a receptionist for the switchboard.

“It was just a wonderful experience,” she said, adding that she immediately felt as though “I really belong here. I was very uplifted while I was working here; I loved the daily Mass.”

She said she enjoyed her “work family” of “all wonderful people,” commenting that this was “so different from other jobs... I’ve made lifelong friends.”

“I’ve been very blessed to work here,” she said, adding that “it changed my faith.”

Hayden said “every person there is so special,” including the people who would visit the building for meetings, whom she enjoyed assisting at the front desk.

Louanne Payne, director of the diocesan Tribunal and someone who had worked with Hayden from the beginning, said that not long after Hayden had joined the diocese, she referred to it as “working in a cocoon surrounded by wonderful people.”

“Her presence in our ‘cocoon’ has made it more joyful and faith-filled,” said Payne. “Our friendship began immediately and while I’m going to miss her, I am blessed to witness this beautiful butterfly flutter off into a well-deserved retirement.”

Elaine Thomas, who is an administrative assistant in the diocese’s finance



FILE PHOTO

Rita Hayden retired from working at the McRaith Catholic Center on July 1.

office, said that she enjoyed working with Hayden: “Her smile and laughter were contagious.”

Charlie Hardesty, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said that he had adopted Hayden as his “office mom,” which she “took to rather easily.”

“I loved Rita’s presence in our office,” said Hardesty. “I will miss her.” ■

# A testimony of healing, through prayer and charity

## An interview with Soraida Torres

**Editor's note:** Local woman Soraida Torres recently gave her testimony to the community of St. Michael Parish in Sebree. St. Michael's pastor, Fr. José Carmelo Jiménez, later interviewed her to share her story with readers of The Western Kentucky Catholic.

### Tell us who you are?

My name is Soraida Torres. I am Mexican, from Tamaulipas State. I'm as many of you, undocumented. So, you know our fear of getting sick and not having access to medical services.

### Did you have COVID-19?

Yes, I was diagnosed positive with COVID-19 on June 3. I lived with a cousin. As soon as I let her know that I was COVID-19 positive, she didn't come home anymore. I had to face the disease alone. Without medical assistance. No one was with me, not even my boyfriend, nor any family member or friends.

### What was your experience those days?

I lived a lot of moments in great fear of never returning to my country, or never seeing and hugging my children, or my parents... I had been taking care of myself; I was trying not to go out, but you don't know where the virus comes from... (With tears in her eyes and finding it almost impossible to speak, she says), I was afraid to sleep and not wake up. I had to say to my family, let me rest.

### What brought you back to Church?

Why am I here? I had many problems and I left the Church. I didn't go to Mass, even out of obligation. I have to clarify that I never left my relationship with God. I am a believer, and I continued with my



COURTESY OF MIGUEL QUINTANILLA

On July 19, 2020, St. Michael Parish in Sebree hosts a COVID-19 education event, sponsored by Catholic Charities, Owensboro Health and other community organizations.

prayers. But, with a lot of resentment.

I had to notify my work, and they notified the staff. A person, who was once a friend, got in touch with me to ask, are you sick? And she said, I'm going to ask for prayer for you. She spoke to Fr. José Carmelo.

### The priest's call:

Fr. José told me: daughter, I will keep you in prayer. That was the shock that life gave me. It was the jolt that God doubly gave me. It was the moment that God was reminding me, you are not alone. And an hour after that call, I started to feel better.

When the prayer began, many people who don't know me began to bring things and leave them at the

door. There were times when I was unable to pick up and collect food or things.

At this moment, there are no medications for COVID-19, only medications for temperatures. I also had respiratory complications. So, today I can affirm that prayer has power. God healed me thanks to the prayers of many. And you brothers and sisters who heard my name and prayed without knowing me, thank you. But know that prayer is very powerful.

### The recovery:

It was so difficult to restore my body. But one day I was able to get up and, I could drink water. That led me to do more things, drink and eat. Also, to

*Continues on page 25*



## Civilize It: *Dignity beyond the debate*

USCCB - What does it mean to love our neighbors in the midst of such a divisive climate? Catholics are called to bring the best of ourselves and our faith to the public square—and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with anger and harsh language, often directed at people themselves. As Catholics, we must model a better way. We invite you to model love for neighbor by pledging to Civilize It and committing to civility, clarity, and compassion this election year. Civilize It: Dignity Beyond the Debate is a non-partisan call to focus on the dignity of all people, even those with whom we disagree, and to put faith in action. Make room in your heart for those with whom you disagree and pledge dignity beyond the debate today at [CivilizeIt.org](http://CivilizeIt.org)!

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### Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace: A Prayer for Civility

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where uncivil words prevail, show me how to model love.

Help me remember the God-given dignity of all and  
invite others to do the same.

Show me how to build bridges and not walls  
and see first what unites us rather than how we diverge.

Let me seek to understand before asking to be understood.

Give me a listening heart filled with empathy and compassion.

May I be clear in sharing my own position  
and respectful and civil in describing those of others.

Let me never tolerate hateful ideas.

May I invite all to charity and love.

Lord, help me to imitate your compassion and mercy.

Make me an instrument of your peace.

Amen.

INSPIRED BY NINE RULES FOR CIVILITY FROM THE CATHOLIC TRADITION, BISHOP ZUBIK



*Soraida Torres continued from page 24*

have a lot of tea.

Today, I thank Fr. José. Through him, God told me, here I am.

I have a lot to be thankful for, apart from my physical health, for returning to the Church, grateful for my faith. I received help from those whom I did not expect. I received the unexpected help from my mother Church! Because through the diocese (Catholic Charities) they helped me to pay different utilities. That is why I said it was the double jolt.

My biggest suffering was being unable to see my family (in Mexico). I asked everybody: don't tell this to my family, because it would not be fair for them to suffer for me, when they were so far away.

This brought me back to the Church. You are in the family. Take care of each other. Thank you Fr. Lustein (St. Michael's associate pastor) and thank you Fr. José. Blessings to all. ■

# ICYMI (*In Case You Missed It*)

## The spring of 2020

**Editor's note:** Spring 2020 saw many activities and events being canceled or significantly revised to support social distancing and other precautions against COVID-19. Despite that, the Catholic Church of western Kentucky celebrated multiple noteworthy happenings.



### May 14

An interview with Fr. Carmelo Jiménez and Deacon Baltazar Rafael who began offering Mass – and livestreaming it – for Catholics speaking Akateko, an indigenous Guatemalan dialect.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3gy9qhS>

### May 21

A “virtual” retreat for the Class of 2020 who were experiencing a senior year they could never have predicted and were struggling to wrap their minds around an atypical graduation.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2ZLuf2G>



### May 23

The ordination of Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than – the first priestly ordination in the diocese since 2016 with the ordinations of Fr. Basilio Az Cuc and Fr. Jamie Dennis.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3f9OHki>

### June 2

Bishop Medley issues a statement praying for peace and healing as the nation “faces yet another crisis of racism, violence, and distrust.”

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2Z601Is>



### June 5

An interview with School Food Service director Sonya Evans on feeding kids in need during a pandemic, and continuing the annual mission of free summertime meals.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2VQxk0f>

### June 15

A Chrism Mass like none seen before in this diocese – closed to the public.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2Z7M259>



### June 20

The transitional diaconate ordination of Deacon Corey D. Bruns, having been postponed 77 days from the original date.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2Cbd9mP>

# Planning committee announced to draft 2021-2025 diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

By the end of 2020, the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry hopes to have drafted a 2021-2025 diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, director of Hispanic/Latino Ministry in the diocese, emailed a memo on July 2, 2020 to the staff of the McRaith Catholic Center (the central offices for the diocese) announcing the planning committee that will work with him and parish Hispanic ministers to draft this plan.

"For the next six months this group will be studying and discerning the Proceedings and Conclusions from the V National Encuentro Process and evaluate our own local pastoral growth, progress and continuing challenges as a diocese," Deacon Gutiérrez wrote, referencing the V National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry, which has explored and discussed how best to serve and accompany the growing Hispanic and Latino populations around the United States over the past five years.

And not a moment too soon - Deacon Gutiérrez added that their last Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry in the diocese expired back in 2011.

"We are especially grateful to Bishop Medley and his continuous support throughout these years in this process of Encuentro and for supporting us in moving forward with the next stage of this important work," wrote the deacon.

Deacon Gutiérrez also expressed gratitude to the diocesan offices of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Marriage and Family Life, and Evangelization and Discipleship "in advancing a healthier level of ecclesial integration."

The planning committee members are as follows:

- 1) Bruno Espinoza (Owensboro)
- 2) Elena Zamora (Owensboro)
- 3) Deacon Baltazar Rafael (Sebree)
- 4) Deacon Edwin Pacheco (Russelville)
- 5) Claudia and Marco Valladares (Bowling Green)
- 6) Ellis Salas (Hopkinsville)



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

Encuentro delegates from around the Southeast hold pictures of the Virgin Mary of different Latin-American advocations during the 2018 Encuentro Regional in Miami, Florida.

