



## A beloved father

A statue of St. Joseph is seen inside St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green. On Dec. 8, 2020, Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph, in honor of the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

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Sharing hope

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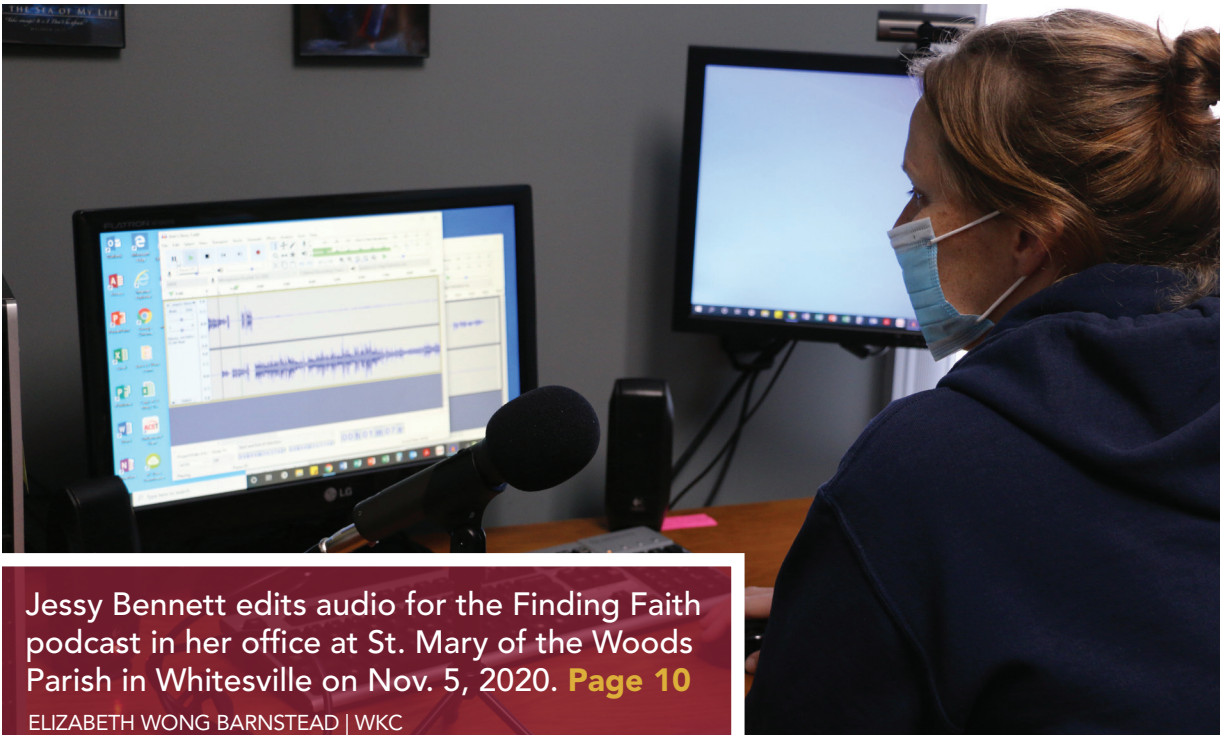
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# A Word From Bishop Medley

## *An act of self-love and charity towards others*

After many grueling months of uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, December finally brought some good news to the United States: several vaccines had been approved to combat the virus.

The announcement about these vaccines, however, raised some serious moral questions. In short, questions often arise with the development of vaccines in general because the research leading to their development has often involved aborted fetal tissue.

As those who morally assert that abortion is gravely immoral, then we are presented with the question of the morality of any benefit achieved from that research. This is an important and relevant concern. Make no mistake: when we speak of aborted fetal tissue we are speaking of an aborted human being, an aborted baby.

My words here will perhaps err on the side of oversimplifying the questions. I urge any desiring more information to visit [www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines](http://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines). There you will find details of the different vaccines that have been approved or are expected to be approved.

Given the toll exacted upon the world at this time by the COVID-19 virus, we find the Church affirming the development of many vaccines. As consumers most of us will not likely have a choice as to which vaccines are first available to us. I hesitate to speak about individual vaccines here because I am writing at least two weeks before this article will be published. With information and data changing

daily I want to avoid spreading misinformation. I should also here make clear that I have no expertise in regards to the scientific and medical effectiveness of the vaccines. You should of course look to health-care professionals for that counsel.

