

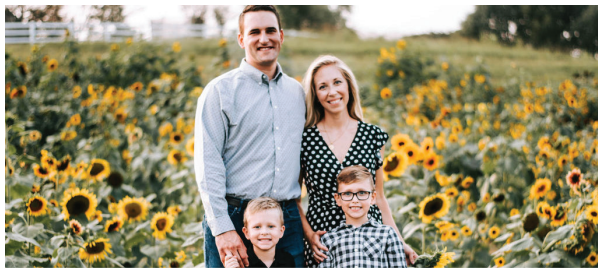
THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

December 2020 ● Volume 47 Issue 10 ● The newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro ● owensborodiocese.org



#Dadvent

Page 9



Español

Página 26



Starting seminary

Page 24

Bishop William F. Medley processes to the front of a full St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on Feb. 17, 2020, during the celebration of his 10th anniversary as bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. Almost exactly one month later, life changed drastically when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States, and churches sat empty as public worship was suspended for several months. [Page 4](#)



**'I Will Go to the
Altar of God'**

*Bishop Medley releases first
pastoral letter, focuses on
centrality of Eucharist*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Sr. Bernadette Hengstebeck, GHMS, (center) cooks with friends during her ministry in Mount Pleasant, Texas, in 1982. **Page 6**

COURTESY OF THE GLENMARY SISTERS

- 9** **Dadvent 2020**
Advent initiative hopes to inspire men to be stronger husbands, fathers, leaders
- 13** **The next step toward healing**
Diocese releases new policy for displays of priests removed from ministry
- 14** **Communion and solidarity**
Diocesan staff renew 'holy work of praying for one another'

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.

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

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY  **Catholic**

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro

Published monthly, 10 times a year at
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

Telephone ● (270) 683-1545

Email ● wkc.editor@pastoral.org

Publisher ● Bishop William F. Medley

Editor ● Elizabeth Wong Barnstead

Contributors ● Laura Rigsby, Tina Kasey

Send change of address requests to
janet.clancy@pastoral.org

View current and archived issues at
owensborodiocese.org/western-kentucky-catholic/

*The Western Kentucky Catholic is a member of the
Catholic Media Association.*

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

Opinions expressed in submitted columns and letters to the editor in The Western Kentucky Catholic may be edited for space, a lack of charity or a lack of clarity, and are not endorsed by the publisher or editor. No submissions are guaranteed placement in The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Please politely indicate any factual errors in this publication by emailing wkc.editor@pastoral.org.

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, call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) at 270-852- 8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish) at 270-880-8360. You may also visit the Office of Safe Environment (owensborodiocese.org/safe) for more information.

- 4** Features
- 13** Around the Diocese
- 17** Inside the Archives
- 18** Upcoming Events
- 20** Opinion
- 21** Evangelization
- 22** Anniversaries
- 24** Vocations
- 26** Español

A Word from Bishop Medley

Silent Night and Joy to the World

Joy to the world.
The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her king.
Let every heart prepare him room.
Let heaven and nature sign.

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

“Silent Night” and “Joy to the World” are likely the most popular Christmas carols ever written. (Of course, O Come All Ye Faithful is surely a contender.) Interestingly, the songs engage us in strikingly different ways. Silent Night harkens us to a quiet night in the village of Bethlehem, and often the song is sung in almost a whisper. By contrast, Joy to the World is triumphant and rousing and very typically in Catholic churches is the hymn by which we are sent forth. Even the most determined “non-singer” seems drawn by both these pieces to at the very least hum along, though they appeal to contrasting moods.

Almost without exception both songs find their way into virtually every Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship. This makes perfect sense. Worship and song should strive to draw us into particular sentiments and Christmas, as with most major feasts and celebrations, properly invokes multiple nuances and emphases.

Silent Night, we are told, was written by Joseph

Mohr, a priest, on Christmas Eve when his church's organ was broken. It was written for accompaniment on a guitar.

Joy to the World was first published in 1719 by Isaac Watts and was inspired by the cadence of the Book of Psalms. We can all imagine finding such prayerful lyrics alongside Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want ...”

As Christmas 2020 draws near, most of us are unsure of exactly what the holiday will bring. Will we be able to gather with family and friends? Will we travel or will others travel to be with us? If no one is coming to our houses do we really spend untold hours decorating as usual? Suppose there are again shortages at the grocery stores? Imagine if we could not bake cookies and candies? If we can get to Mass, will there be no choir? For some people Christmas is the only time of the year they sing at Mass because they know and like the carols. Suppose we cannot sing?

So Christmas 2020 might indeed be memorable – and not for all the good reasons Christmases of the past have been memorable because of special gifts, special people, and special places.

Christians have been observing and remembering the birth of Jesus for more than 2000 years. We know this because of the prominence of the Christmas stories in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Christmas has not been forgotten in times of wars, famines and plagues on a world-wide scale. Christmas has not been forgotten in years when families have experienced the absence or loss of loved ones.

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2020

Please note: The following dates are subject to change or cancellation due to the COVID-19 situation.

DEC 1	Living as Missionary Disciples Virtual Event
DEC 2-3	Catholic Conference of Kentucky and Province Meetings – Louisville
DEC 9	9 a.m. School Mass – Mary Carrico Catholic School
DEC 12	4:30 p.m. Mass for 50th Anniversary of Holy Spirit Parish – Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
DEC 13	9:30 a.m. Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders – St. John the Evangelist Parish, Paducah
DEC 17	3 p.m. Virtual Meeting with Priests
DEC 20	9 a.m. Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders – Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
DEC 21	1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center & Virtual

Maybe your Christmas will not be all that different in 2020. But many others' will.

Whatever the case, I hope that the Gospel story of Jesus' birth will find a place in your heart and in your home. And I hope that the longing to “sleep in heavenly peace” will comfort you. And “let every heart prepare Him room and let heaven and nature sing.” ■



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

‘I Will Go to the Altar of God’

New pastoral letter gives heart-to-heart message from a bishop to his people



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A man bows his head in prayer during the Sept. 14, 2019 Mass of Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate for the diocese's first class of Spanish-speaking deacons, held at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Bishop William F. Medley has always liked the quote from Pope St. John Paul II that “Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.”

This sentence, which was said by the pope in a homily at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Maryland on October 8, 1995, provided a foundation for Bishop Medley's first pastoral letter, which he released on Nov. 20, 2020.

His letter, “I Will Go to the Altar of God,” was

presented to emphasize the centrality of the Holy Eucharist for all Catholics – and that centrality being portrayed in the Church's law that obligates participation in the Mass on Sundays and holy days.

The letter was printed in both English and in Spanish, and mailed to the home of every registered parishioner within the diocese in November 2020.

Suspending the obligation

Bishop Medley told The Western Kentucky Catholic on Nov. 4, 2020, that when public Masses were suspended back in March 2020 – at the start of the pandemic in the United States – he thought they would certainly be back by Easter, if not during Holy Week.

In fact, when he first announced the suspension, he had said this would be reviewed on Palm Sunday.

But by that point, as cases of infection rose, “that wasn't possible,” said the bishop.

Bishop Medley said he understood when people reacted strongly to the public Mass suspension, noting their “hunger for the Eucharist.”

He heard from pastors whose people were begging Masses to reopen, and at the time he thought “you know, this could really be a revitalization of faith and practice – that when people who regularly attend are denied that, they're going to want to come back. And maybe even people who were somewhat irregular, not having the option, maybe they'll come back with new vigor.”

When on May 20 the suspension of public Mass-

es was finally lifted after nearly 10 weeks, Bishop Medley said it broke his heart that the liturgy could not be celebrated as it had been before.

Masks were required. Pews were marked for social distancing, and singing was discouraged, among the multiple restrictions placed on the celebration.

Back in March, Bishop Medley had – like most bishops in the United States – put into place a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. This dispensation was enacted in order to protect the vulnerable and to hopefully curb the spread of the coronavirus across the region.

Even when public liturgies were permitted again, the bishop continued the dispensation to protect the vulnerable.

“It was in the weeks after that, that I began to think, we form habits rather easily,” said Bishop Medley. “And the habit of not worshiping, the habit of a family not coming to church, or even an individual, can get embedded pretty quickly.”

The bishop became more concerned after conversing with pastors and learning that they were seeing between 40-60% of their regular pre-pandemic crowd.

Bishop Medley admitted that they couldn't have accommodated everyone within the ordinary worship space even if they did all return (some parishes have overflow options in basements or parish halls).

But even then, he worried that unhealthy habits were forming, especially among those who already

Continues on page 5

Pastoral letter continued from page 4

questioned the reason for attending Mass on Sundays.

Celebrating the Eucharist as a community

Bishop Medley said the “kernel” of his pastoral letter started to develop over the summer. His original plan was to release the letter when they were ready and able to have everyone back at Mass, and when he was ready to lift the dispensation from the obligation; however, he was unsure how to even begin the letter.

His answer arrived at the end of the summer, when Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, released a letter to all national bishops’ conferences across the world titled “Let us return to the Eucharist with joy!”

The cardinal’s letter was written on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2020 and was approved and ordered published by Pope Francis on September 3, 2020.

In it, he addressed the very topic Bishop Medley had been reflecting upon – why the celebration of the Eucharist as a community is central to the Catholic faith.

“It’s like I called him and asked him and he wrote this for me!” chuckled Bishop Medley. He proceeded to draw much of his inspiration from the cardinal’s letter, and cites it frequently throughout his own.

Today’s reality

When Bishop Medley started writing his letter in September, the COVID-19 “curve” was flattening, and he thought he would release the letter when the dispensation was lifted from the obligation.

But then, infection rates began to spike again.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley celebrates Mass at the McRaith Catholic Center on Dec. 13, 2016.

“I finally had to admit to myself that these (restrictions) like masks and distancing could well go on deep into 2021... and how could we re-impose the obligation if we in fact can’t accommodate the people?” he said.

“I don’t want that obligation to be something that makes people feel guilty,” said the bishop, expressing concern for those who cannot attend Mass right now due to health risks.