- 7) Casey Gómez (Franklin)
- 8) María García (Franklin)
- 9) Consuelo Aguilar (Guthrie)
- 10) Sandra Reséndiz (Guthrie)
- 11) Norma Molina (Paducah)
- 12) Miguelina Young (Paducah)
- 13) Bertha Arroyo (Henderson)
- 14) Gabriela Ángeles (Henderson)
- 15) Ángela García (Mayfield)
- 16) Elvira Bartolo (Mayfield)

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

## IN BRIEF

COMPILED BY WKC STAFF

### Deacon Richard Murphy, Rita Hayden, retire from diocese

On July 1, two longtime employees of the Diocese of Owensboro retired. Deacon Richard Murphy, director of the Office of Social Concerns, started working for the diocese in 2001. Read a reflection from him on page 10. Rita Hayden started working

for the diocese in 2002 and most recently operated the switchboard for the McRaith Catholic Center in Owensboro. Read an article about her on page 23.

### Local priest compiles 81-day prayer booklet to pray for nation's healing and holiness

Fr. Bruce Fogle, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Paducah, recently compiled an 81-day prayer booklet spanning from Aug. 15-Nov. 3 in order to pray for the healing of the United States and the holiness of its people. The prayer booklet

includes the Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena, the Novena to the Holy Spirit, and the Novena to Our Lady of Good Help - the only Church-approved Marian apparition in the U.S. (located in Champion, Wis.) Fr. Fogle shared that, "I put it together for my use and thought if anyone else would like to pray these powerful litanies seeking the help of God, Mary, the Saints, and Holy Souls go for it!" To access the prayer booklet, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/81-DAYS-OF-PRAYER.pdf>.

## EMBRACING AUTUMN'S GLORY AND WELCOMING ITS LESSONS

Saturday, Sept. 26 • 9:00–Noon

Online Zoom retreat



As the light changes signaling shorter days, spend a morning intentionally ushering in the gifts of Autumn. In an online retreat from the comfort of your home,

Beth Fritsch will use ritual, poetry, guided reflections and journal prompts to explore themes of surrender, death and remembrance, and harvesting the year's bounty even as we welcome in the growing darkness with its summons to turn within for deep listening.

*There is a \$20 fee.*

To register: 270-229-0206

retreatcenter@maplemount.org or online:  
[ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs](http://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs)



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY

## Former employee involved in civil suit

It has been brought to the attention of the Diocese of Owensboro that a former employee of three western Kentucky parishes is part of a larger civil suit alleging abuse against minors in the Archdiocese of Agaña.

Based on archived Diocesan directories, Ray Caluag served as the music director at the following locations in the Diocese of Owensboro:

1999 - 2000: St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

2004 - 2005: St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

2005 - 2009: St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

2006 - 2010: St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

When Mr. Caluag left the Diocese of Owensboro he returned to Guam, which is where the civil suit was filed. In that suit, Caluag is accused of grooming/abusing minors in the 1990s. The Diocese of Owensboro is not aware of any reports

of abuse while serving here.

Because the Church's first obligation with regard to all victims, whether alleged or substantiated, is for healing and reconciliation, the diocese will reach out to every person who alleges that he or she was abused by anyone acting in the name of the Church, whether the alleged abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past.

To report suspected abuse, call the Kentucky Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331 (Toll Free) or contact your local Commonwealth Attorney.

To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church, please call and speak to someone confidentially at one of our Pastoral Assistance Coordinators on our 24-hour phone lines: 270-852-8380 for Louanne Payne in English and 270-880-8360 for Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla in Spanish. You may also visit [owensborodiocese.org/safe](http://owensborodiocese.org/safe) for more information. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST 2020 BULLETIN BOARD

**To have your events listed in our Bulletin Board, email information of no more than 200 words to [wkc.editor@pastoral.org](mailto:wkc.editor@pastoral.org) by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month.**

#### **Brescia Sunday 2020**

On the weekend of August 8 and 9, we will be celebrating Brescia Sunday in the Diocese of Owensboro! Each parish in the Diocese will take up a second collection benefitting Brescia University's "Onward, Brescia! campaign. In an incredibly generous show of faith and support, the Diocese of Owensboro will match, dollar for dollar, gifts made to Brescia up to \$25,000! Last year, our parishes collectively raised \$54,000 to support our students and our Catholic mission. We are so grateful for this support, and are confident that we can exceed that number this year. You can make a difference in Brescia's future by investing in the only Catholic university in western Kentucky. Gifts of all sizes help create a solid foundation from which Brescia's mission can be realized. If you attend a parish in the Diocese of Owensboro, please consider contributing to the Brescia Sunday collection on the weekend of August 8 and 9.

#### **"Dismantling Racism as a Spiritual Practice" online beginning Aug. 20**

"Dismantling Racism as a Spiritual Practice" will be presented as a series of five online sessions by the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The sessions are from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursdays, from Aug. 20 to Sept. 17. This small group study will explore questions surrounding race, identity and racial justice. All are invited, but it is designed to assist white people to make connections between anti-racism and their spiritual journey. We will explore how racial identity shapes our world view and how we may

unknowingly participate in racism structures. We will consider how we may live with new understandings and compassion. Join us as we study together from a variety of resources. The presenter is Lee-Ann Assalone, a social worker and health therapist at ECHO Community Healthcare in Evansville, Ind. In working with refugees from Croatia and South Africa, she came to see her white identity in a new light. Her spiritual journey since then is interwoven with working against oppression. Retreat Center Director Maryann Joyce will host the conversations. The cost is \$50 for all five sessions. Call 270-229-0206 or email [retreatcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:retreatcenter@maplemount.org) or register online at [ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs](https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs).

#### **Women Shaped by Faith Saturday, Aug. 22 at Mount Saint Joseph gym**

Local fitness expert Theresa Rowe will lead "Women Shaped by Faith: Shaping Bodies & Hearts for God's Purposes" on Saturday, Aug. 22. This will be an inspiring and motivating day of whole-person wellness to develop and nurture spirit, mind and body. Rowe will teach on the health benefits of combining our faith, mindset and fitness, using biblical principles for daily application. Also included is a Pilates for the Soul Mat Workout, specifically designed for every level of fitness. Please bring your own exercise mat. The retreat takes place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center gym (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56.) Rowe is a TV and radio host of "Shaped by Faith." She is also an author, fitness expert and motivational health and wellness speaker. The \$30 fee includes lunch (the cost is \$40 at the door). To register, call 270-229-0206 or email [retreatcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:retreatcenter@maplemount.org) or register online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/>

Note: We will be following the physical distancing and safety guidelines recommended for group gatherings.

#### **Precious Blood Men's Club is ready to cook**

Are you craving some PB BBQ??

August 29, 2020

Pre-order your barbecue by August 21

- Burgoo - \$20
- Pork - \$12
- Mutton - \$14
- Chicken - \$8

Pick up and pay safely through our socially distanced drive-thru on August 29 at 3 p.m.

Precious Blood Catholic Church, 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro, KY 42301

Message order on Facebook, call the office 270.684.6888, Gary 270.302.1440, or Bruce 270.929.5071

#### **"Friends & Fun at the Mount" with Bunco Oct. 1**

Would you like to play bunco and enjoy a luncheon at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center? Make plans to come to the Retreat Center on Thursday, Oct. 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The Mount will provide plenty of space, snacks and lunch, and even door prizes. You can join our bunco game, or you or your group can bring your own games, knitting, books, deck of cards, etc. You can also spend time relaxing or visiting the Mount Saint Joseph Gift Shop. The cost is \$15 if you register in advance or \$20 at the door. To register: 270-229-0206, [retreatcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:retreatcenter@maplemount.org) or sign up online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/> Mount Saint Joseph is located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56. Please note: We will be following the physical distancing and safety guidelines recommended for group gatherings. Date subject to change.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# 'Escape to the Mount' to take place Sept. 12-13

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

Do you know which director was called "the master of suspense?" Do you know which four characters were on "M\*A\*S\*H" for all 11 seasons? How about which Kentucky coach won a title in his first season?

If you know those answers, you would have done great during "Escape to the Mount Trivia" in 2019. If you missed it - or just want a chance to claim a new title - then put your team together and join the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph this Sept. 12 when "Escape to the Mount Trivia" returns.

It's all a part of the "Escape to the Mount Weekend," the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Ursuline Sisters, this year on Sept. 12-13.

"We are regular trivia players, and this was one of the best trivia events," Christine Lancaster said.

"There was a good mix of questions, good food and we enjoyed meeting the sisters. We are looking forward to this year's event."

COVID-19 is causing the sisters to make a few changes this year. To safely social distance, the Saturday night trivia is moving to the Immaculate Parish hall, at 2516 Christie Place, Owensboro. Get your team together and join us from 6-8 pm. for a fun evening of trivia, food and drinks. There is a \$25 entry fee per person. The deadline to register is Aug. 24. Sign up online: [ursulinesmsj.org/escape-to-the-mount-weekend](https://ursulinesmsj.org/escape-to-the-mount-weekend).

Escape to the Mount weekend last year featured an extremely successful Quilt Bingo on the second day, but there is no way to safely distance playing bingo. Quilt Bingo will return in 2021, but there

will still be plenty of opportunities to bring home a beautiful quilt from the Mount with our first online Quilt Auction.

Quilts on the auction block are posted on our website and Facebook page for you to preview. Bidding will begin Aug. 24. Please go to the website [ursulinesmsj.org](https://ursulinesmsj.org) for details about the quilts and how the auction will work.