On Dec. 14, 2020 the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a statement assuring Catholics that being immunized against COVID-19 is “morally permissible and can be an act of self-love and charity towards others.” The statement was jointly issued by Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas and Chairman of the Committee on Pro-life Activities; and Bishop Kevin Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Chairman of the Committee on Doctrine.

To some this conclusion may be simple common sense. To all it should raise valid questions because of the connections with scientific research and the utilization of cells from aborted fetuses. But serious moral questions demand thoughtful weights of conscience on the part of scientists, governments and individuals. The statement of the USCCB reflects such serious moral pondering, and its conclusion is supported by previous research by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy of Science.

Vaccines are being developed by several different pharmaceutical companies. Their research methods vary. The Catholic Church has long held that researchers should avoid, if at all possible, vaccines that have any connection to abortion. The USCCB

### BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR JANUARY 2021

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

<b>JAN 14</b>	10 a.m.   Priest Convocation via Zoom
<b>JAN 18</b>	10 a.m.   Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center 1:30 p.m.   Priests' Council Meeting – MCC
<b>JAN 20</b>	6 p.m.   Diocesan Review Board Meeting – MCC
<b>JAN 21</b>	3 p.m.   Zoom Meeting with Priests
<b>JAN 23</b>	4 p.m.   Confirmation – Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson
<b>JAN 24</b>	9 a.m.   Confirmation – St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Guthrie
<b>JAN 25</b>	6 p.m.   Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – MCC
<b>JAN 26</b>	10 a.m.   Paducah Office Hours – Lourdes Hospital, Paducah
<b>JAN 27</b>	9:30 a.m.   School Mass – St. Joseph School, Bowling Green

### Caution against complacency

In the USCCB statement, Archbishop Joseph Naumann and Bishop Kevin Rhoades warn not to become complacent in opposing abortion. They advise the faithful that, “... we should be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research.”

*A Word From Bishop Medley continues on page 4*

### *A Word From Bishop Medley continued from page 3*

statement identifies some research as having had remote connections to objectionable procedures. More than 50 years ago, well before the legalization of abortion across the United States, there were abortions performed and fetal tissue from those abortions was occasionally used in research. From that time, research cell lines have been kept alive. No new abortion matter has been involved since 1968.

While the use of aborted fetal matter of any process or age is morally objectionable, there are different degrees of responsibility on cooperating with evil, i.e. accepting vaccines made with fetal cell lines. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith states, "As for the moral responsibility of those who are merely the recipients of the vaccines, the Congregation affirms that a serious health danger

could justify use of 'a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin.'" Another way to say this is to acknowledge that extraordinary danger can merit extraordinary action, such as self-defense against an unjust aggressor.

An historic example of this is the vaccine that has been developed to combat rubella (German measles). There is no alternative to this vaccine, which utilized fetal cell lines obtained by abortion in the 1960s. Yet there are considerable dangers presented by rubella - which can harm a pregnant woman's unborn baby. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if an unvaccinated pregnant wom-

an contracts rubella, possible complications include miscarriage or the baby contracting rubella, resulting in serious birth defects. The participation in the initial evil of abortion in this case being very remote, and the concerns for the health of the vulnerable, led the Church to affirm parents in their choice to have their children vaccinated, and rubella was eliminated from the U.S. in 2004.

We should keep in mind that some people cannot be vaccinated themselves and they must rely on

the rest of the community becoming immune so that the disease is contained. Every person who becomes ill with COVID-19 places an additional burden on healthcare systems and workers, which in some locales are being overwhelmed.

Archbishop Naumann and Bishop Rhoades conclude

their statement stating that the urgency of the crisis we face, the lack of available alternative vaccines, and the fact that the connection between an abortion that occurred decades ago and receiving the vaccine today is remote. Make no mistake: remote cooperation with evil is wrong - but there are measures and nuances, such as during a serious health danger as the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the opportunity arrives that you and your loved ones can be vaccinated, there will be up-to-date data. The USCCB statement does affirm: **"Being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of**

**our moral responsibility for the common good."**

The bottom line is that the Catholic Church in 2021 sees that inoculation with the new COVID-19 vaccines in today's circumstances can be morally justified and can indeed be act of charity and demonstrate a concern for the Common Good. ■



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



Read the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' statement at [www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines](http://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines).