Bishop Medley said he wanted emphasize that he was speaking to the people, “heart-to-heart, about what the Eucharist is and why we ought to long for it.”

He simply hopes his letter will explain the importance of worshiping as a community, and that people who have gotten into a habit of not coming to Mass regularly might “rethink that” after reading

his pastoral letter.

The bishop said he has never before written a pastoral letter because “I’m not a scholastic type,” but “then I began to think, a pastoral letter is ‘pastoral.’ You don’t have to be a theologian to write a pastoral letter.”

“And so I wrote it out of pastoral concern,” he said. ■

Read Bishop Medley’s first pastoral letter, “I Will Go to the Altar of God” online at owensborodiocese.org/pastoral-letter.

Humility, wisdom and love

Sr. Bernadette Hengstebeck, Sr. Fran Wilhelm, inspired others to be best versions of themselves

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In early November 2020, western Kentucky lost two “greats” – both of them women religious who had devoted their lives and vocations to serving the underrepresented and underprivileged.

Sr. Bernadette Hengstebeck, GHMS, passed away on Nov. 1, 2020. The Glenmary Home Mission Sister was 98 years old and in her 75th year of religious life.

Sr. Fran Wilhelm, OSU, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died Nov. 5, 2020, in her 73rd year of religious life. She was 91 years old.

Both women were beloved for their quiet strength and devotion as they served populations that others might have ignored or scorned.

Sr. Bernadette “knew the poor,” said Fr. Frank Ruff, GHM, the sacramental minister at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Guthrie. Sr. Bernadette had served in Guthrie for 15 years, and Fr. Frank served alongside her during the last six years prior to the sister’s retirement.

“A lot of people help the poor – but she knew them,” said Fr. Frank. “She loved them. She trusted them. A lot of organizations mistrust the poor. But she trusted them because she loved them.”

Fr. Frank said Sr. Bernadette had a gift for book-keeping and “as soon as the Christmas décor was put away, she started being busy with tax returns,” which



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ARCHIVES
Sr. Fran Wilhelm, OSU, with a child in this undated photo.

she helped people fill out free-of-charge.

Likewise, Sr. Fran – or Hermana Panchita, as she was known by the local Hispanic community – became a voice for the marginalized.

In 1992, Sr. Fran began working in Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro and the next year founded Centro Latino – a resource center for Hispanics – in Stanley. Sr. Fran moved Centro Latino to Owensboro in 2000, a ministry she continued until 2018.



COURTESY OF THE GLENMARY SISTERS
Sr. Bernadette Hengstebeck, GHMS, smiles with a child while serving in Texas.

Prior to Sr. Fran, “there was no representation for Hispanics” in the region, said Susan Montalvo-Gesser, the director of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Catholic Charities, and who herself is Hispanic.

“She was instrumental for pushing all of us to develop our potential,” said Susan, who as a young person had been encouraged by Sr. Fran to attend law school – which she did.

Describing Sr. Fran as a “spark” to ignite local, dedicated ministry for Hispanics, Susan said families

Continues on page 7

Humility, wisdom and love continued from page 6

newly arriving in Daviess County were directed by “word-of-mouth” to see Sr. Fran at Centro Latino.

“It was the way you were welcomed into the community,” said Susan.

Meeting the needs of the poor

Sr. Bernadette began her ministry as a Glenmary Sister in 1945, serving Glenmary’s home missions in Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Texas. She was made a Kentucky Colonel in 2006.

Her official obituary said that she was a “fierce advocate” for the Hispanic community during her time in Texas, even receiving the Titus County, Texas, Woman of the Year Award. She also worked to obtain justice in job-related disputes and court cases.

Sr. Darlene Presley, GHMS, the mother superior of the Glenmary Sisters, said that people “sought her out for wisdom, just to talk to her.”

“She never liked to call attention to herself, just doing what God wanted her to do,” said Sr. Darlene, who had spent her novitiate with Sr. Bernadette. But, “she always called herself a spoiled child of God because he never failed her.”

When Sr. Bernadette was doing full-time mission work in Texas, Sr. Darlene said she was known to drive 300 miles to take families to MD Anderson Cancer Center.

“She did what we call ‘unstructured social work,’” said Sr. Darlene. “She met the needs of the poor.”

“Her car was always filled with clothing and household items” to share with those in need, which Sr. Darlene said was known as “a mobile rummage store.”

In Guthrie, Sr. Bernadette’s car again became famous, but this time by being called the “breadmobile.”

She had once seen the local grocery store throw-

ing out bread and approached them to ask if she could take it for those in need. The grocery store agreed, and so she was there every Saturday morning to pick up the bread.

Fr. Frank said Sr. Bernadette was an example to him of how to “help the poor without looking down on them.”

Her ministry with the senior citizen center in Guthrie and Guthrie Interchurch Ministry, as well as a free local health clinic in Todd County, drew people to her as a “friend,” said Fr. Frank.

“I describe her as a quiet woman, of few words, but you listened to the words she said because they came from thought and were wise,” he said.

A grandmother and big sister

Heidi Reyes, the AmeriCorps VISTA community resource bridge for Catholic Charities, said she first

Continues on page 8



COURTESY OF THE GLENMARY SISTERS

In December 2018, Sr. Bernadette Hengstebeck, GHMS, makes her famous crescent coffee cakes (an annual tradition) with Glenmary Mother Superior, Sr. Darlene Presley, GHMS, in Owensboro.



FILE PHOTO

Sr. Fran Wilhelm, OSU, stands in front of Centro Latino in this undated photo.

Humility, wisdom and love continued from page 7

met Sr. Fran at age five or six.

Sr. Fran was known to organize the performance of traditional Mexican dances at events, including the Multicultural Festival in Owensboro. Heidi's family, who are Mexican, would participate in the dances – even six-year-old Heidi. (She still participates in the dances to this day.)

“We were very close with Sr. Fran,” said Heidi.

As Sr. Fran aged, Heidi's family would assist where they could – her mother once washing the curtains at Centro Latino, and her father changing the light bulbs – and sometimes even brought the sister her favorite soup from Olive Garden.

“She was like our grandmother here in the States,” said Heidi, explaining that many Hispanics living in the U.S. have never met their grandparents still living in Latin America.

Ofelia Villegas, a parishioner of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, credits Sr. Fran for getting her involved in the choir that sings at the Spanish-language Masses.

When Ofelia first moved to Owensboro from Texas, she was feeling sad and homesick.

Then, “sweet, sweet” Sr. Fran invited her to join the Spanish choir, Ofelia told *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

“I said Sister, I can't sing! I get really nervous,” said Villegas. “She said, ‘No, go. Go to the choir. Go to the choir.’”

It was frequently quipped that nobody could say “no” to Sr. Fran – and this rang true for Ofelia.

After Sr. Fran's insistent encouragement to join the choir, Ofelia said, “I did. I began singing in the choir,” and the rest was history.

Even when Sr. Fran retired from Centro Latino and returned to the Ursuline motherhouse in Maple Mount, Ofelia would visit her when she could.

“I feel happy that I have a lot of memories of her,” said Ofelia, though she added that “it's hard for me because she's gone.”

She said she thanks God every day for putting Sr. Fran in her life.

“I don't have any sisters – she was my big sister,” said Villegas.

Becoming your best self

Back in 2015, a fire destroyed Sts. Mary and James Catholic Church in Guthrie. Deemed a total loss, the local Catholics were without a place to gather for Mass until a new church could be built.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ARCHIVES
Sr. Fran Wilhelm, OSU, in her 1956-1957 headshot.



COURTESY OF THE GLENMARY SISTERS
Sr. Bernadette Hengstebeck, GHMS, as a young sister in this undated photo.

But within a week, five different Protestant churches offered their facilities for free to their Catholic neighbors so that they would still have somewhere to worship. Eventually the Catholics were settled in the local Tiny Town Baptist Church, where they were even permitted to keep a tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament, until their new church home was finished.

Catholicism was, and continues to be, in the minority in Todd County. But friendship among the different faith communities is strong.

“A lot of that (relationship) I credit to the work of the Glenmary Sisters – including Sr. Bernadette,” said Fr. Frank.

Likewise, Sr. Fran's inspiration and love of others made them feel “empowered to be able to do whatever you could do,” said Susan.

Susan said that in recent years she once went to Mount Saint Joseph for a meeting and was happy to see Sr. Fran. Though the retired sister was experiencing poor health, she lit up when seeing Susan. Sr. Fran turned to her fellow Ursuline Sisters and said to them, “I am so proud of this girl!”

Susan told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* that “you wanted to be your best self because of her.”

“She was so humble, one of the most humble people you'll ever meet,” she said. ■

Dadvent 2020: Advent initiative hopes to inspire men to be stronger husbands, fathers, leaders in their families

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

It has been a long and stressful year for families – but a new initiative hopes to encourage men across western Kentucky to foster the light of Christ in their hearts and in the hearts of their families during the Advent season.

The initiative is called Dadvent – a combination of “dad” and “Advent.” It’s a virtual gathering of husbands and fathers that will take place each Sunday night of Advent to reflect on the Sunday readings and share in a time of fellowship together via video conference.

“What we hope is that in this crazy year that is 2020, that we can slow down as dads and prepare for the coming

of Christ at Christmas,” said Wade Gaynor, whose family belongs to St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, and who helped brainstorm for Dadvent.

Gaynor said it’s easy to wake up on December 26 and have “missed Christmas,” realizing that “I didn’t prepare my heart for any of this.”

Dadvent’s goal is to “provide a way for men to lead their families,” said Gaynor.

Aaron Carrico, whose family also attends St. Stephen Cathedral, helped organize Dadvent and looks

forward to “men across the diocese being encouraged to be leaders.”

Carrico has been a teacher for 15 years and works with an at-risk population of young people. He called the crisis of fatherhood among these youth “an emergency – it’s a crisis that young people, especially boys, are being raised without a father and an active male role model in their life.”

Gaynor agreed.

“What we hope is that in this crazy year that is 2020, that we can slow down as dads and prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.”

- Wade Gaynor

strengthen homes, families and marriages by focusing on the model of St. Joseph.