The 50th Mount Raffle drawing is Sunday, Sept. 13 at 3:30 p.m. The drawing will be live on Facebook. Buy your tickets online at [ursulinesmsj.org/mountraffle](https://ursulinesmsj.org/mountraffle) or by mail at 8001 Cummings Road. Tickets are just \$5 each and the grand prize is \$10,000!

If you have questions please contact Carol Braden-Clarke, at 270-229-2008. ■

*The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are located in Maple Mount.*



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

This baby quilt is just one of the quilts of all patterns and sizes that will be on the auction block on the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph website. Their online quilt auction will take place from Aug. 24-Sept. 11, with different quilts up for bids every two days.

## Escape to the Mount!

# TRIVIA

**Saturday, Sept. 12**  
6-8 p.m.

**Immaculate Parish Hall**

2516 Christie Place, Owensboro, Ky.

Enjoy snacks, drinks, beer, wine.

\$25 per person

Teams: 4-10 players, Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place

Trivia seating is limited. Sign up online: [ursulinesmsj.org/escape-to-the-mount-weekend](https://ursulinesmsj.org/escape-to-the-mount-weekend) or mail a check payable to Ursuline Sisters, Development Office, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount KY 42356.

NOTE: We will follow social distancing guidelines.

**Don't forget your raffle tickets! Drawing Sept. 13**

**Get your \$5 Mount raffle tickets for a chance to win \$10,000!**

• Diamond ring • \$3,500 • \$1,000 • Quilt • \$500 • \$100

Order tickets online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/mountraffle>

Bids or questions? Contact Carol Braden-Clarke: 270-229-2008 • [carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org](mailto:carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org)

# Quilt Auction

**New Online Quilt Auction!**  
**Bidding begins Aug. 24**

Quilt Bingo will return in 2021, but you can still get beautiful quilts at our 2020 online QUILT AUCTION!

Watch our Facebook page and website to PREVIEW quilts on the auction block:

[ursulinesmsj.org](https://ursulinesmsj.org) or

[facebook.com/ursulinesmsj](https://facebook.com/ursulinesmsj)

Bidding begins Aug. 24. Daily through Sept. 11, we will announce the highest bids. To bid, contact Carol at the information below. Good luck!



**Ursuline Sisters**  
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999

License 0290

## UPCOMING EVENTS



S. Hermann & F. Richter from Pixabay

### Holding onto Hope

As Christians, we are called to be people of hope. But how do we do this amid the gloom and doom that often pervades the daily news – and our personal lives? This retreat explores Christian hope and its relation to faith, love, wonder and courage. Using scripture, short videos, music, stories, sharing and humor, Sister Melannie will suggest ways we can nourish hope in our everyday lives.

#### Weekend of Oct. 2-4

The retreat will begin Friday evening and end after lunch Sunday. Fee: \$190 single occupancy or \$90 for commuters. Deduct 10% if paid by Sept. 2. Note: We will be following recommended physical distancing guidelines.



**PRESENTER: Melannie Svoboda, SND,** a Sister of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio, has master's degrees in English and Spirituality. She has been a teacher, formation director, congregational

leader, spiritual director and writer. She gives talks and retreats nationally. Her books include "Everyday Epiphanies," "When the Rain Speaks," and "Hanging onto Hope."



### Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Please register: **270-229-0206**

retreatcenter@maplemount.org

Or sign up online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs>

## 2020 Parish Picnic Schedule in the Diocese of Owensboro

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

The following dates are subject to change or cancellation due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. Please contact the parish directly for updated information ([owensborodiocese.org/find-a-parish](http://owensborodiocese.org/find-a-parish)).

DATE	SERVING TIME	PARISH
<b>AUG 1</b>	Serving from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; serving meat by the pound at 8 a.m.; raffle tickets and souvenirs	St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
<b>AUG 4</b>	Drive-thru pickup at 4 p.m.	St. Martin, Rome
<b>AUG 8</b>	Drive-thru only, serving at 4 p.m.	St. Pius X, Owensboro
<b>SEPT 12</b>	Serving at 5 p.m.	St. Agnes, Uniontown
<b>SEPT 19</b>	Serving from 4 - 8 p.m.	Christ the King, Madisonville
<b>SEPT 19</b>	Drive-thru only, serving at 4 p.m.	Blessed Mother, Owensboro
<b>SEPT 26</b>	Drive-thru pickup from 1 - 3 p.m.	Immaculate, Owensboro
<b>SEPT 27</b>	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
<b>SEPT 27</b>	Serving from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	St. Joseph, Central City

## Priests serving in the Diocese of Owensboro who celebrate anniversaries of their priestly ordination this month

Fr. Jerry Riney, rector; St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro | 8/9/1975

Fr. Chrispin Oneko, pastor; St. Denis and St. Charles Parishes, Bardwell | 8/25/1990

Fr. John Ighacho, pastor; St. Peter Parish, Stanley, and St. Augustine Parish, Reed | 8/28/1990

Fr. Jean Rene Kalombo, pastor; Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro | 8/19/1995

Fr. Julian Ibemere, pastor; St. Michael Parish, Oak Grove | 8/6/1998

Fr. Jude Okeoma, parochial vicar; St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville, and St. John the Baptist Parish, Fordsville | 8/22/2009

# Three Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph aided in Spanish Flu relief in 1918



## ARCHIVES PHOTO

The sisters who assisted at Camp Zachary Taylor are pictured in this photo, which includes the written note: "Volunteer Sister Nurses in charge of Emergency Hospitals during the Influenza siege. Camp Zachary Taylor KY." Sr. Mary Jean Connor, the one sister who died of the flu, is seen on the furthest left in the front; she has both hands visible.

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

In the fall of 1918, three Ursuline Sisters took their first steps into Camp Zachary Taylor. The facility, located a short distance outside of Louisville, was a marvel of its time. Constructed in only 90 days, it was America's largest military training camp. Comprised of over 1,500 buildings, it could house more than 50,000 men at one time.

The Ursulines were Srs. Antoinette Krampe, Agatha Beavin and Jerome Cooper. They had come to the camp to administer relief to the troops suffering with the Spanish Flu. By the time the sisters stepped into the camp, the Great War had raged for nearly four years; the First and Second Battle of the Somme, the

Battle of Verdun, and the Spring Offensive had already taken place in a war that would take nearly 20 million lives. However, the epidemic that the sisters had come to combat would claim 20 to 50 million.

Before entering Camp Taylor, the sisters met Fr. Regis Barrett. Fr. Barrett was the military chaplain who sent out the call for sisters to volunteer when medical staff became overwhelmed. So full of zeal was the priest for the campaign that he reportedly broke a lock and hinge on a convent door after his knocks went unanswered. After meeting with Fr. Barrett, the sisters made their way to Camp Taylor. Sr. Antoinette recalled that they worked "From seven in the morning until seven in the evening." In the morning, each took the temperatures of about 128 soldiers and alerted the staff of those getting dangerously feverish. She also remarked that "the boys were wonderful" and had "a real sense of humor."

However, there was much to pray about. The camp had ordered bodies to be taken away at night, to keep morale up. Sr. Antoinette recalled that you could look out the window and see "large trucks" hauling away up to 100 caskets of those that had perished. There was also little the sisters could actually do to relieve the pain of those suffering. "Aspirin, and whiskey" were the only means of relief the sisters could procure for the sick. Before the end of the pandemic, Srs. Antoinette and Agatha contracted the virus; both recovered. Eighty-eight religious sisters heroically served at Camp Taylor. Each risked their own life and health, out of love for God and compassion. All but Sister Mary Jean Connor survived. Sr. Mary Jean, not yet 30, and prior to taking her final vow, passed away on Oct. 28, 1918, after contracting the virus. She received a military funeral.

Let us not forget the bravery of these Catholic heroines.

Special thanks to Dan Heckel, director of Mission Advancement for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, and Tim Tomes, archdiocesan archivist for the Archdiocese of Louisville, for their kind assistance. ■

*Edward Wilson is the director of the Diocese of Owensboro's archives and the archives of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. To learn more, visit [owensborodiocese.org/archives](http://owensborodiocese.org/archives).*



# August Wedding Anniversaries

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

### **Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

Gerald & Catherine, 50  
Steve & Brenda Hagan, 51  
James & Alma Topper, 50  
Dr. Drew & Jeannette Ward, 52  
Raymond & Theresa Payne, 60  
David & Martha Lashbrook, 59

### **Christ the King, Madisonville**

Tommy & Carol Richardson, 54  
Frank & Barbara Schnapf, 52  
James & Judy Donley, 52  
Clinton & Erin Sharber, 10  
Paul & Gwen Bergman, 54  
David & Ellen Walters, 61  
James & Patricia Pilson, 52  
Ron & Marsha Segebarth, 52

### **Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

Paul & Tamara Burgess, 40  
Thomas & Mary Duncan, 54  
David & Jo Etnensohn, 57  
Richard & Sabrina Farley, 40  
Harold, Sr. & Charlene Frederick, 40  
Zeb & Kelsey Hargis, 5  
James & Amber Hicks, 10  
John & Judith McClellan, 57  
Bobby & Donna Nally, 60  
Robert & Gayle Paff, 52  
Jeremy & Meredith Schmitt, 5  
Martin & Kimberly Smith, 40  
Keith & Diane Utley, 51  
Garrett & Amber Koon, 10