# With a father's heart

## Diocese reflects on newly-announced Year of St. Joseph

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fr. Joshua McCarty, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Central City, has long had a special connection with St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Central City is Fr. McCarty's third parish named after St. Joseph, the other two being St. Joseph in Bowling Green and Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro. He also loves the manual trades identified with the saint, such as woodworking and building.

"St. Joseph is my man," said Fr. McCarty.

So it made sense that he and his parish were "very excited" to hear about Pope Francis's announcement of a Year of St. Joseph, in honor of the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

The pope's announcement was made on Dec. 8, 2020, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, through his new Apostolic Letter titled "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart").

In it, Pope Francis explains that "Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all."

Quoting his address during his Extraordinary Moment of Prayer alone in St. Peter's Square on March 27, 2020, Pope Francis writes that his desire to declare this special year "increased during



LAURA RIGSBY | WKC

A statue of St. Joseph is seen inside St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green on Dec. 15, 2020.

these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how 'our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked... Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others.'"

Continuing to quote his address, the pope added that these individuals understand no one is saved alone: "How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but

shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer.'"

Fr. McCarty said he is especially excited about Pope Francis's writing on "the quiet protection of St. Joseph, and the hard work and diligent fatherhood of St. Joseph."

As the head of Ongoing Formation for the priests of the Diocese of Owensboro, Fr. McCarty believes that St. Joseph "has an important message for priests."

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## Year of St. Joseph continued from page 5

“Which is the message of continuing the fatherhood of St. Joseph,” said Fr. McCarty. “To care for those who have been entrusted to us.”

Others associated with St. Joseph around the diocese shared their enthusiasm about Pope Francis’s announcement, and how they believe this will benefit the Universal Church.

Fr. Will Thompson, parochial vicar of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, commented that St. Joseph reveals magnanimity since the saint is known as “the silent one.”

“The one who doesn’t really speak in the Gospel; however, he is charged with providing for and protecting the Holy Family,” said Fr. Thompson.

Sr. Amelia Stenger, OSU, congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph located in Maple Mount, said she and the sisters were happy that Pope Francis had declared this special year.

“Fr. Paul Joseph Volk named our home after St. Joseph and we continue to pray for his protection,” said Sr. Stenger, in reference to the priest who helped establish Mount Saint Joseph. “St. Joseph was a protector and guide for Jesus as Jesus was growing. We ask St. Joseph to be our protector and guide as we look to the future.”

Fr. Ryan Harpole, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, said this year is a “great opportunity to focus on the wonderful traits of St. Joseph.”

He quoted St. Teresa of Avila, who had this to say about St. Joseph: “Knowing by experience St. Joseph’s astonishing influence with God, I would wish to persuade everyone to honor him with particular devotion. I have always seen those who honored him in a special manner make progress in virtue, for this heavenly protector favors in a striking manner the spiritual advancement of souls who commend them-

selves to him.”

Fr. Harpole said this year will also provide the opportunity “to quietly focus on whatever mission God has put in our lives. To live out our life of chastity and to protect the chastity of others. To once more trust God without knowing ‘why’ and to fall in love more deeply with Christ and his mother.”

Christopher Kight, the seminarian currently as-



COURTESY OF FR. JOSHUA MCCARTY  
Fr. Joshua McCarty loves his parish’s image of St. Joseph on one of their Emil Frey stained glass windows.

signed to St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, explained that seminarians are all called to “be the men that God has made us to be; each in our own way.”

“Apart from the Lord himself, I can’t think of a more noble man in our entire tradition than St.

Joseph,” said Kight. “Weighed with the stain of sin, he is still totally submissive to the will of God. This is not something only the seminarian should aspire to, but all men. I think this year of St. Joseph will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on his example.”

Mother John Mary Reed, CPM, is the mother superior of the cloistered Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville.