Danny May, director of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Office of Marriage and Family Life, has been working with Charlie Hardesty, director of the diocese’s Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to promote Dadvent to parishes, men’s groups and Knights of Columbus councils.

May is also the one who coined the term “Dadvent” when discussing Advent opportunities with

“Church attendance is down – across denominations and the country – because dads are not involved, and definitely are not leading their families, especially with Christ and their faith,” he said.

Dadvent will pull themes from each of the Sunday readings, but the overall goal is to



COURTESY OF CHELSIE MCELFRISH
Wade and Neena Gaynor with their sons Josey and Wiley.

several coworkers.

He said Dadvent will begin promptly at 8 p.m. with a welcome and opening prayer, followed by a short reflection by a diocesan priest. Participants

Continues on page 10



COURTESY OF CARRICO FAMILY
Aaron and Stephanie Carrico with their children Jude, Felicity, Lucy, and baby Peter Bosco, with St. Stephen Cathedral's parochial vicar, Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN.

Join husbands and fathers from across the diocese for **Dadvent 2020!**

There is no cost, but organizers ask men to pre-register for Dadvent 2020 at <https://bit.ly/3kTFfED> so they can email the access link to participants for security reasons. For questions, contact Danny May in the Office of Marriage & Family Life, (270) 683-1545 or danny.may@pastoral.org.

Dadvent 2020 continued from page 9

will then be broken into small discussion “rooms” and then gather back as a whole group for a guided, silent prayer before ending with a call to action for the upcoming week.

Keeping in mind the men’s family and time commitments, the goal will be for Dadvent to end within an hour.

Additionally, the virtual platform will make the initiative available to men across western Kentucky, not just limited to Owensboro.

“This is a way to involve the whole diocese,” said May, adding that the four priests who will be sharing scripture reflections are from the four corners of the diocese.

They are Fr. Brandon Williams (St. Leo Parish, Murray), Fr. John Thomas (Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green), Fr. Richard Meredith (Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville), and Fr. Randy Howard (St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown).

Carrico said he hopes Dadvent will inspire participants to start men’s groups of their own, or even join existing men’s groups at their parishes.

He added that it is called “Dadvent” but that he would invite “no matter your state in life, any man – we’re all called to be fathers whether we’re biological fathers or not.” ■

Diocese of OWENSBORO

#DADVENT2020

REFLECTION | PRAYER | CALL TO ACTION
An Intentional Space for Husbands and Fathers

Sunday Nights of Advent | 8PM
Zoom Video Conferencing
Register at <https://bit.ly/3kTFfED>

SAINT JOSEPH Husband of Mary,
Foster Father of Jesus,
Terror of demons,
PRAY FOR US.

Bishops note Eucharistic hunger, lay and clerical sacrifices, amid coronavirus pandemic

Washington, D.C. (CNA) - Bishops on Nov. 17 discussed pastoral strategies and the movement of the Holy Spirit during the coronavirus pandemic, noting the great desire for the sacraments on the part of many Catholics. Bishops lauded sacrifices made by priests and laity in service to the Church during the coronavirus pandemic.

The conversation took place during the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' virtual fall general assembly Nov. 16-17. It was led by Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. After Coakley spoke, bishops were invited to share their experiences in five-minute segments.

Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville, Texas, praised the "great sacrifice" that has been made by his diocese's priests, lay chaplains, and deacons to provide spiritual care during the pandemic, as well as the impressive volunteer effort by the laity to ensure that Mass can be safely celebrated.

Flores recalled telling Catholics they needed to disinfect churches after each Mass in order to have Mass at all. He said their response was the "most edifying" experience of the pandemic.

"The folks of the parish who volunteer—the youth groups, the apostolic movements, the different groups that are part of the life of the Church—it meant so much for them to have the Mass, and to have even a few moments of Eucharistic Adoration, even to this very day, after every single Eucharistic



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley lifts up the Eucharist during the May 23, 2020 Mass of Ordination for Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than (seen on the right). The liturgy was by invitation-only due to COVID-19 restrictions.

celebration, every funeral, every baptism, people step forward," he said.

"This is a very powerful sign to us," said Flores. "We are rightly focusing on a Eucharistic renewal as we move forth from this."

The Brownsville bishop said that he thought the people who took the time to do things like disinfect

their churches could be instructive for the bishops. Those people, said Flores, took on a difficult task, and accepted the added risk of exposing themselves to the virus "to make it possible for the life of the Church go on."

"I'm just so grateful," he said. "In the midst of Eucharistic absence, we could say, many people have

Continues on page 12

Eucharistic hunger continued from page 11

stepped forward to make sure that we could experience, once again, the Eucharistic presence.”

He and his brother bishops, he said, should “reflect upon (this) for a long time to come.”

Flores said he saw Catholics kneeling outside the diocesan basilica, some crying, after churches were closed. Other bishops reported similar observations.

“This love for the Eucharist” has gotten people through hard times and crises in the past, said Flores, “and it’s what is going to ultimately sustain us in the future.”

Bishop James S. Wall of Gallup explained that his diocese is located in two states with a primarily Native American population. Churches on the reservations are still closed even, as the rest of the diocese has begun to reopen.

“There’s been a great need, a great desire and a hunger for the Eucharist there,” he said. The reservations, Wall explained, have a high rate of both infections and deaths from the coronavirus.

The poverty of the reservations complicates the situation, he said.

“For example, on the Navajo Reservation, 30% of the people do not have running water,” he said, and getting water requires a trip into town. This, coupled with weekend-long “lockdowns,” has made basic health practices like frequent handwashing “very difficult.”

Wall added that the pandemic has fostered a “greater love for the Eucharist” among his flock. He

said this was the “one grace” that has come from this time.

“I think this absence of the Eucharist has really created a longing, a hunger, a desire on behalf of our people,” he said. He hopes he will soon be publishing a pastoral letter on the Eucharist.

Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, suggested a national campaign urging Catholics to bring someone with them when returning to Mass, as a means of evangelizing those who might fall away from the faith during the period in which churches have been closed.

Cardinal Sean O’Malley, archbishop of Boston, said his diocese had been hit particularly hard by both the virus and the restrictions that were placed upon churches.

In order to keep the sacraments available to those in most need,

he formed a team of priests who would minister to COVID-19 patients.

These priests, said O’Malley, volunteered to go into the hospitals and were given specialized training and equipment to be as safe as possible. They also lived in isolation.

“Not one of the priests got sick during this time,” said O’Malley. “We’re certainly grateful for the generosity and it was a great consolation for the whole community to know that they have access to the sacraments at the end of their lives.”

O’Malley also praised his priests for their “valor in wanting to serve the sick and the dying.” ■

“I think the absence of the Eucharist has really seated a longing, a hunger, a desire on behalf of people.”

-Bishop Daniel Flores

Belonging to Love...



“Conversations on Living Prayer in the Spirit of Saint Angela”
Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021
6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CST
Online Zoom Program

No charge but donations will be accepted.

Saint Angela Merici invites us to a life of “contemplative presence”—awakening to find God in all things. Join Ursuline Sister Lorraine Lauter as we begin a series on living a life of prayer and action that flows from awareness of God’s abiding presence — featuring story, prayer and open discussion.



PRESENTER: Sister Lorraine Lauter, OSU, Director of Water With Blessings based in Louisville, Ky.



Mount Saint Joseph
 Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
 Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Please register: 270-229-0206
 retreatcenter@maplemount.org
 Online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs>

Diocese releases new policy for displays of priests removed from ministry

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Louanne Payne is the diocese's Pastoral Assistance Coordinator, which means she answers the hotline for callers to report abuse by someone acting in the name of the Church.

Payne explained that when a space is named after someone, or their picture is displayed in a prominent place, "it is a way of honoring that person."

"For obvious reasons, it would trigger a victim/survivor when they see their abuser displayed in such an honorary manner," she told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* on Nov. 10. "For some, simply mentioning the name of their abuser triggers pain. To have them recognized in such an external way could certainly cause more harm to those who have already been deeply hurt."

Payne said that having these public displays, "which quite conceivably can cause harm, is contradictory to the Church's goal of offering hope and healing."

On Sept. 21, 2020, the Diocese of Owensboro's Priests' Council approved a policy for public displays involving priests who have been permanently removed from ministry under the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002.

The policy, which was effective immediately, says that if a picture is displayed in a parish or Catholic school, which depicts a priest who was permanently removed from ministry under the Charter, that pic-

ture must be removed immediately.

The policy also states that if a building, room or other space is named after a priest who was permanently removed from ministry under the Charter, that the space is to be renamed "using the name of a saint chosen by the parish/school" and approved by the bishop.

Furthermore, the policy says that any buildings, rooms and so forth are to be named after saints and the name chosen by the parish/school must be approved by the bishop.

The policy also outlines a guide for when a parish or Catholic school is assembling a history or anniversary booklet. When doing so, the booklet must now be cleared by the bishop.

"All pictures and editorial comments about a priest permanently removed from ministry under the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People will be removed, but the name will be retained as a part of history," states the policy.

Specific cases will be handled by the bishop, the policy explains.

Bishop William F. Medley told the WKC on Nov. 9 that this policy was approved by "consensus by the Priests' Council."

He said some pastors had expressed concerns after someone had noticed displayed photos of priests who had been removed from ministry.

He acknowledged that many of the priests in question, who have been permanently removed from ministry under the Charter, may have accomplished

some good during their time.

"But they fell short of their promise to protect children," said the bishop.

He explained that every parish will be asked to assess photos that are displayed, and every pastor and parish council will need to look at this.

"We're trying to respond with sensitivity to that reality," said the bishop.

Payne said the Catholic Church is "working hard" to recognize the "hurt caused by clergy sexual abuse and offer pastoral outreach to those who have been harmed."

"I believe this is one step Bishop Medley and our local Church is taking to acknowledge that hurt and offer healing to those victim/survivors," she said. "This policy is a visible way in which the Diocese of Owensboro can show it cares and is willing to help those impacted by clergy sexual abuse." ■

The full policy may be accessed at [owensborodiocese.org/diocesan-policies under Administration/Finance](https://www.owensborodiocese.org/diocesan-policies-under-Administration/Finance).