### **Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**

James & Sylvia Weis, 64  
William & Darlene Sims, 56  
John & Jocelyn Knepler, 51  
Michael & Katharyn Byrne, 40  
DeWayne & Mary Korf, 40  
Edward & Mary Krutulsky, 40  
Dennis & Dianne Meffert, 40  
Rick & Amy Cash, 25

Peter & Sue Overmable, 25  
Joseph & Jennifer Howard, 10  
Huge Langh & Lucy Vung Mung, 5

### **Holy Trinity, Morgantown**

Larry & Mary Martin, 58  
Teddy & Margie Seiler, 50

### **Immaculate Conception, Earlington**

Johnny & Elizabeth Wix, 52  
Nathan & Rebecca Welch, 25

### **Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

James & Brenda Adkins, 52  
Dan & Shirley Hagman, 60  
J. Michael & Jean Mattingly, 52  
Dallas & Margaret Powers, 50

### **Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

Kenneth & Johanna Boarman, 58  
Terry & Madeline Logsdon, 10  
John & Angie Judd, 25  
John & Margaret Kutsor, 58  
Adam & Amy Millay, 10  
James & Barbara Sanders, 57  
Thomas & Cindi Reisz, 50  
Wayne & Laura Edge, 50  
Michael & Linda Todd, 52

### **Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro**

Ethan & Carly Book, 5  
Byron & Sara Mills, 10  
James W. & Janet Westmoreland, 25  
Edward & Nannette Parish, 50  
Leslie & Patsy Van Meter II, 55  
John & Margie Wathen, 65  
Gary & Bonnie Roberts, 53  
Billie & Sue Helen Hill, 65  
Joseph A., Jr. & Rose Clark, 64  
James E. Sharon Murphy, 55  
William J. & Hattie L. Potts, 62

### **Precious Blood, Owensboro**

Paul, Sr. & Tancy Payne, 52  
Bill & Rita Elder, 60  
Bill & June Johnson, 60

### **Rosary Chapel, Paducah**

Mike & Julia Ward, 51  
Jack & Frances Pullen, 52

### **Sacred Heart, Hickman**

Gerald & Mary Harris, 53  
Jimmy & Pat Cooley, 60  
Jimmie & Barb Blanton, 55

### **Sacred Heart, Russellville**

Michael & Laura Graves, 5  
Frank & Mary Jane Kondracki, 53

### **Sacred Heart, Waverly**

Anthony & Virginia Livers, 58

### **St. Agnes, Uniontown**

Bill & Lora Lee Duncan, 51  
Bobby Dale & Irene Jennings, 64  
Damon & Cathy Dayberry, 53  
Travis & Sarah Hancock, 10  
Jason & Kristin Thomas, 5

### **St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**

Charles Ray & Sarah Dant, 5

### **St. Ann, Morganfield**

Steve & Mary Kay Loxley, 40  
James E. & Dorothy Buckman, 63  
Kenny & Judy Willett, 53  
John T. & Yvonne Davis, 54  
Fred & Bonnie Hooper, 53  
H. E. & Marilyn Ervin, 64  
David & Elizabeth Acker, 53

### **St. Anthony, Peonia**

Joe & Ann Reuther, 53

### **St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel**

Homer & JoAnn Mattingly, 52

### **St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers**

Dan & Cindy O'Brien, 50  
David & Ginny Reed, 25  
Paul & Diane Quayle, 53  
Steve & Helen Krivan, 60

### **St. Augustine, Grayson Springs**

David & Mary Doris Simon, 62

### **St. Augustine, Reed**

Ben & Stanette Blair, 52  
Michael & Elsie Blair, 55

### **St. Columba, Lewisport**

Paul & Ruth Madden, 59  
Joe & Jeanette Taylor, 60  
Bobby & Alice Fallin, 55

### **St. Denis, Fancy Farm**

Richard & Patricia Green, 51  
James & Carolyn Morgan, 58

### **St. Edward, Fulton**

Ben & Joy Davis, 62  
Jerry & Mary Ann Hobbs, 60

### **St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson**

Jerry & Mary Jackey, 55  
Robert & Virginia Jackey, 57

### **St. Francis Borgias, Sturgis**

Bob & Faye Greenwell, 62

### **St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**

Larry & Joyce Wenzel, 51  
William T. & Judith Hayden, 61  
James & Judith Bonner, 50  
James & Frances Harbison, 57  
Charles & Hazel Collier, 54

### **St. Henry, Aurora**

Paul & Mary Alice Kowalczyk, 50  
Gary & Lavonne Hanlon, 62  
Ty & Nancy Thill, 52  
R. J. & Diane Witowski, 52  
Raymond & Ann Davis, 53

### **St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**

Daniel & Sarah Burgess, 5  
Grant & Claudette Mills, 53  
Raymond & Carole Ballard, 63

### **St. John the Evangelist,**

Continues on page 34

Continued from page 33

**Paducah**

William & Heidi Ballard, 57  
David & Elizabeth Goewert, 52  
Frank & Kay Kern, 57

**St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish**

Danny & Glenda Kiernan, 56

**St. Joseph, Bowling Green**

Pedro Guillè & Cruz Alfaro, 5  
David & Eleanor Bryant, 10  
Mike & Mary Dale Reynolds, 40  
Roger & Carol Dales, 50  
Ronnie & Paula Miller, 50  
Ralph & Mary Wilken, 50  
Tom & Peggy Cahill, 60  
William & Marilyn Feldkamp, 55  
Wallace & Bonnie Gibson, 54  
Dan & Jennifer Murphy, 53

**St. Joseph, Leitchfield**

Bill & Carolyn Thomason, 55  
Mike & Pat Boone, 61

**St. Joseph, Mayfield**

Julian & Pascuala Baten, 5  
Larry & Rose Seay, 50  
Joey & Nancy Wilson, 50  
James & Judy Hobbs, 52  
Jose L. & Ana Rosas, 10  
Dennis & June Anderson, 5  
Gerald & Pam Brooks, 52

**St. Lawrence, Philpot**

Daniel & Dorothy Edge, 51  
Charles & Ann Roby, 54  
Robert & Paula Stallings, 52

**St. Leo, Murray**

James & Ethel Cantrell, 65  
Eldridge & Carolyn Haas, 63  
James & Susan Koegel, 50

**St. Mark, Eddyville**

Robert & Patricia Dybel, 53

**St. Mary, Franklin**

Dean & Sharon Henderson, 55  
John & Paula Herrmann, 53

**St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**

Bill & Judi Head, 53  
J. L. & Joan Byrne, 56

Donald & Mary Oberst, 40

**St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville**

John & Katherine Riney, 5  
Ben & Samantha Ward, 5  
John & Natalie Gray, 10  
Josh & Emily Payne, 10  
Joey & Tina Booker, 25  
David & Kay O'Bryan, 40  
Lewis & Regina Jean, 51  
Joseph & Shirley Howard, 58  
Gerald & Nancy Barr, 54

**St. Michael, Sebree**

James & Whitney Russell, 10  
James C. & Amber Hicks, 10  
Robert & Susie Blanford, 57

**St. Paul, Princeton**

Thomas & Kay Cotton, 52  
St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley  
Joe Bill & Barbara McKay, 57

**St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly**

David & Janie Nixon, 52

**St. Pius X, Calvert City**

Larry & Judy Krouse, 50  
Leon & Penny Hobbs, 40  
Bob & Bette Zilligen, 60

**St. Pius X, Owensboro**

Joe & Marianne Knott, 40  
John & Cindy Mulligan, 40  
Al & Jane Johnson, 55  
Francis & Darlene Zelinka, 5  
Richard & Mary Coy, 59  
Wil & Pat Storm, 53

**St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**

P. J. & Martha O'Donoghue, 52  
Bryan & Rhonda Priest, 25  
Mike & Pat Brown, 40  
Larry & Pattie Mattingly, 58  
Raymond & Margie Wethington, 60  
Robert & Suzanne Driscoll, 40

**St. Sebastian, Calhoun**

Donald & Cindy Durbin, 54  
Jerry & Earlene Abney, 61

**St. Stephen, Cadiz**

Gary & Karen McKenzie, 58

Gus & Carol Puth, 55

**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**

Brian & Molly Howard, 5  
Charlie & Jennifer Payne, 25  
Elmo, Jr. & Dora Thompson, 58  
Ed & Mary Riney, 53  
Mike & Susan Fulkerson, 56  
Raymond & Barbara Trogolo, 63  
J. Edward & Gloria Cecil, 53

**St. Thomas More, Paducah**

Gary & Linda Whitelock, 50  
Anthony & Cecilia Toren, 57  
Rich & JoAnne Miller, 59  
Eric & Christine Trussell, 10  
Richard & Pat Heflin, 50  
J. Wayne & Teresa Armbruster, 40  
Dan & Laura Todino, 25  
Jose & Ana Rosas, 10  
Ray & Mikel Fields, 62  
Jack & Denise Resser, 59  
Bill & Carlene Dannenmueller, 64  
Harry & Julie Brigance, 52  
Frank & Nancy Burch, 50

**St. William, Marion**

Lynn & Kathy Bechler, 52

**St. William, Knottsville**

Richard & Donna Mattingly, 50

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Chad & Mary Moseley, 5  
Randall & Rita Kingkade, 25  
David & Lona Clark, 51  
J. Edward & Mary Haynes, 53  
Gerald & Judy Hood, 54  
Paul & Sarah Johnson, 65  
Joe & Carolyn Lyddane, 51  
John & Rose Roberts, 57

**Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

Paul & Patricia Kremer, 61  
Billy Wayne & Lynda Combs, 56  
James & Mary Moehlman, 50  
Misael & Magaly Vazquez, 10  
Robert & Karen Hill, 5



COURTESY OF DONNA DUFFY

Briefly removing their masks while still remaining physically distant, Bishop Medley and St. Stephen Cathedral's Confirmation class of 2020 pose for a picture.