She said the nuns were “elated” at the announcement of a Year of St. Joseph: “This is a very special time of renewal for our community as we celebrate major milestones – 300th anniversary of Passionist Congregation, 250th anniversary of the founding of the Passionist Nuns, 75th anniversary of our presence in the diocese of Owensboro, and 25th anniversary in Whitesville.”

Mother John Mary added that St. Joseph Monastery is currently undergoing major repairs in order to improve present and future living quarters for the nuns – and “all of this is under the patronage of St. Joseph.”

“As the monastery superior of St. Joseph Monastery, he has become more alive for me in his friendship and fatherhood,” she said.

Fr. Tony Bickett, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Sunfish, said he was “delighted” that Pope Francis was dedicating 2021 as a year devoted to St. Joseph.

“It seems that devotion to St. Joseph is not observed as much as some other popular Catholic devotions,” said Fr. Bickett, adding that he looked forward to reading “Patris corde” in full.

He also shared the following prayer asking the intercession of St. Joseph, often invoked for a happy death, in reference to the tradition that St. Joseph died in the loving presence of Jesus and Mary. The prayer was printed in the parish bulletin on the Feast

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## **Year of St. Joseph continued from page 6**

of the Holy Family during the weekend of Dec. 27, 2020.

“O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires.

“O St. Joseph, assist me by thy powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through thy foster Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, so that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer thee my thanksgiving and homage.

“O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating thee and Jesus asleep in thine arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near thy heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

“St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me.” ■

## **Did you know?**

The Diocese of Owensboro is home to multiple places named after St. Joseph. These include:

- St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield
- St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green, with St. Joseph Catholic School
- St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield
- St. Joseph Parish, Central City
- Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro
- The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount
- The Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery, Whitesville



COURTESY OF FR. TONY BICKETT

A window in the parish hall of St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield depicts St. Joseph and the child Jesus.

## **Pope Francis's special St. Joseph prayer**

Pope Francis wrote the following in a footnote in “Patris corde”:

*Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds I have recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph: “Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.”*

# Marcel LeJeune: Catholics ‘exist in order to evangelize’

## Annual ‘Day of Discipleship’ goes virtual, addresses ‘Catholic identity crisis’

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Dec. 1, 2020, parishes from around the Diocese of Owensboro gathered virtually for a “Day of Discipleship” inspired by the U.S. bishops’ 2017 document, “Living as Missionary Disciples.”

The day featured guest speaker Marcel LeJeune, founder and president of Catholic Missionary Disciples, based out of College Station, Texas.

“As you know, the entire diocese has been intentionally working on growing as Missionary Disciples for the past three years,” said Dr. Jeff Andrini, director of the diocese’s Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, as he introduced the event, held via the Zoom video conferencing platform

Dr. Andrini explained that three diocesan gatherings have taken place over the past three years – focused on themes of Encounter, Accompany and Community.

“And today is ‘Send,’” he said.

The past three gatherings had taken place in-person, but the Dec. 1 event utilized a virtual format due to COVID-19 pandemic circumstances.

Some parishes gathered with their staff to view the virtual presentations, and other parish staff signed in from home. At one point there were more than 180 people signed into the Zoom meeting.

Dr. Andrini explained that the diocese’s Hispanic community has been engaging with these themes of “Encounter, Accompany, Community and Send” through the 2017-2020 V Encuentro process – the theme being “Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of



### ZOOM SCREENSHOT

On Dec. 1, 2020, the Diocese of Owensboro’s Day of Discipleship takes place virtually. (Top row) Presenters Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry, who helped lead the opening prayer; Dr. Jeff Andrini, director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, who hosted the event; and Danny May, director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life, who moderated participant questions. (Bottom row) Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, who helped lead the opening prayer; and Bishop William F. Medley, who gave a keynote address.

God’s Love.”

He added that while the Dec. 1 event was being presented only in English, plans are underway “to make sure these same themes are being fostered in Hispanic communities in our parishes and across the diocese.”

An opening prayer was led by Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry, and Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro. They were followed by Bishop William F. Medley,

who gave a keynote address.

Bishop Medley recalled that the last discipleship day happened on March 12, 2020, mere days before Kentucky shut down businesses, places of worship and other entities in light of the spreading COVID-19 pandemic.