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, call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) at 270-852-8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish) at 270-880-8360. You may also visit the Office of Safe Environment ([owensborodiocese.org/safe](https://www.owensborodiocese.org/safe)) for more information.

Diocesan staff renew ‘holy work of praying for one another’ with submitted prayers

BY MIKE BOGDAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Each year, as part of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Disciples Response Fund annual appeal, people from across the diocese send prayer petitions to the McRaith Catholic Center (the central offices/pastoral center of the diocese). Each day when the mail is sorted, these small cards are not treated in the same way as the bills and catalogs and advertisements which arrive, but with due reverence—gathered and placed in a small wicker basket that sits before the altar in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, in the pastoral center.

The petitions on these cards vary. Some cast a long net: For those “suffering in any way from the pandemic.” Some are narrower in scope: For “members of my extended family who have suffered miscarriages this year.” Some center on an individual: “Especially for Anna.”

Though we don’t know Anna or what her needs are, the members of the pastoral center staff who wander into the chapel for private prayer and to read the petitions in the basket are able to present to God the heartfelt prayers, longings (and often tears) of people in our diocese. These petitions are also lifted up at Eucharist, Morning Prayer, and when the staff does daily prayer online. A broad communion beyond the limitations of physical presence and proximity is entered and honored.

After a year in the chapel, the prayer cards continue to be treated with reverence. This year, on Nov. 2 (All Souls Day), the 101st anniversary of



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Edward Wilson, director of the Archives for the Diocese of Owensboro and the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, prepares to place the stack of prayer cards in the ground next to the tombstone of Fr. Paul Volk in the Ursuline Sisters’ Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Cemetery.

the death of Fr. Paul Volk, (missionary to western Kentucky), prayer cards from last year were buried, planted, sown in the Ursuline Sisters’ Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Cemetery just a few feet from Fr. Volk’s grave.

The sacred ground of the Maple Mount cemetery is a reliquary of sorts. Not only does it contain Fr. Volk’s remains, but also those of Bishop John J. McRaith, many of our diocesan priests, and those of Ursuline Sisters.

Continues on page 15

Submitted prayers continued from page 14

One of these sisters, Sr. Rosina Seldelmeier (d. 1879) was a German immigrant and missionary like Fr. Volk. Speaking no English, her holy work was to cut and gather grass with a scythe for the community's cows. To help cast these chores in the light of benediction, she would often place a crucifix or holy picture on a tree near her. Years after her death, sisters would stumble upon these items, some even grown into the trees.

During these days when nature itself is reminding us of mortality, when we remember those who have "gone before us marked with the sign of faith,"

let's pray for our departed loved ones. Let's ask for their prayers in a communion and solidarity unbroken even by death. Let's renew our holy work of praying for one another. And let's pray for people of our diocese who've asked for prayers for their needs and for their loved ones. Especially for Anna. ■

Special thanks to diocesan archivist and Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph archivist Edward Wilson for help with this article.

Mike Bogdan is the director of the diocese's Office of Music. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/music.

Ferdinand sisters donate to Catholic Charities



In August, Sr. Mary George and Sr. Rose of the Sisters of St. Benedict Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana, supplied a hefty donation of clothing to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

The clothing was in turn distributed to the Owensboro chapter of Girls, Inc., Oasis Women's Shelter in Owensboro, Arc of Owensboro, and other local organizations.

To learn more about Catholic Charities' many ministries, visit owensborodiocese.org/catholic-charities.

COURTESY OF HEIDI REYES '

Heidi Reyes, AmeriCorps VISTA Community Resource Liaison for Catholic Charities, takes a selfie with her sister, Bianca Reyes and brother, Miguelito Reyes, as well as Sr. Mary George and Sr. Rose, after receiving the donation from the Sisters of St. Benedict Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana on Aug. 22, 2020.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Submitted prayer petitions as part of the Diocese of Owensboro's Disciples Response Fund annual appeal are seen in a basket at the foot of the altar in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, in the McRaith Catholic Center.

Neighbors serving neighbors – Halloween style – in Fulton

On Oct. 31, Halloween 2020, St. Edward Parish's Social Outreach Group participated in South Fulton's Unity Park Trunk or Treat event.

The event was a great opportunity to make the Catholic church's presence felt in the community. Deacon Brent and Laura Kimbler, and Tommie and Melinda Briggs treated hundreds of trunk or treaters to candy donated by St. Edward members.

To learn more about St. Edward Parish's Social Outreach Group, contact the parish office by calling (270) 472-2742 or emailing stedward-ky@bellsouth.net. ■



COURTESY OF ST. EDWARD PARISH
(Left to right) Deacon Brent and Laura Kimbler and Melinda Briggs participate in Trunk or Treat at South Fulton's Unity Park on Oct. 31, 2020.



COURTESY OF ST. EDWARD PARISH
St. Edward Parish volunteers wear face coverings while distributing candy to the community on Oct. 31, 2020.

Adjusting for pandemic, MCC continues Halloween tradition with neighbors at Cathedral Preschool



COURTESY OF CATHEDRAL PRESCHOOL
Cathedral Preschool teacher, Bonnie Stuart, distributes prepackaged Halloween treats to students, courtesy of McRaith Catholic Center staff.



COURTESY OF CATHEDRAL PRESCHOOL
Several students of Cathedral Preschool display their candy bags from the McRaith Catholic Center. (Back row) Liz Sims, Olivia Cadiz, Isabelle Holmes, Norm O'Nan. (Front row) Mary Kate Jones, Alice Eh, Samuel Davis, Austin Robbins.

For years, the McRaith Catholic Center in Owensboro has held a trick-or-treat for its little neighbors at Cathedral Preschool around Halloween. Typically, preschool staff lead the costumed children through the MCC's hallways to receive candy from staff waiting outside their offices. Plans changed this year due to the COVID-19 restrictions, but the MCC coordinated with Cathedral Preschool to still celebrate the season.

Thanks to donations from MCC staff, collected by the Catholic Schools Office, Cathedral Preschool was still able to receive their annual Halloween treats. Individual bags were assembled of prepackaged candy, and later distributed to the little ones by preschool staff. ■

Discovered: A Christmas message from the late Bishop John J. McRaith

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

With the birth of our Savior fast approaching, I wanted this month's article to, of course, focus on something Christmas related. On a Zoom staff meeting, Tom Lilly, the chancellor of the Diocese of Owensboro, mentioned that the late Bishop John J. McRaith's birthday was coming up in December. With that in mind, I began to read through the papers of our departed bishop.

December was a month that held great significance for Bishop McRaith. Not only was December his birth month, it was also the month that he was consecrated bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1982. However, even with these joyful celebrations, December also held a hint of sadness, as his father passed away on Christmas Day in 1983. After reading through many of his homilies and correspondences, I came across this message that he shared in his Christmas homily in 2003. I believe his words can resonate with us in our current situation:

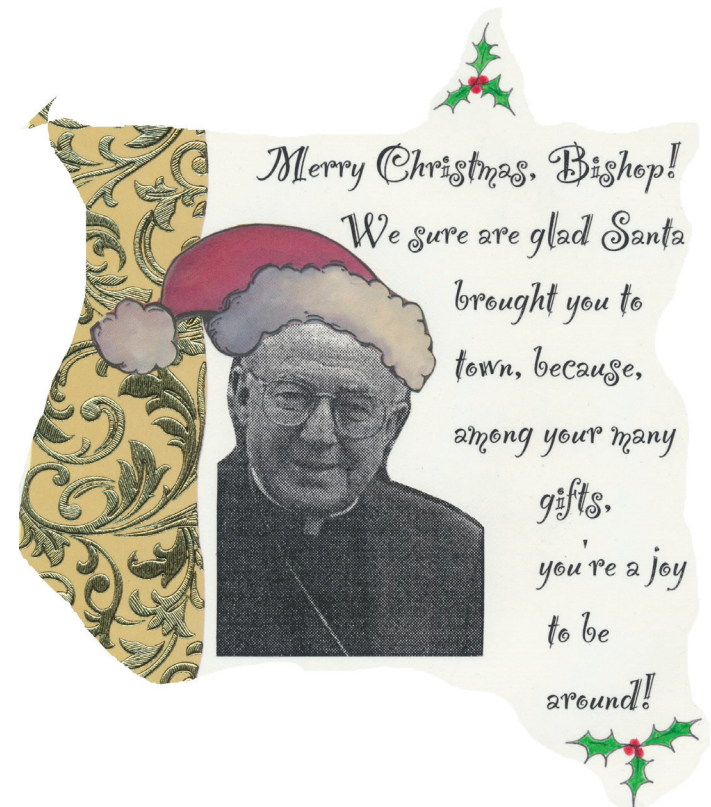
"This Christmas, as we live in the midst of much violence, we are so in need of this Prince of Peace and His message. We are constantly trying to find a way to peace and an end to violence, and we continue to struggle for the lives of the unborn. We continue to have a billion people hungry. We continue to live in a world with many wars going on – people from our own country and other countries are living and dying in the midst of violence. But God gives us a gift

of hope.

"Just look over at the beautiful crib we just blessed – yes, that is the beginning of the story that would end all the violence of this 'culture of death' that our Holy Father has talked about so often. If we could just hear what Jesus tells us, and do as he teaches, we would bring an end to all of this – what a different world we would then be living in. That is the world He came to save; this is the world He came to change.

"The Christ child grew up and gave us the road map for happiness, so now we must decide for ourselves to do what we can to make that happen. It really is not that complicated; it only gets that way when we don't follow the road map that will guide us from now to eternal peace with Him in heaven"

Though this Christmas may not be the most normal we've ever had, Bishop McRaith's words remind us that on the first Christmas, over 2,000 years ago, God gave us "a gift of hope," Christ. That gift of hope will be with us from this Christmas to our very last, and, if we live rightly, for all eternity. Of all his words that I read, one Christmas reflection of Bishop McRaith's has powerfully stuck with me and it is that reflection that I will leave. In 1987, he wrote, "We don't spend enough time in that



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

This image was taken from one of many handmade Christmas cards kept by the bishop and preserved in the Archives. The card was from Christmas 1998.

stable – talking to the child's mother and father – we don't pick the little baby up and hold Him in our arms – so that He might be in our heart." ■

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

Appeal assists elderly sisters, brothers, priests in religious orders

BY BETH KENNEDY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Diocese of Owensboro will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection Dec. 12-13. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) coordinates this annual appeal and distributes the proceeds to assist eligible U.S. religious communities with their retirement needs. Nearly 30,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests benefit.