## Bishop Medley confirms youth of St. Stephen Cathedral

On June 10, Bishop William F. Medley confirmed the 2020 Confirmation class at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. Their original date for the Confirmation was May 31, but postponed events due to COVID-19 pandemic circumstances had caused the cathedral's Confirmations to also be postponed.

## Class of 2020 - A follow-up

**Editor's note:** The following names are that of high school seniors who graduated in the Class of 2020 but who were omitted from our May 2020 issue due to circumstances beyond the control of The Western Kentucky Catholic. Any questions regarding these names may be sent to the corresponding parishes or schools.

### Diocesan school students

#### **Owensboro Catholic High School**

Thomas Cole Blandford  
James Nicholas Boarman  
Braden Hunter Dill  
Andrew Shain Edwards  
Javier Allen Gaynor  
Andrew Matthias Gray  
John Patrick Hamilton  
Emily Dale Hester  
Lauren Paige Hoover  
Nathaniel Travis Johnson  
Aaron Allen Logsdon  
Benjamin McKay Marshall  
Jameson Andrew Mayfield  
William Hugh Murphy

### Non-diocesan school students

#### **Immaculate, Owensboro**

Avery Nalley

#### **Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

Abbie Booty  
Morgan Curry  
Taylor Curry  
Trey Curry  
Benjamin Gily  
Lexi Hodge  
Kennedy Lucas  
Landon Muse  
William Newman  
Dylan O'Bryan  
Dakota Wheatley

Christopher Woodward

#### **Sacred Heart, Russellville**

Wesley Abney  
Chrysogonus Avila  
Lucy Graves  
Elizabeth McGinnis  
Allie Thomas  
Kaleigh Hughes  
Alex Hughes  
Marta Hughes  
Christopher Williams  
CJ Raymer  
Eli Higgins  
Lilli Pacheco  
Kevin Vera  
Luis Ramirez  
Lilly Ramirez  
Kaleigh Williams  
**St. Ambrose, Henshaw**  
Shane Gibbs

Haylie Gibbs

Aaron Mackey  
Micah Mackey

#### **St. Ann, Morganfield**

Weston Lane Clements  
Drew Michael Davis  
Mallorie Ann Day  
Matthias Abram Ervin  
Micah Emmanuel Ervin  
Abednego Shadrach Greenwell  
Hunter Carroll Robinson  
Ellyanne Grace Rubush  
Alyssa Ray Watson

#### **St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers**

D.J. Massengill  
**St. Columba, Lewisport**  
Hannah Lee Allard  
Garrett Basham

Prestyn Emmick

Andrew Hagman  
Griffin Lamar Heavrin  
Hallie Singleton

#### **St. Joseph, Leitchfield**

Josh Collins

#### **St. Martin, Rome**

Jayden Elizabeth Bickett  
St. Mary, Franklin  
Hunter Graves  
Hannah Clark

#### **St. Pius X, Calvert City**

Megan Duzmal  
Alex Galvan  
Kate Outland  
Case Thomason  
Andrew Wilson

#### **St. William, Knottsville**

Ethan Smith



COURTESY OF THE PADUCAH SUN | DAVID SNOW

Temporarily removing his mask to speak to the graduates, Bishop William F. Medley addresses the Class of 2020 at St. Mary High School in Paducah on July 11.

## Catholic high schools honor 2020 graduates in non-traditional ceremonies

BY WKC STAFF



COURTESY OF ANNA MCDANIEL

Trinity High School's Class of 2020 participates in their final Mass and commencement ceremony on July 10 at the Horn Community Center in Whitesville.



COURTESY OF HALEY HAMILTON

On June 21, during their final Mass and diploma ceremony, the graduates of Owensboro Catholic High School are permitted to remove their masks while sitting, since their chairs are spaced six feet apart on the football field at Steele Stadium.

Senior year was far from normal for the Class of 2020, whose final semesters drastically changed when schools switched to non-traditional instruction this past spring, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the three Catholic schools in the Diocese of Owensboro have made sure to honor and celebrate these graduating youth, albeit while following state and diocesan safety guidelines for facial coverings and social distancing.

On June 21, Owensboro Catholic High School held a final Mass and diploma ceremony on the football field at Steele Stadium in Owensboro. On July 10, Trinity High School in Whitesville held a final Mass and graduation ceremony at the Horn Community Center, located on the campus of St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville. On July 11, St. Mary High School in Paducah held their final Mass and graduation ceremony in the school gym.

Bishop William F. Medley was present at all three final Masses and graduation events. ■

# Diocesan office announces 2020 youth SLIM awards and certificates

BY WKC STAFF

Over the summer, the Diocese of Owensboro’s Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry announced the recipients of the 2020 Servant Leaders in Ministry (SLIM) awards. Based on nominations from the parishes, the youth ministry office selects up to 18 youth from around the diocese who have made outstanding contributions to their parishes, communities and the diocese.

“Every year, we look to celebrate young people in the diocese who, through their relationship with Jesus Christ, leadership, and heart for service, go above and beyond to live a life of discipleship in their home, parish, and greater community,” said Charlie Hardesty, diocesan director of youth and young adult ministry. “We are excited to celebrate these young people in the Diocese of Owensboro for 2020.”

The 18 winners received a plaque, and all nominated youth receive a certificate of recognition. This year’s winners and certificate of recognition recipients are listed below.

## Award

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Hunter Graves - St. Mary (Franklin)              | (Henderson)                                   |
| 2. Marianna Pu Meh – St. Pius X (Owensboro)         | 14. Dionicio Rafael- St. Michael (Sebree)     |
| 3. Grace Brocato – Blessed Mother (Owensboro)       | 15. Shane Gibbs – St. Ambrose (Henshaw)       |
| 4. Natalie Good Winn – Precious Blood (Owensboro)   | 16. Emma Purcell – St. Jerome (Fancy Farm)    |
| 5. Robert Howell III – Immaculate (Owensboro)       | 17. Hannah Williams – St. Jerome (Fancy Farm) |
| 6. Andrew Gray Immaculate (Owensboro)               | 18. Kori Redden – St. Jerome (Fancy Farm)     |
| 7. Grace Wells – St. Francis de Sales (Paducah)     |   |
| 8. Joseph Gillituk – St. Francis de Sales (Paducah) |   |
| 9. Abigail Tyson – St. Thomas More (Paducah)        |   |
| 10. Case Thomason – St. Pius X (Calvert City)       |   |
| 11. Georgia Farina- Holy Name of Jesus (Henderson)  |   |
| 12. Ashlyn Farina – Holy Name of Jesus (Henderson)  |   |
| 13. Clara Bach – Holy Name of Jesus                 |   |

## Certificate of Recognition

1. Robert Hayden – Blessed Mother (Owensboro)
2. Austin Gough – Blessed Sacrament (Owensboro)
3. Adam Gregory – St. Columba (Lewisport)

To learn more about the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, visit and follow:

- [owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry](http://owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry)
- [facebook.com/dioceseofowensboroyouth](https://facebook.com/dioceseofowensboroyouth)
- [instagram.com/owensboro\\_diocese\\_ym](https://instagram.com/owensboro_diocese_ym)



COURTESY OF ST. JEROME PARISH  
Emma Purcell, Hannah Williams and Kori Redden – SLIM award recipients at St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm and graduating seniors – pose for a quick picture.



COURTESY OF ST. PIUS X PARISH  
This rosary walk, located at St. Pius X Parish in Calvert City, was made by SLIM award winner Case Thomason.

# Reflections on racism



TINA KASEY | WKC

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre speaks on the topic of “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism” at St. Stephen Cathedral on Sept. 19, 2019.

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

**“Racism arises when—either consciously or unconsciously—a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard. When this conviction or attitude leads individuals or groups to exclude, ridicule, mistreat, or unjustly discriminate against persons on the basis of their race or ethnicity, it is sinful. Racist acts are sinful because they violate justice.”**

*“Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism” The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2018*

**Racism is “... a human, pastoral and spiritual problem.”**

*Bishop Shelton J. Fabre, chairman the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ ad hoc committee against racism and one of the writers for the USCCB’s pastoral*

*letter “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love” during a Sept. 19, 2019 presentation at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.*

**“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” - Romans 12:21**

Black lives matter! Blacks have fought for America’s freedom in every war since the Revolutionary War. We have proudly built and contributed in many ways, on every level, to the excellence of the United States of America and to the Catholic Church – as slaves and eventually as citizens. It is time for an acknowledgement that we are inferior to no one and that we are truly full-fledged members of the family of God.

If we open our hearts and minds, we can all benefit from sharing the gifts of the Holy Spirit as brothers and sisters in Christ. It is by God's grace that this generation is actively starting the process of racial healing and fostering love and respect for one another. Let us pray for healing in our Church and in our community and for the first Black American candidates for sainthood: Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, Venerable Henriette DeLille, Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Mother Mary Lange, Sister Thea Bowman and Julia Greeley.

Were you shocked or angered by that video of the deliberate murder of a man, George Floyd, pleading for his life and calling out for his mother? And Breonna Taylor was not the first young Black woman killed by police in her own home. Complicit silence is just as lethal as perpetration of heinous acts. So, let our growing awareness motivate us to seek healing of the sin of racism in our Church and in our communities.

Institutional or systemic racism, the tool of

## Open Wide Our Hearts

Read the USCCB’s full pastoral letter at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf).

White Supremacy, has us gripped in the throes of racial hatred and injustice as violent and cruel as the eras of slavery (1619- 1865), Jim Crowe (1865-1965) and the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s and 70s, including White Supremacist killings/lynching of Blacks into this day. Many perpetrators are active duty police officers who have no respect for Black lives as evidenced by even the most recent killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and those prior to and thereafter as the police in certain localities continue this murderous anti-life behavior which is sinister and not Christian.

Historically, Blacks do survive and begin to thrive despite the impediments that they face. Numerous historical incidents will bear this out, such as the massacres in Colfax, La. (1873); Wilmington, N.C. (1898); Atlanta, Ga. (1906); Elaine, Ark. (1919); Black Wall Street Massacre in Tulsa, Okla. (1921) and Rosewood, Fla. (1923).

Let us be thankful for the leadership of our shepherd, Bishop Medley, in these times of racial strife, who reminds us of the Church’s perspective on racism and pray that other Christian leaders will also speak out.

Finally, let us always remember in prayer those first responders and law enforcement officers in our community who help keep us safe. ■

*F. Veronica Wilhite is the director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/black-catholic-ministry](http://owensborodiocese.org/black-catholic-ministry).*

# New priest ministers to Burmese during the COVID-19 pandemic

BY FR. STEPHEN VAN LAL THAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

**Editor's note:** Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than, originally from Myanmar (also known as Burma), was ordained to the diocesan priesthood on May 23, 2020. He is currently assigned to Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green. Below, he discusses his ministry to the Burmese community, a population that is particularly vulnerable during this pandemic.

COVID-19 has made life so different and difficult for all of us, more so probably for the Burmese since most of the Burmese people are working in the local meat processing plants. They (along with other immigrant communities and the elderly) are the most vulnerable of the vulnerable.

Many Burmese have contracted the virus and their families are struggling financially, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually as well.

Even before I finished with the seminary and was ordained, I partnered with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro to receive calls for the “Burmese” language line from those trying to reach Catholic Charities for financial assistance or any help available. I received calls from both Catholics and non-Catholics. Then I created a form for each family in need and submitted the forms to Catholic Charities. Thank you to Catholic Charities, which has helped a lot of families in need.

Here are some ways of how I have been minister-

ing to the Burmese (both before and after my priesthood ordination):

1. I try to minister to the whole person, not merely spiritually.
2. I contact Catholic Charities for immediate needs for them.
3. Since the Burmese are community-oriented, it is almost impossible to stop them from congregating and visiting with each other, especially with their blood relatives. All I can do is to educate them as much as I can (often with the help of other people). I strongly encourage them to stay at their own homes and avoid crowds.
4. Since I am physically distant from them most of the time, I contact them and keep in touch with them via social media, especially a Facebook Messenger group. Most of the local Burmese are in this group and I usually make bilingual (English and Burmese) announcements and safety guidelines (masks, social distancing, handwashing etc.) in this group. Sometimes I share videos or voice recordings of me, explaining to them how to act prudently in this unprecedented time and why we should follow the instructions of the bishop and the government. This Messenger group has been the most effective means of communication, although I still provide my cell number and email for them.
5. I still receive calls and texts from them for all



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than and Bishop William F. Medley process out of St. Stephen Cathedral after Fr. Van Lal Than's Mass of Ordination on May 23.

sorts of support and assistance.

6. On the community level, I have paused all Home Masses and Communal Prayer Services, which we regularly did on Saturday.
7. Instead of congregating in different houses, I strongly encourage them to turn our current situation into an opportunity to explore and strengthen their own “domestic churches” – worshiping and praying at home with their own families. They are very obedient to this encouragement.
8. I also remind them that God is always with us and we are never beyond his reach; we just need to trust in Him always.
9. Finally, I ask them to do all of these as “an act of charity” and with “the intention of the common good,” reminding them again and again that by doing this they could save lots of lives. ■

# Encounter Jesus today!

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

I would enjoy sitting with you in your living room right now and discussing this short article with you. We each have a story of how our faith has been grown in our lives. Our story is our story; no one else's. I would love to share mine with you and hear you share yours with me. And then we can ask ourselves, has the faith I learned led me to the abundant life that Jesus promised each of us? Have you personally felt the love of God in your life and do you have regular encounters with Jesus? National statistics would say that many Catholics do not have a close relationship with Jesus.

"The majority of adult Catholics are not even certain that a personal relationship with God is possible." (Forming Intentional Disciples, by Sherri Weddell, pg. 46) I had to re-read this a couple times

and check her sources. Fortunately, I have had the blessing of knowing many passionate Catholics who know Jesus loves them and are striving to live as his disciples and make present the kingdom of God each day in their lives. However, when Catholics across the country are asked, the majority are not sure.

Let's listen to Pope Francis, in his 2013 encyclical titled "The Joy of the Gospel." He writes, "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day." He is imploring Catholics, and all Christians, to encounter Jesus and if you are not sure what that means, at least be open to the possibility that Jesus wants to encounter you!

Here's the truth. Our God: Father, Son and Spirit, loves you unconditionally and wants you to

know the gift and power of this love in your daily life! Sometimes we have learned a lot about God in our lives, but we have never simply asked God to reveal himself to us. Jesus came to earth to reveal the Father's love and left us the Holy Spirit to empower us to live his mission on earth. Right now, take a moment and ask for the grace to encounter Jesus. In fact, take time each day and open your heart to God and ask for the indwelling of the Spirit in your life. And next time I get the chance to sit in your living room and share faith, I will ask you to share how your prayer is being answered. God bless you and yours!

If you are willing, I would love to hear from you via email to enjoy and share our stories. Email me at [jeff.andrini@pastoral.org](mailto:jeff.andrini@pastoral.org). ■

## Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU, returns to Pax Christi

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

Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU, began a new ministry in March 2020, returning to Pax Christi USA as deputy director. She oversees the daily management of the Washington, D.C., staff in collaboration with the executive director, facilitates Pax Christi USA representation in Washington policy circles, and serves as the primary coordinator of advocacy work. Sr. Ortiz is an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph.

Pax Christi is a Catholic peace and justice movement that rejects war, violence, and systemic racism. In 2000, Sr. Ortiz was recognized with the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award. She served on the staff of Pax Christi USA from 2010-12, first as interim director, then deputy director.

Sr. Ortiz said on the Pax Christi website, "The world is changing all around us. In a sense, we are being forced to be eyewitnesses to the human suffering of those around us and to the destruction of our planet. Any of us could be second guessing whether justice and peace truly prevail in a hurting and unjust world. When hope gets tangled up in despair, I remind myself that working for peace is not a solitary act but a collective act of solidarity."

She was most recently project director with the Education for Justice Project at the Center of Concern in Washington, then consulted with the Global Sisters Report. ■

*The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are located in Maple Mount.*



# Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

## *Una abundancia de caridad*

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas,

A medida que las comunidades de nuestro país y, de hecho, el mundo entero ha batallado por adaptarse en un tiempo de pandemia, casi todos los lugares han encontrado necesario implementar directrices y restricciones. Estos han incluido directivas para quedarse en casa, directrices de distanciamiento y el uso de mascarilla en público o en cualquier lugar donde uno esté en contacto con otros.

A menudo, cuando estas directivas han sido emitidas, se nos ha dicho que tomáramos estas medidas con "una abundancia de precaución". Esto reconoce que en realidad hay mucho más que desconocemos sobre el virus del COVID-19 comparado con lo que conocemos. Puede suceder que algunas de nuestras precauciones hayan sido excesivas, sin embargo, a la luz de todas las indicaciones con números crecientes, es posible que debamos promulgar medidas aún más restrictivas.

Una abundancia de precaución es una buena guía. ¿No es esa una medida sabia y prudente en cualquier ámbito de la vida? Si todos habláramos con una abundancia de precaución, ¿imagine cuántas palabras hirientes nunca se pronunciarían?

Quiero proponer un estándar más alto de precaución y cortesía mientras navegamos por la pandemia del COVID-19. Sugiero que nuestro estándar de precaución sea una "abundancia de caridad". No todas las restricciones que se nos han pedido que adoptemos son fáciles. Usar una mascarilla puede ser irritante y desagradable. Para algunas personas, puede ser un obstáculo tan grande que elijan no estar en

público lo más posible. He experimentado una tos extrema en momentos mucho antes de esta pandemia que me ha llevado a evitar lugares públicos. Sí, hago estas cosas por abundancia de precaución, pero aún más por abundancia de caridad.