Last year, the Diocese of Owensboro donated \$29,922.69 to the collection. In 2020, the Home Mission Sisters of America received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

“The generosity of U.S. Catholics enables us to continue our ministry for aging women and men religious,” said Presentation Sister Stephanie Still, the NRRO’s executive director. “We are overwhelmed with gratitude.”

In 1988, Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious collection to help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious congregations. Each congregation is responsible for the care and support of its members. Financial distributions from the collection are sent to a congregation’s central house and may be applied toward immediate expenses—such as medications or nursing care—or invested for future

eldercare needs.

Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for little to no pay. Today, many religious communities lack sufficient retirement savings. Of 531 communities providing data to the NRRO, only 29 are adequately funded for retirement. Rising health-care costs and a growing number of senior members compound the challenge to meet retirement expenses.

The 2019 collection raised \$26.2 million, and in June, the NRRO disbursed \$25 million in financial assistance to 341 religious communities. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated for resources and

services that help communities improve eldercare delivery and plan for long-term retirement needs. For example, a new online webinar offers professional guidance on adapting care protocols to address issues arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

“During these trying times, we know the best way to support senior religious is to continue helping their communities address retirement and eldercare challenges,” said Sr. Still. “Our grateful prayer is with all whose love and generosity sustain this mission.” ■

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more or contact Beth Kennedy at (919) 414-4007 or bethkennedy@retiredreligious.org.

“Our grateful prayer is with all whose love and generosity sustain this mission.”

- Sr. Stephanie Sill

Q&A Tribunal Explains

Am I able to start a declaration of invalidity (annulment) during this pandemic?

Yes. You may begin your case in the usual manner by contacting a priest, deacon, or lay advocate in your parish; however, you will be required to follow CDC guidelines of wearing a facemask, social distancing and using hand sanitizer during your meetings. It may also be an option to meet virtually if you prefer. Check with your advocate about this possibility.

The Tribunal encourages you to take advantage of this healing ministry during this difficult and trying time in our lives.

The Office of the Diocesan Tribunal is a ministry designed to help individuals in the healing process by seeking clarification with regard to their marriage. If you have questions, please contact the Tribunal at 270-683-1545 or tribunal@pastoral.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2020 BULLETIN BOARD

Please note: The following program dates are subject to change or cancellation due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

"Praying with Mary Through Advent" online Dec. 5

Join us as we contemplate Mary's pregnancy with Jesus and our own spiritual journeys – honoring both through the stages of struggle and celebration. This online retreat will take place on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., offered by the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount. The class will be led by Rebekah Wagner of Owensboro, a chaplain and spiritual director who has a passion for companioning others who seek to live an integrated life. The fee for this online Zoom class is \$25. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or register online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/>

Ascension Press study of Catholic Church history at Blessed Mother in Owensboro

Learn how Catholicism shaped the Western world. Pivotal events, popes, saints and a deeper understanding that the Holy Spirit is with the Church and continues to guide the Church. Starts Jan. 7, 2021; 20 sessions. Thursdays 10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Books are \$30, including online viewing of DVD sessions. Sign up by Dec. 7, 2020. Call the office (270) 683-8444, ext. 24.

FDLC announces the Miguel Arias Scholarship

The Miguel Arias Scholarship is named for Miguel Arias (1972-2012), a pioneer in the liturgical formation of Spanish-speaking immigrants in the Catholic Church in the United States. Miguel's love for the liturgy was reflected in his dedication to studying it, his passion in teaching it, and in his joyous way of relating to everyone around him. The Miguel Arias Scholarship will provide annual grants to Spanish-speaking individuals with the hope that they will minister to the faithful in Spanish-speaking communities in the United States. Students may be enrolled in diocesan or academic programs. Applications are accepted from February 1 to March 31 each year. Applications are accompanied by a sponsor testimony. These sponsors will mentor the students through their course of studies. The Miguel Arias Scholarship is funded by Liturgy Training Publications. The grants will be administered by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commis-

sions. For complete details and applications forms, please visit www.fdlc.org/arias-scholarship or www.ltp.org/ariasscholarship.

The Permanent Diaconate Class of 2026

Announcing the next formation class for the permanent diaconate: We will be accepting applications for the permanent diaconate beginning now through March 2021. Please see owensborodiocese.org/permanent-diaconate for the application and further material.

A Scout is Reverent

A reminder to Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts, Trail Life and other youth program participants: The Annual Religious Emblems Mass is scheduled for Sunday, March 14, 2021. Please see owensborodiocese.org/scouting for details.

Marital satisfaction survey seeking participants

We are seeking individuals who are married to participate in a study that will investigate the relationship among marital satisfaction, political ideology, and life meaning. This study will involve answering questions posted on-line and should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Your participation in this study will help guide future research, the development of effective couples counseling interventions, as well as add to the public discourse related to political preferences. Additionally, the research will help guide the education of counselor trainees enrolled in the Department of Counseling and Student Affairs at Western Kentucky University. Participants may enter a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card. To begin the online survey, please go to the link: https://wku.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5dxqmlFFOd67nD

Bilingual Pastoral Associate

The Glenmary Home Missioners and Holy Family Catholic Church in Lafayette, TN seek a Pastoral Associate to collaborate with the Pastor in providing leadership and youth/young adult ministry in Lafayette, TN. Responsibilities include ministry to youth (ages 12 – 18) and young adults (ages 18 – 35), faith formation, RCIA and evangelization. Previous rural parish ministry experience would be beneficial. Bachelor's required. Masters preferred. Fluency in English and Spanish is required. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Email your resume to Lorraine Vancamp at lvancamp@glenmary.org.



Crossing the Threshold of Faith into 2021

Friday, Jan. 8

Online 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join us for a day of soulful and creative reflection to enter into the New Year, honoring our joys and intentions. Participants can reflect on what needs to be left behind from 2020 and what dreams need to be born in 2021. **Presenter:** Maryann Joyce, director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center.

Fee is \$25. To register: 270-229-0206

retreatcenter@maplemount.org

ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY



Ways to Give to the Disciples Response Fund

Online: owensborodiocese.org/give

Text: "Give" to 270-200-5919

Mail: Checks to 600 Locust Street,
Owensboro, KY 42301

‘Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...’

How the saints pray for us and how we can follow their example



PIXABAY
A cross by the roadside.

BY DEBORAH HOPKINS, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Next time that you travel a county road or a highway, take notice of the crosses. You know the ones, the roadside memorials. Every cross represents a life that was lost, lost very near that spot where the cross was erected. Someone wanted that life lost to be remembered, to keep a reminder of that life visible to all who passed by. It’s a tender tribute, even melancholy, in its quiet way of remembering. As long as we remember, and others remember those we have loved and have lost, they are still real for us, alive for us.

A person of Christian faith also remembers another life when we see the cross by the side of the road. We remember Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus had spent his 33 years on earth, ministering, teaching, healing, and then, finally arrested, tortured, and executed for who he was. Then, he rose himself from

death, spent weeks after that appearing to many, and yet, even after that... if no one remembered beyond that generation, what would we know of him now? By Divine Providence, however, that was not to be.

People, real people not so different from ourselves, did take notice, did remember. Real, original, yet wholly unique people did remember, and acted on those memories. Not pious characters in fairy tales and legends, but real people. We call them saints. So... who are “the saints”? Where did this concept of even proclaiming someone as a “saint” even come from?

In the broad sense, all who now enjoy the presence of God in what we call Heaven, are saints. Every person, every one of us, is called to be one of this multitude, the billions of souls that have passed through this world. In a more restricted sense, a saint is a person, who by heroic virtue and noticeable witness to God has been officially recognized by the Catholic Church, and put on a list called the Canon of Saints. In simple terms, it is a sort of heavenly Hall of Fame. It is recognition of heroic and yet, ordinary people, who lived in extraordinary ways for the sake of their Faith. Catholics believe that these souls are now with God, and are still very much alive with their Creator, and all the other “saints,” not only those whose names we remember, but also the multitude of those who died and are long since forgotten by all but the Divine, and their loved ones who are with them.

The word “saint” is derived from the Latin, *sancti* or *sanctus* – “one who is holy.” The early Chris-

tians called their brothers and sisters who died in the grace of Christ, saints. In the latter part of the First Century, as the Roman Empire began vigorous religious persecution of Christians, those who were slain for their Faith came to be called martyrs, from the Greek, *martyrion*, meaning “witness.” A way to honor those martyrs was to visit the places where they died or were buried, much as we visit military battle sites and cemeteries. Soon, the anniversary of the death of a martyr was remembered by a liturgy held at the burial or execution site. After the persecutions finally ended, the veneration of the martyrs vigorously continued. This was a practice of everyday people, a grassroots movement, and was not imposed by religious authority. People of faith came to these sites and prayed for strength and asked the martyrs to pray for them and with them. You might guess what happened as a result of this “devotion” to the remembering of these holy people. Shrines, and eventually, great churches were built.

Think of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the great church in Rome on the site of Paul’s beheading, and St. Peter’s Basilica, the largest church on earth, built on the very bones of Peter. “The blood shed by the martyrs is the seed from which the Church will grow,” were the words of Tertullian, the North African churchman, in about 200 A.D.

The growing list of names were added to the canon, and by 600 A.D., Pope Gregory the Great initiated a liturgical calendar with feast days in honor of saints, on or near the anniversary of their deaths. These lives were not forgotten. They were remem-

Continues on page 21

A season of waiting, but be intentional!