Cuando actuamos con abundancia de caridad, demostramos una preocupación por nuestro prójimo. ¿Alguna vez habría un momento adecuado para no ejercer la caridad en el mayor grado posible? Jesús nos enseñó que el mayor mandamiento es amar a Dios con nuestro corazón, alma, mente y fuerzas. Dijo que el segundo mandamiento es como el primero: "Amar a tu prójimo como a ti mismo". Este segundo mandamiento nos lleva a la regla de oro "tratar a los demás como quisieras tú ser tratado".

De estos mandamientos proviene la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre lo que llamamos el bien común. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica dice: "Conforme a la naturaleza social del hombre, el bien de cada cual está necesariamente relacionado con el bien común. Este sólo puede ser definido con referencia a la persona humana". El Catecismo incluso prescribe que corresponde al Estado defender y promover el bien común de la sociedad civil, de los ciudadanos y de las instituciones intermedias.

Aunque las tendencias nacionales y mundiales con respecto al virus no son alentadoras, nosotros los cristianos somos personas con esperanza. La resurrección de Jesús es nuestra principal causa de esperanza. Incluso ante la muerte de Jesús, el Hijo de Dios, estamos seguros de que nunca estaremos abandonados. Aunque la realidad de una pandemia

### EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA AGOSTO 2020

*Tengan en cuenta: El siguiente calendario es tentativo debido a la incertidumbre sobre la duración de la pandemia del COVID-19.*

<b>5 DE AGOSTO</b>	5:30 p.m.   Confirmación - Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville
<b>11-12 DE AGOSTO</b>	Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de KY y de Obispos de la Provincia - Louisville
<b>13 DE AGOSTO</b>	6 p.m.   Reunión de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana - Centro Católico McRaith (MCC), Owensboro
<b>17 DE AGOSTO</b>	10 a.m.   Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal - MCC 1:30 p.m.   Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal - MCC
<b>18 DE AGOSTO</b>	6 p.m.   Confirmación - Parroquia Santa María Magdalena, Sorgho
<b>20 DE AGOSTO</b>	6 p.m.   Confirmación - Parroquia Inmaculada Concepción, Hawesville
<b>24 DE AGOSTO</b>	6 p.m.   Confirmación - Parroquia San José, Leitchfield
<b>25 DE AGOSTO</b>	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.   Horas de Oficina en Paducah - Hospital de Mercy Health/Lourdes
<b>29 DE AGOSTO</b>	10 a.m.   Confirmación - Parroquia San Pío X, Calvert City
<b>30 DE AGOSTO</b>	2 p.m.   Confirmación Parroquia Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green

puede requerir que nos distanciamos unos de otros, que nos cubramos la cara con mascarillas, que re-

*Obispo Medley continúa en página 42*

## Continuado de la página 41

nunciemos a muchas de las cosas buenas de la comunidad humana y la interacción, nunca estamos separados del amor de Dios.

En el octavo capítulo de su carta a los romanos, San Pablo escribe: "Tengo la certeza de que ni la muerte ni la vida, ni los ángeles ni los principados, ni lo presente ni lo futuro, ni los poderes espirituales, ni lo alto ni lo profundo, ni ninguna otra criatura podrá separarnos jamás del amor de Dios, manifestado en Cristo Jesús, nuestro Señor".

Como pueblo de esperanza, como seguidores de Jesús, estamos llamados a "hacer un esfuerzo adicional". Mientras aceptamos las restricciones que se nos enfrentan, que luchemos por aceptarlas con la mayor alegría posible. Si actuamos con abundancia de caridad, Dios realmente escuchará nuestras oraciones. ■

Atentamente en Cristo,



**Obispo William F. Medley**  
Diócesis de Owensboro



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El P. Stephen Van Lal Than saluda a las personas que pasan en un desfile de autos después de su ordenación.

## La primera ordenación sacerdotal desde 2016

El P. Stephen Van Lal Than fue ordenado sacerdote el 23 de mayo. Esta fue la primera ordenación sacerdotal en la Diócesis de Owensboro desde 2016 cuando el P. Basilio Az Cuc y el P. Jamie Dennis fueron ordenados. Esta fue también la primera ordenación conocida de un sacerdote birmano en los Estados Unidos.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA DE SAN MIGUEL

## La Misa ahora se ofrece en Akateko en la Parroquia de San Miguel

El 14 de mayo, se publicó una entrevista con el P. Carmelo Jiménez y el Diácono Baltazar Rafael, que comenzaron a ofrecer la Misa, y la transmiten en vivo, para los católicos que hablan un dialecto indígena guatemalteco.

Lean el artículo completo en: <https://bit.ly/3gy9qhS>

# Una luz brilla en la oscuridad para los católicos latinos que luchan contra las realidades de la pandemia



FILE PHOTO  
El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez dirige el ministerio hispano/latino en la Diócesis de Owensboro.

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

Mis queridos amigos, sé que cada uno de nosotros está saliendo adelante lo mejor que podemos durante esta pandemia. Como nunca antes, nos necesitamos unos a otros y nuestro Señor Jesús nos llama a estar cerca unos de otros y apoyarnos, especialmente

en un momento de prueba como este. Durante estos meses de agosto, como todos los años, también celebramos la Asunción de Nuestra Señora. Que una vez más, con profunda devoción, invoquemos la protección e intercesión de Nuestra Madre por todos los que sufren y padecen dolor debido a esta crisis. Durante este tiempo de prueba, yo me imagino constantemente a María caminando por las colinas de nuestros miedos y preocupaciones tratando de llegar a nosotros para ayudarnos y estar allí con nosotros en el camino al igual que lo hizo con su prima Isabel.

Agradezco a Elizabeth Barnstead, nuestra editora católica del Católico de Kentucky Occidental, por pedirme compartir un poco sobre cómo van las cosas con respecto al ministerio hispano en las circunstancias actuales.

Para una comunidad como la nuestra que aprecia mucho reunirse físicamente como grupos parroquiales, familias, y sí, en grandes cantidades, este tiempo de distanciamiento social y nuevas restricciones ha sido extremadamente difícil y desafiante para los católicos hispanos. Por ejemplo, ha sido difícil para algunos de los diferentes movimientos eclesiales de habla hispana en nuestra diócesis, como Cristo Renueva su Parroquia y la Renovación Carismática en el Espíritu Santo, que son grupos fuertes y con una participación normalmente bien concurrida. Un factor que me preocupa mucho y que también es difícil de ver, es que hay muchos hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes sin trabajo, que no solo luchan por mantenerse a sí mismos, sino que no pueden

sostener a quienes dependen de ellos en sus países de origen. En México y Centroamérica, la pandemia ha empeorado, y las familias que residen en nuestra diócesis están preocupadas por sus seres queridos y pueden sentir desesperación o impotencia.

Hay algo de luz brillando en esta oscuridad. Se han tomado medidas para adaptarse a una nueva realidad, aprender nuevas formas y utilizar lo que está a nuestra disposición. Me alegra ver que tres de las reuniones de oración establecidas que se trasladaron recientemente al mundo virtual a través de una de nuestras muchas cuentas diocesanas de Zoom están comenzando a tener más participación. Muchos han estado batallando por aprender las formas de la tecnología, pero están aprendiendo rápidamente. Estas reuniones son: una reflexión semanal cada sábado sobre el Evangelio del domingo (abierta a todos); una reunión para hombres de Cristo Renueva su Parroquia los domingos por la mañana y una reunión para mujeres de Cristo Renueva su Parroquia los lunes por la noche. Si hay algún grupo parroquial que quiere empezar una reunión virtual y necesita ayuda, pónganse en contacto conmigo.

Por favor mantengan a la comunidad inmigrante hispana/latina en sus oraciones. Incluso antes de que apareciera el COVID-19, esta comunidad estaba enfrentando enormes desafíos. Dios bendiga a cada uno de ustedes y sus familias. ■

*El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez es el director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino. Obtengan más información en [owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano](http://owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano).*

## El Diácono Corey D. Bruns fue ordenado



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El seminarista Corey D. Bruns se presenta ante el Obispo Medley durante su Misa de ordenación del 20 de junio al diaconado transitorio.

La ordenación al diaconado transitorio del Diácono Corey D. Bruns, que se aplazó 77 días desde la fecha original, tuvo lugar el 20 de junio. El Diácono Corey está actualmente asignado a la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro. Regresa a sus estudios en el seminario de San Meinrad en el otoño.



## El Diácono Richard Murphy se jubila de la Oficina de Asuntos Sociales

El Diácono Richard Murphy, director de la Oficina de Asuntos Sociales de la diócesis, se jubiló el 1 de julio. Compartió la siguiente reflexión: “Una cosa que se destaca en mi mente es la cita del Papa San Pablo VI, 'Si quieres la paz, trabaja por la justicia'. Veo la justicia como la forma más alta de caridad. Y para poder superar los muchos aspectos de nuestras crisis actuales, tenemos que aprender a caminar en la paz de la justicia ... La gente está dispuesta a ello. Deben ser alentados por sus líderes para que den un paso y estén capacitados para hacerlo. Cuando lo son, suceden resultados sorprendentes". ■

FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

El 30 de junio de 2020, durante una Misa con pocas personas en el Centro Católico McRaith (las oficinas centrales de la Diócesis de Owensboro), el Diácono Richard Murphy recibe una foto de Jesús lavando los pies de los discípulos. La Misa se celebró en el sótano grande del MCC para que los participantes pudieran estar físicamente separados.

# Parroquias con ministerio hispano/latino

## **Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam**

107 13th Street, Beaver Dam, KY 42320  
 Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (706) 284-0996,  
 o Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

## **Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green**

434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101  
 Contacto: Sra. Gina Holmes (270) 777-5925 o  
 Padre Basilio Az Cuc (270) 842-2525

## **Parroquia de San José, Central City**

113 South 3rd Street, Central City, KY 42330  
 Contacto: Padre Josh McCarty (270) 754-1164

## **Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Guthrie**

7600 Russellville Road, P.O. Box 297, Guthrie, KY  
 42234  
 Contacto: Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez (270)  
 265-5263 o (302) 438-7335

## **Parroquia de Santa María, Franklin**

403 North Main Street, Franklin, KY 42134  
 Contacto: Padre Daniel Dillard (270) 586-4515

## **Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson**

511 2nd Street, Henderson, KY 42420  
 Contacto: Abraham Brown (270) 724-2172 o  
 Padre Gary Clark (270) 826-2096

## **Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville**

902 East 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240  
 Contacto: Sra. Mayra Tirado (270) 498-6456

## **Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville**

1600 Kingsway Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431  
 Contacto: Padre Carl McCarthy (270) 821-5494 o  
 Padre Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-7737

## **Parroquia de San José, Mayfield**

702 West Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066  
 Contacto: Hermana Maria Luisa Morales Solano  
 (270) 247-2843

## **Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown**

766 Logansport Road, Morgantown, KY 42261  
 Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (706) 284-0996,  
 o Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

## **Parroquia de San Leo, Murray**

401 North 12th Street, Murray, KY 42071  
 Contacto: Hermana Esperanza Rivera (270) 753-  
 3876

## **Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro**

609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, KY 42303  
 Contacto: Padre Will Thompson (270) 683-5641

## **Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah**

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001  
 Contacto: Padre Al Bremer (270) 534-9000

## **Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Russellville**

296 West 6th Street, Russellville, KY 42276  
 Contacto: Padre Ken Mikulcik (270) 726-6963

## **Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree**

57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455  
 Contacto: Alyssa Maty (815) 207-3208 o Padre  
 Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-7737

## **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 Louanne Payne, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinadoras de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270-880-8360. También puede visitar la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro ([owensborodiocese.org/safe](http://owensborodiocese.org/safe)) para obtener más información.

# Una familia agradece a Caridades Católicas por ayudar económica y espiritualmente después de que los papás dieron positivos de coronavirus



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE MIGUEL QUINTANILLA

Diego López, ahora completamente recuperado del COVID-19, se encuentra fuera de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, donde su familia son feligreses, el 15 de julio de 2020. López ha vuelto a trabajar para la empresa de construcción que está restaurando los ladrillos en San José, una iglesia histórica.

POR MIGUEL QUINTANILLA Y SUSAN MONTALVO-GESSER

Cuando Diego López comenzó a sentirse enfermo, nunca imaginó que podría haberse contagiado de Covid-19. "Soy una persona muy limpia. Me lavo las manos, uso mascarilla, incluso me quito la ropa de trabajo en el cuarto de lavandería cuando llego a la casa", dijo López. No fue hasta que se sintió tan débil y mareado que pensó que iba a desmayarse que

López finalmente decidió hacerse la prueba.

Cuando los resultados salieron positivos, López se preocupó, no solo por él, sino también por su esposa, Ana, y el niño que llevaba. Ana tenía casi nueve meses de embarazo cuando Diego dio positivo por Covid-19. "Puse mi vida y la de mi familia en manos de Dios", dijo López.

Cuando Ana dio a luz a su hijo Anthony, el médico le informó que no podría abrazarlo porque ella

había dado positivo por Covid-19. Ana fue enviada a casa sin haber abrazado a su hijo recién nacido. Anthony permaneció en el hospital durante 10 días.

Diego fue puesto en cuarentena por 14 días después de dar positivo. Su médico le informó que seguramente se sentiría mejor y poder volver a trabajar en un par de semanas, pero cuando todavía se sentía extremadamente enfermo tres semanas después de dar positivo, Diego sabía que algo estaba mal. "Sentí que podía morir. Pensé, si hay tantas personas muriendo por esto en todo el mundo, ¿por qué no yo? Sentí que alguien me estaba ahorcando y no podía respirar", dijo López.

López no pudo volver a trabajar durante un mes entero. "No pude volver a trabajar porque seguí dando positivo por el coronavirus. Me puse en contacto con el padre Basilio. El padre Basilio contactó a Caridades Católicas y al Diácono Christopher Gutiérrez en la diócesis. Me ayudaron con la renta y las facturas del mes que estuve sin trabajo. Estoy bendecido de haber recibido tanta ayuda de ellos", dijo López.

Diego está de vuelta en el trabajo ahora. Actualmente trabaja para la empresa constructora que se ocupa de la restauración de ladrillos en St. Joseph en Bowling Green. También es feligrés de St. Joseph y se siente honrado de participar en la restauración. "Le digo a las personas que si contraen esta enfermedad, lo primero que deben hacer es poner sus vidas en manos de Dios", dijo López. ■

# Comité de Planificación anunciado para redactar el Plan Pastoral Diocesano para el Ministerio Hispano/Latino 2021-2025

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Para fines de 2020, la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro espera haber redactado un Plan Pastoral Diocesano para el Ministerio Hispano/Latino 2021-2025.

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director del Ministerio Hispano/Latino en la diócesis, envió un memorando por correo electrónico el 2 de julio de 2020 al personal del Centro Católico McRaith (las oficinas centrales de la diócesis) anunciando el Comité de Planificación que trabajará con él y los ministros hispanos parroquiales para redactar este plan.

"Durante los próximos seis meses, este grupo estudiará y discernirá sobre el documento de las Memorias y conclusiones del proceso del V Encuentro Nacional y evaluará nuestro propio crecimiento pastoral local, el progreso y los continuos desafíos como diócesis", escribió el Diácono Gutiérrez, haciendo referencia al V Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Hispana/Latina, que ha explorado y dialogado sobre la mejor manera de servir y acompañar a las crecientes poblaciones hispanas y latinas en los Estados Unidos durante los últimos cinco años.

Y en buena hora, el Diácono Gutiérrez agregó que el último Plan Pastoral Diocesano para el Ministerio Hispano en la diócesis se venció en 2011.

"Estamos especialmente agradecidos con el Obispo Medley y su continuo apoyo a lo largo de estos



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Los delegados del Encuentro del Sureste sostienen imágenes de la Virgen María de diferentes advocaciones latinoamericanas durante el Encuentro Regional en 2018 en Miami, Florida.

años en este proceso del Encuentro y por apoyarnos para avanzar en la próxima etapa de este importante trabajo", escribió el diácono.

El Diácono Gutiérrez también expresó su agradecimiento a las oficinas diocesanas del Ministerio con los Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos, de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar, y de Evangelización y Discipulado "por avanzar en un nivel más sano de integración eclesial".

Los miembros del Comité de Planificación son los siguientes:

- 1) Bruno Espinoza (Owensboro)
- 2) Elena Zamora (Owensboro)
- 3) Diácono Baltazar Rafael (Sebree)

- 4) Diácono Edwin Pacheco (Russelville)
- 5) Claudia y Marco Valladares (Bowling Green)
- 6) Ellis Salas (Hopkinsville)
- 7) Casey Gómez (Franklin)
- 8) María García (Franklin)
- 9) Consuelo Aguilar (Guthrie)
- 10) Sandra Reséndiz (Guthrie)
- 11) Norma Molina (Paducah)
- 12) Miguelina Young (Paducah)
- 13) Bertha Arroyo (Henderson)
- 14) Gabriela Ángeles (Henderson)
- 15) Ángela García (Mayfield)
- 16) Elvira Bartolo (Mayfield)

Para aprender más visiten <https://vencuentro.org/es/>



## La Misa Crismal 2020 fue diferente este año



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El P. Basilio Az Cuc y sus compañeros sacerdotes usan mascarillas durante la Misa Crismal del 16 de junio de 2020 en la Catedral de San Esteban.

La Misa Crismal de este año se celebró el 16 de junio de 2020, unas 10 semanas después de la Semana Santa. En circunstancias normales, la Semana Santa es cuando se celebra la Misa Crismal. Se había pospuesta debido a las restricciones de la pandemia del COVID-19. La Misa Crismal es tradicionalmente una oportunidad para que el clero, los religiosos y los laicos de todo Kentucky occidental se reúnan para la liturgia como una sola familia diocesana. Este año, la Misa se restringió principalmente a sacerdotes, seminaristas y representantes de entidades religiosas dentro de la diócesis. Todos los asistentes tenían que usar mascarillas y distanciarse físicamente unos de otros. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Una miembro del personal del Campamento del Río Gasper, Cecilia Morris, guía a su grupo pequeño en juegos al aire libre el 8 de julio de 2020 durante Gasper on the Go [Gasper en marcha] en la Parroquia San Pío X en Owensboro.

## El Campamento del Río Gasper lleva el campamento a los niños

Del 7 al 9 de julio en Owensboro y del 21 al 23 de julio en Fancy Farm, el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper llevó "Gasper on the Go" [Gasper en marcha] a la juventud local. El Campamento del Río Gasper no pudo tener los campamentos de verano este año debido a las restricciones del COVID-19, por lo que decidieron llevar la experiencia del campamento a los niños. ■