FILE PHOTO
Dr. Jeff Andrini

BY DR. JEFF
ANDRINI, OFFICE
OF EVANGELIZA-
TION AND DISCI-
PLESHIP

What do Evangelization and Advent have in common? They both include waiting.

St. Monica, like many parents over the years, waited for her son to become a follower of Jesus. She waited through his young adult years until Augustine was 33. In the midst of waiting for our kids to come around, it can feel like an eternity. St. Monica, pray for us!

Advent is a beautiful season in the Church year where we set aside four weeks for preparation as we await the celebration of the Incarnation of God into the human race. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Be intentional this Advent and set aside time to pray and reflect each day of Advent. As you wait for the celebration of Christmas in this way,

your preparation will allow you to experience the full meaning of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection in your life!

Evangelization includes waiting too. We have been talking about its importance in the Church for over 50 years! On Dec. 8, 1975 Pope Paul VI issued an encyclical letter titled, "Evangelii Nuntiandi" where he said, "Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize." Every pope since has reiterated his words with greater urgency. And we still wait to see this mission and vision become the core of our lives as Catholics.

As a diocese, we too have been waiting... for our four-year process titled Living as Missionary Disciples to transform each of us and our parishes. On Dec. 1, we are participating in our fourth and final annual event. The theme is Send and it will be held via Zoom. All 78 parishes have been encouraged to participate. This final event focuses on the reality that each member of the Church is to live their life rooted in an intimate relationship with God. As each disciple is transformed by God's love, we are

Sent out to share it with the world.

The speaker, Marcel LeJeune, founder of catholicmissionarydisciples.com, will reiterate the importance of encountering God in our daily lives, accompanying others, building dynamic parish communities where people are welcomed and encouraged to grow in faith. Finally, he will present the essential mission, to send people out from the Church to share the Good News of Jesus with the world.

We wait to understand new words. We wait to see if negative trends in church membership slow. We wait for others to step up and lead. We wait for our priest to tell us what we need to do. Waiting is part of life. But we cannot wait forever. We must be intentional about changing unhealthy and unproductive realities in our Church. It is up to all of us! So pray with us for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit and new systems and structures to help us all live the mission of Jesus as a Church. ■

Peace in Christ, Jeff

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. Please send comments to jeff.andrini@pastoral.org.

Cloud of witnesses continued from page 20

bered, and the canon is added to, to this very day. There were more Christian martyrs in the 20th century than in all past centuries combined. At a time when we seem to have fewer heroes among us, at least that we know of, we still know greatness when we see it ourselves, up close. There is an innate human desire to identify with greatness. This is part of the basic rationale for devotion to the saints. They embody for us the challenges to our Faith, in our own time and place. They are alive with God, and they praise God with their prayers for us. Whether they are saints officially canonized or not, they remember us in the presence of God.

When you see the crosses by the side of the road, remember the lives those crosses represent. Catholics have a prayer for this, and as we pass a cemetery or a roadside memorial, it is good to pray, "Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and all the souls, of the faithful departed, rest in peace." Remembering is central to the Christian tradition, and to the human one. We are, indeed, "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..." (Letter to the Hebrews 12:1) ■

Deborah Hopkins is the director of religious education at St. Martin Parish in Rome.

December Wedding Anniversaries

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

Please send any anniversary updates or corrections to Charlotte Hedges, Office of Marriage & Family Life, at charlotte.hedges@pastoral.org.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Thomas & Lois Wedding, 58
Ron & Greta Beals, 65
Louis & Mae Hoskins, 51
Mark & Jan Hubbs, 52
Charles & Susan Green, 40

Christ the King, Madisonville

Bob & Floy Daugherty, 67
James & Debbie Allen, 51
Sherrell & Jeannie Calhoun, 62

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Robert & Beverly Trammel, 40

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Allen & Terri Allen, 52
Billy & Brandi Brown, 10
Daniel & Lynn Dekemper, 50
Herbert & Mary Gold, 51
Lucio & Ramona Hernandez, 53
Michael & Jennifer Hobgood, 25
Forrest & Mary Meuth, 59
Robert & Betty Pritchett, 65
Clyde, Jr. & Janice Sutton, 58

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

John & Mary Anne Reiss, 57
Larry & Anita Willoughby, 57
H. Leon & Jane Brasher, 55
William & Sharon McKay, 56
Allen & Judy Freeland, 52
Frank & Carol Kersting, 51

Chris & Mary Ellen Krohn, 40
John & Deborah Olson, 40
Timothy & Claire Hammond, 25
Nung Thang & Hau Dim, 10
Eric & Tonja Tuttle, 5

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Ken & Rosemary Porter, 60

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Jerry & Linda Atwood, 54
Ellis & Sharon Russelburg, 54

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Frederic & Beverly Bosley, 50
James & Diane Hunter, 52
James & Linda Warren, 53
John K. & Kay Steele, 59
Daniel & Dolores Fickas, 51

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Kenneth & Vicki Ramage, 40
Carl & Brenda Millay, 52
Otis & Judy Hicks, 57
Paul E. & Donna Munsey, 53

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Jerry & Ellen Blanford, 63
Jesse & Theresa Lowe, 57

Resurrection, Dawson Springs

Joe & Mazie Mastromarino, 68

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Erasmus & Gloria Gomez, 58
Michael & Linda Slaughter, 53

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Mike & Marilyn Fenwick, 51
Mike & Linda Williamson, 50

Brian & Susan Clements, 25

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Kenny & Linda Gough, 53
Alvin & Betty Lou Borup, 62
Eddie & Sharon Willett, 40
Jerry & Carole Gough, 60
George & Martha Greenwell, 67

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Chris & Joyce Kormelink, 57

St. Ann, Morganfield

Justin & Wilma Jean Wolfe, 57
John F. & Madonna Wyatt, 61
Larry & Gail Brown, 60

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Ron & Janice Tindall, 53

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Leon & Mary Hill, 53

St. Charles, Bardwell

Gene & Barbara Nelson, 50
James & Sue McIntyre, 54
Daniel & Wanda Hayden, 56

St. Charles, Livermore

George & Carol Rhodes, 55

St. Columba, Lewisport

Anthony & Margaret Hall, 53
Robert & Patty Durbin, 54

St. Edward, Fulton

Don & Rachel Cox, 67

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Glenn & Patty Campbell, 52
Danny & Patsy Clemons, 52

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Dennis & Terri Moman, 40

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Caleb & Kelli King, 10
David & Edith Keeney, 61
Jerry & Diane Perry, 52
Keith & Tonya Wetherington, 25

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Kevin & Miranda Bouland, 10
Bruce & Linda Sue Turner, 51
Donnie & Elizabeth Nelson, 53
Laddie & Judy Thomas, 55
Joseph W. & Ruth Ann Higdon, 65
Dennis & Peggy Tharp, 53

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Ray & Peggy Montgomery, 50

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Donald & Karol Richards, 50

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

James & Bethany Sutton, 25
William & Linda Nesbitt, 50
Jim & Phyllis Huggins, 53
Joanne & William Powell, 61
John & Rita Riley, 57

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

David & Monica Riley, 40

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Matthew & Amanda Kimbler, 10

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James & Marie Brandle, 53
Jerry & Shirley Powers, 58

St. Mary, LaCenter

Clyde & Mary Kay Riepe, 53
David & Gladys Fraser, 61
King & Cecilia Moss, 50
Butch & Manie Rainer, 56

Continues on page 23

ANNIVERSARIES

Continued from page 22

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Louis & Elaine Hinton, 52

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Bobby & Linda Helm, 55

David & Judy Connor, 56

Bud & Mildred Boarman, 76

Ivo & Martha Burch, 52

Jerry & Berdelle Howard, 52

Ronnie & Patsy Mayfield, 53

Charles & Linda Payne, 58

Raymond & Emma whistle, 68

Norbert & Brenda Howard, 50

St. Michael, Sebree

Darryl & Carmen Periard, 56

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Lionel & Sue McElroy, 68

Joseph A. & Marcia A. Schmitt, 51

St. Paul, Princeton

James & Linda Herbek, 53

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Thomas & Janice Conrey, 51

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Pat & Janet O'Reilly, 40

Don & Sue Ford, 56

Paul & Anne O'Reilly, 55

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

David & Betty Abrams, 61

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Raymond & Roberta Ward, 62

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Garry & Ann Pierce, 52

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Chris & Shelly Bell, 10

James & Priscilla Hollowell, 53

St. William, Knottsville

Joshua & Sarah Michaels, 20

David & Julie Mills, 40

Paul & Brenda Clemons, 56

St. William of Vercelli, Marion

Donnie & Jeanette Phillips, 53

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Eric & Collette, Humphrey, 5

Jeremy & Lauren Mahoney, 5

Ralph & Michele Blair, 25

Jim & Jenny Wilson, 50

Ron & Grace Payne, 51

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Bill & Linda Harkins, 62

Trinidad & Maria Soriano, 51

Just Need to Talk?



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

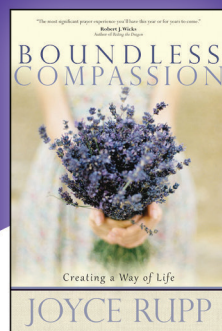
For a list of counselors ready to speak to you, visit

owensborodiocese.org/counseling.

Confidentiality assured.



Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO



Living a Life of Boundless Compassion

This retreat is inspired by the book *Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life* by well-known author Joyce Rupp. The retreat will feature presentations, quiet reflection, small group breakout sessions, media resources, and communal prayer to explore compassion.

January 29-30, 2021 • Online Retreat

The retreat will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday and end at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Fee: \$60 online via Zoom

PRESENTER: Sister Mary Dean Pfahler is a Sister of Notre Dame and a certified Boundless Compassion facilitator. She delights in finding the Holy One "at work in all things" through spiritual direction.



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

To register, call 270-229-0206

Email retreatcenter@maplemount.org

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

Holy Spirit parishioner ‘trusting in the Lord’ as he experiences first year of seminary



COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER FRENCH

(Left) Christopher French during an April 2019 visit to the Grand Canyon with his sister, Megan, and their parents, Ginny and Jack French. (Right) Christopher French (altar server's alb) with his friends Annemarie Knutson and Nick Malmquist at Holy Spirit Parish's 2019 Christmas Eve Mass.



BY CHRISTOPHER FRENCH, SPECIAL TO
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

At a young age, I saw the priesthood as a possible path I could take in life but being so young, the priesthood felt the same as any other cool occupation like being an astronaut or firefighter. It wasn't until my sophomore year of high school, after attending NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) and meeting many religious, did I understand

what living one's vocation really meant.

Of course, like any reasonable teenager, this newfound understanding was pushed aside as I decided to go to college and major in electrical engineering. It didn't take long for God to show me that my desire was not in engineering, but in a life devoted wholly to Him. After some reflection on this epiphany, I asked my favorite saint, St. Christopher, to intercede for me and be a guide for me on this path of discern-

ment.

Around the end of my first semester as a college freshman, I decided to contact my diocese's vocations director, Fr. Jason McClure, who helped me greatly in starting this journey. My decision to discern Holy Orders felt, at the time, as if I was making a hasty decision, but once I started the application process and entered the seminary I realized that this call had been weighing on my heart for a long time.

Continues on page 25

Christopher French continued from page 24

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,” Proverbs 3:5, has become somewhat of a motto for me. This verse helped my early and current discernment and reminds me of the simple fact to trust in the Lord.

This was especially true when I first started the seminary application process. The application process itself was grueling but also exciting I learned a lot about myself, what it would mean to be a priest, and what it means to discern one's vocation. Now I am at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, about to complete my first semester here as a sophomore for the Diocese of Owensboro and I can say with confidence that my experience has exceeded my wildest expectations.


Since coming here I was surprised to find that living in community is one of my favorite things. I firmly believe that the friendships you make here are life-long. Living in community is also one of the most challenging things for me not that my brother seminarians are awful, but because it is a change from what I am used to, just living with my family. I am glad to be at Bruté joyfully discerning, what I hope will be, my vocation. ■

Christopher French is a sophomore at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana.




COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER FRENCH
Christopher French with Fr. Timothy Khui Shing Ling during a May 29, 2018 farewell party at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, two days before the priest returned to minister in his native country of Myanmar, also known as Burma.

Contact the Office of Vocations

 (270) 683-1545

 owensborovocations.com

 jason.mcclure@pastoral.org
fred.litke@pastoral.org

 [instagram.com/owensborovocations](https://www.instagram.com/owensborovocations)

 [Facebook.com/owensborovocations](https://www.facebook.com/owensborovocations)

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

Fr. Babu Kulathumkal | Ordained 12/18/1996
Pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Peonia; St. Augustine Parish, Reed; and St. Benedict Parish, Wax

Fr. John Paul Mang | Ordained 12/11/2001
Parochial Vicar of St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Jegin Puthenpurackal, HGN | Ordained 12/27/2004
Pastor of St. Sebastian Parish, Calhoun; and St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Livermore

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Noche de paz y alegría para el corazón

Campana navideña, de dulce y claro son tu canto jubiloso alegra el corazón; anuncias con tus voces heraldos de cristal, alégrese las almas, ¡llegó la Navidad!

Noche de paz, noche de amor,
 Todo duerme en derredor,
 Entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
 Bella anunciando al niño Jesús,
 Brilla la estrella de paz,
 brilla la estrella de paz.

“Noche de Paz” y “Campana Navideña” son unos villancicos muy populares. (Por supuesto, Adeste fideles o Venid que adoremos es seguramente muy popular también). Curiosamente, estos dos villancicos nos tocan de maneras sorprendentemente diferentes. Noche de Paz nos recuerda una noche serena en el pueblo de Belén, y a menudo se canta casi en un susurro. Por el contrario, Campana Navideña, es un canto triunfante y conmovedor y muchas veces se canta con ánimo en las Posadas. Incluso el "no cantante" más decidido parece atraído por estos dos cantos y por lo menos tararea, aunque apelen a sentimientos contrastantes.

Casi sin excepción, ambos villancicos se cantan en las Posadas o en las celebraciones de Nochebuena y Navidad. Esto tiene mucho sentido. La adoración y el canto deben atraernos hacia sentimientos particulares y la Navidad, como ocurre con la mayoría de las fiestas y celebraciones importantes, invoca correcta-

mente múltiples matices y énfasis.

Noche de paz, se nos dice, fue escrita por Joseph Mohr, un sacerdote, en la víspera de Navidad cuando se rompió el órgano de su iglesia. Fue escrito para acompañamiento de guitarra.

A medida que se acerca la Navidad de este 2020, la mayoría de nosotros no estamos seguros de lo que traerá exactamente la festividad. ¿Podremos reunirnos con familiares y amigos? ¿Viajaremos o viajarán otros para estar con nosotros? Si nadie viene a nuestras casas, ¿de verdad pasamos horas decorando la casa como de costumbre? ¿Supongamos que vuelve a haber escasez en las tiendas de comestibles? Imagínesse si no pudiéramos preparar galletas y dulces. Este año no podemos reunirnos con varias familias para las Posadas en distintas casas. Si podemos ir a Misa de Navidad, ¿no habrá coro? Para algunas personas la Navidad es la única época del año que cantan en la Misa porque conocen y les gustan los villancicos. ¿Supongamos que no podemos cantar?

Así que la Navidad de este 2020 podría ser realmente memorable, y no por todas las buenas razones que las Navidades del pasado han sido memorables debido a los regalos especiales, las personas especiales y los lugares especiales.

Los cristianos han estado observando y recordando el nacimiento de Jesús durante más de 2000 años. Sabemos esto por la prominencia de las historias de Navidad en los Evangelios de Mateo y Lucas. La Navidad no se ha olvidado en tiempos de guerras, hambrunas y plagas a escala mundial. La Navidad

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY DICIEMBRE DE 2020:

El siguiente calendario es tentativo debido a la incertidumbre sobre la duración de la pandemia del COVID-19.

1 DE DIC.	Evento virtual Viviendo como discípulos misioneros
2-3 DE DIC.	Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de KY y de los Obispos de la Provincia - Louisville
9 DE DIC.	9 a.m. Misa Escolar - Escuela Católica Mary Carrico, Knottsville
12 DE DIC.	4:30 pm Misa por el 50 aniversario de la parroquia del Espíritu Santo - Parroquia Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green
13 DE DIC.	9:30 am Admisión a la candidatura a las órdenes sagradas - Parroquia de San Juan Evangelista, Paducah
17 DE DIC.	3 pm Reunión virtual con los sacerdotes
20 DE DIC.	9 am Admisión a la candidatura a las órdenes sagradas - Parroquia Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green
21 DE DIC.	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal - Centro Católico McRaith & Virtual

no se ha olvidado en años en los que las familias han experimentado la ausencia o pérdida de seres queridos.

Tal vez su Navidad no sea tan diferente en este

Continúa en la página 27

Continuado de la página 26

2020. Pero la de muchos otros sí será distinta.

Cualquiera que sea el caso, espero que la historia del Evangelio sobre el nacimiento de Jesús encuentre un lugar en su corazón y en su hogar. Y espero que el anhelo de que "brilla la estrella de paz" los consuele. Y "alégrense las almas, ¡llegó la Navidad!"■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

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) para obtener más información.

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 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

La comunidad lamenta la pérdida, pero celebra la vida de la Hermana Panchita

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

La Hna. Fran Wilhelm, OSU, también conocida como Hermana Panchita, murió el 5 de noviembre de 2020, en su 73 año de vida religiosa. Ella tenía 91 años.

En 1992, la Hermana Panchita comenzó a trabajar en el ministerio hispano en la Diócesis de Owensboro y al año siguiente fundó Centro Latino, un centro de recursos para hispanos, en Stanley. Se mudó el Centro Latino a Owensboro en 2000, un ministerio que continuó hasta 2018.

Antes de la Hermana Panchita, “no había representación para los hispanos” en la región, dijo Susan Montalvo-Gesser, directora de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro, y quien es hispana.

“Ella fue fundamental para empujarnos a todos a desarrollar nuestro potencial”, dijo Susan, quien de joven había sido alentada por la Hermana Panchita para que estudiara derecho, lo cual hizo.



FOTO DE ARCHIVO

La Hermana Panchita se encuentra frente al Centro Latino en esta foto sin fecha.

Al describir a la Hermana Panchita como una "chispa" para encender el ministerio local y dedicado para los hispanos, Susan dijo que las familias recién llegadas al condado de Daviess fueron dirigidas por "boca a boca" al Centro Latino.

“Fue la forma en que te recibieron en la comunidad”, dijo Susan.

Heidi Reyes, el puente de recursos comunitarios de AmeriCorps VISTA para Caridades Católicas, dijo que conoció a la Hermana Panchita a los cinco o seis años.

La Hermana Panchita era conocida por organizar la presentación de bailes tradicionales mexicanos en eventos, incluido el Festival Multicultural en Owensboro. La familia de Heidi, que es mexicana, participaría en los bailes, incluso Heidi, de seis años. (Ella

todavía participa en los bailes hasta el día de hoy).

“Éramos muy allegados a la Hermana Panchita”, dijo Heidi.

A medida que la Hermana Panchita envejecía, la familia de Heidi ayudaba donde podía: su madre una vez lavaba las cortinas en el Centro Latino y su padre cambiaba los focos, y en ocasiones incluso le traía a la hermana su sopa favorita de Olive Garden.

“Era como nuestra abuela aquí en Estados Unidos”, dijo Heidi.

Ofelia Villegas, feligrés de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, le da crédito a la Hermana Panchita por involucrarla en el coro que canta en las Misas en español.

Cuando Ofelia se mudó por primera vez a Ow-

Continúa en la página 29

Continuado de la página 28

ensboro desde Texas, se sentía triste y extrañaba su hogar.

Luego, la "dulce, dulce" Hermana Panchita la invitó a unirse al coro en español, dijo Ofelia al Católico de Kentucky Occidental.

“Dije hermana, ¡no puedo cantar! Me pongo muy nerviosa”, dijo Villegas. “Ella dijo: 'No, vete. Vete al coro. Vete al coro'”.

Con frecuencia se bromeaba diciendo que nadie podía decir "no" a la Hermana Panchita, y esto le sonó cierto a Ofelia.

Después del insistente ánimo de la Hermana Panchita para unirse al coro, Ofelia dijo: “Lo hice. Empecé a cantar en el coro”, y lo demás ya se sabe.

Incluso cuando la Hermana Panchita se retiró del Centro Latino y regresó a la casa madre de las Ursulinas en Maple Mount, Ofelia la visitaría cuando podía.

“Me siento feliz de tener muchos recuerdos de ella”, dijo Ofelia, aunque agregó que “es difícil para mí porque se ha ido”.

Dijo que agradece a Dios todos los días por poner a la Hermana Panchita en su vida.

“No tengo hermanas, ella era mi hermana mayor”, dijo Villegas. ■



CORTESÍA DE LOS ARCHIVOS DEL MONTE SAN JOSÉ
La Hermana Panchita con un niño en esta foto sin fecha.



FOTO DE ARCHIVO
La Hermana Panchita con su compañera Hermana Ursulina, la Hna. Lorraine Lauter, en el 20 aniversario del Centro Latino el 16 de noviembre de 2013.

El feligrés del Espíritu Santo 'confiando en el Señor' mientras experimenta el primer año de seminario

POR CHRISTOPHER FRENCH, ESPECIAL PARA EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

A una edad temprana, vi el sacerdocio como un posible camino que podría tomar en la vida, pero

siendo tan joven, el sacerdocio se sentía igual que cualquier otra profesión genial como ser astronauta o bombero. No fue hasta mi segundo año de la escuela preparatoria, después de asistir a NCYC (Conferencia Nacional Católica para Adolescentes)

y conocer a muchos religiosos, que entendí lo que realmente significaba vivir la vocación.

“Confía en el Señor y de todo corazón”, Proverbios 3, 5, se ha convertido en una especie de lema para mí. Este versículo ayudó a mi discernimiento

Continúa en la página 30

El personal diocesano renueva la 'obra santa de orar unos por otros' con oraciones enviadas



CORTESÍA DEL MONTE SAN JOSÉ

Edward Wilson, director de los Archivos de la Diócesis de Owensboro y las Hermanas Ursulinas del Monte San José, se prepara para colocar la pila de tarjetas de oración en el suelo junto a la lápida del P. Paul Volk en el cementerio de la Casa Madre del Monte San José de las Hermanas Ursulinas.

POR MIKE BOGDAN, ESPECIAL PARA EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Cada año, como parte de la colecta anual Respuesta de los Discípulos de la Diócesis de Owensboro, personas de toda la diócesis envían peticiones de oración al Centro Católico McRaith (las oficinas centrales/centro pastoral de la diócesis). Todos los días, cuando se clasifica el correo, estas pequeñas tarjetas no se tratan de la misma manera que las facturas, los catálogos y los anuncios que llegan, sino con la debida reverencia, son reunidas y colocadas en una pequeña canasta de mimbre que se encuentra ante el altar de la Capilla de la Santísima Virgen María, Madre de la Iglesia, en el centro pastoral.

Después de un año en la capilla, las tarjetas de oración continúan siendo tratadas con reverencia. Este año, el 2 de noviembre (Día de Todos los Fieles Difuntos), el 101 aniversario de la muerte del P. Paul Volk, (misionero en el oeste de Kentucky), las tarjetas de oración del año pasado fueron enterradas, plantadas y sembradas en el cementerio de la Casa Madre en Monte San José de las Hermanas Ursulinas, a solo unos metros de la sepultura del P. Volk. ■

Continuado de la página 29

temprano y actual y me recuerda el simple hecho de confiar en el Señor.

Ahora estoy en el Seminario Universitario llamado Obispo Simon Bruté en Indianápolis, a punto de completar mi primer semestre aquí como estudiante de segundo año para la Diócesis de Owensboro y puedo decir con confianza que mi experiencia ha superado mis mejores expectativas.

Desde que vine aquí, me sorprendió descubrir que vivir en comunidad es una de mis cosas favoritas. Creo firmemente que las amistades que se hacen aquí son para toda la vida. Vivir en comunidad tam-

bién es una de las cosas más desafiantes para mí, no porque mis hermanos seminaristas sean horribles, sino porque es un cambio a lo que estoy acostumbrado, simplemente vivir con mi familia. Estoy feliz de estar en Bruté discerniendo con alegría lo que espero sea mi vocación. ■

CORTESÍA DE CHRISTOPHER FRENCH

Christopher French con el P. Timothy Khui Shing Ling durante una fiesta de despedida el 29 de mayo de 2018 en la Parroquia Espíritu Santo en Bowling Green, dos días antes de que el sacerdote regresara para servir en su país natal de Myanmar, también conocido como Birmania.



Comiendo sano para el nuevo año

En Diciembre el Programa de Educación Nutricional del Servicio de Extensión de la Cooperativa de la Universidad de Kentucky presenta el Calendario de Alimentos y Nutrición 2021 que contiene doce deliciosas recetas e información útil para ayudarlo a mantenerse saludable durante el año. Puede obtener una copia del calendario a través de su oficina local del Servicio de Extensión del condado en que reside en el estado de Kentucky. Algunas de las características que encontrará dentro del calendario son la tabla de mediciones y sustituciones, la guía de tamaño de porción, la tabla de "Kentucky Proud", además una lista de alimentos básicos para la despensa y una tabla de actividades físicas para quemar calorías. Cada receta mensual cuenta con una imagen de receta a color con consejos sobre cómo hacer de ella una comida, enfoque de ingredientes y consejos de actividad física para mantenerse activo. Ofrecemos el calendario en inglés y español, comuníquese con su oficina local para asegurarse de que los calendarios han llegado y están disponibles para su distribución. Comuníquese con su oficina de extensión local para registrarse en clases gratuitas de nutrición. Visite [www.planeat-](http://www.planeat-move.com)

[move.com](http://www.planeat-move.com) para recetas y <https://www.facebook.com/KYNEP> para obtener información semanal y presentaciones virtuales.

Los programas educativos de Kentucky Cooperative Extension atienden a todas las personas independientemente de su estatus económico o social y no discriminan por motivos de raza, color, origen étnico, origen nacional, credo, religión, creencia política, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad de género, expresión de género, embarazo, estado civil, información genética, edad, estado de veterano o discapacidad física o mental. Universidad de Kentucky, Universidad Estatal de Kentucky, Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, y condados de la Cooperativa de Kentucky. ■

Myrna Vázquez es la Asistente del Programa de Educación Nutricional de SNAP-Ed del Servicio de Extensión de la Cooperativa de la Universidad de Kentucky del condado de Calloway y pueden comunicarse por correo electrónico Myrna.Vazquez@uky.edu o por www.facebook.com/CallowayNEP/. Myrna Vázquez es miembro de la Parroquia de San Leo, Murray.

Solicitud de Beca Miguel Arias

Beca Miguel Arias La Beca Miguel Arias brinda oportunidades para que los hispanoparlantes estudien liturgia. Lleva el nombre de quien fuera un pionero en la formación litúrgica entre los migrantes católicos de habla hispana de los Estados Unidos. El amor de Miguel por la liturgia se reflejaba en su dedicación a estudiarla, su pasión por enseñarla y su manera alegre de relacionarse con todos los que lo rodeaban. La Beca Miguel Arias proveerá subvenciones anuales a los hispanohablantes que estudien liturgia y quieran servir mejor a las comunidades de habla hispana en los Estados Unidos.

Las solicitudes se recibirán del 1 de febrero al 31 de marzo de cada año. Las asignaciones serán revisadas por un comité y anunciadas antes del 1 de mayo: <https://fdlc.org/sites/default/files/miguel-arias-scholarship-espanol.pdf> ■



¿Le interesa el sacerdocio o la vida religiosa?

Póngase en contacto con la Oficina de Vocaciones de la Diócesis de Owensboro a jason.mcclure@pastoral.org o llamando (270) 683-1545 (oficina) o (270) 875-2868 (celular del P. Jason).

Aprenda más en owensborodiocese.org/vocations

Me Acercaré al Altar de Dios

Nueva carta pastoral transmite un mensaje franco de un obispo a su pueblo



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE APRIL DICKENS

Un hombre inclina la cabeza en oración durante la Misa de Ordenación al Diaconado Permanente del 14 de septiembre de 2019 para la primera clase de diáconos de habla hispana de la diócesis, celebrada en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Al Obispo William F. Medley siempre le ha gustado la cita del Papa San Juan Pablo II de que "la libertad no consiste en hacer lo que nos gusta, sino en tener derecho a hacer lo que debemos".

Esta frase, que fue dicha por el Papa en una homilía en Camden Yards en Baltimore, Maryland, el 8 de octubre de 1995, sentó las bases para la primera carta pastoral del Obispo Medley, que se publicó el 20 de noviembre de 2020.

Su carta, "Me Acercaré al Altar de Dios", fue presentada para enfatizar la centralidad de la Sagrada Eucaristía para todos los católicos, y esa centralidad que se describe en la ley de la Iglesia que obliga a participar en la Misa los domingos y las fiestas de precepto.

La carta se imprimió tanto en inglés como en es-

pañol, y se envió por correo a la casa de todos los feligreses registrados dentro de la diócesis en noviembre de 2020.

El Obispo Medley dijo que quería enfatizar que estaba hablando a la gente, "de manera franca, sobre qué es la Eucaristía y por qué debemos anhelarla".

Simplemente espera que su carta explique la importancia del culto como comunidad, y que las personas que han adquirido el hábito de no asistir a la Misa con regularidad puedan "reconsiderar eso" después de leer su carta pastoral.

El obispo dijo que nunca antes había escrito una carta pastoral porque "yo no soy un tipo escolástico", pero "entonces comencé a pensar, una carta pastoral es 'pastoral'. No es necesario ser teólogo para escribir una carta pastoral".

"Así que la escribí por preocupación pastoral", dijo. ■