The bishop said that his memories of the past three gatherings “centered on the people – on you.”

“So here I am, talking to a computer screen, and I’m glad to do it, and I’m glad that you are ‘here’ with me,” said Bishop Medley.

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## Day of discipleship continued from page 8

However, the bishop admitted that he has been “really Zoomed out,” – that he has become exhausted by the frequent virtual meetings taking place instead of traditional, pre-pandemic in-person gatherings.

A few weeks prior, he had participated in approximately 10 hours of Zoom during the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ annual fall meeting, which was held virtually this year.

At one of the meetings, Bishop Medley commented to his fellow bishops that the virtual platform lacked “real presence.”

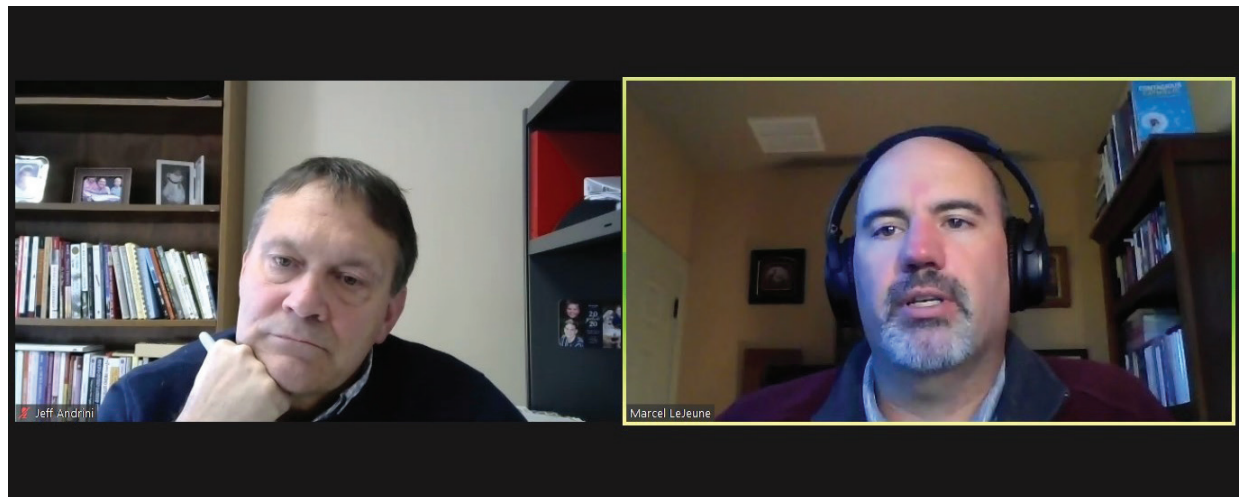
“That was not an inspired comment, but it was a very Catholic comment,” Bishop Medley said to the Dec. 1 participants. “As a Catholic, I immediately recognized that I had spoken a powerful truth. The words ‘real presence’ are theological in our Catholic tradition. But before being theological, they’re simply true.”

***“We as a Church need to recapture what it means to be Catholic...”***

***-Marcel LeJeune***

The bishop explained that Catholics speak of “real presence” to describe Christ’s presence in the Eucharist. In other words, for Catholics, Christ’s presence in the Eucharist is not just a symbol, he said, since “we are Eucharistic people.”

“Zoom can be great, (but) it can be no substitute for human interaction and the community that flows from that,” said Bishop Medley. “But in a time of pandemic, in a time of ‘super-spreading,’ we do what we can.”



### ZOOM SCREENSHOT

During the Dec. 1, 2020 virtual Day of Discipleship, Dr. Jeff Andriani, (left), director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, watches while guest speaker Marcel LeJeune (right) gives his first presentation.

In his multiple presentations throughout the day-long event, LeJeune spoke on what he calls a “Catholic identity crisis.”

He said that in 21st-century society, it is common for people to take on a label of “I’m Catholic,” but have never stepped foot in a church except for a wedding or a funeral.

“Statistics tell us that we are suffering a crisis of discipleship,” said LeJeune. “Most people who call themselves Catholics have never had a transformative encounter with God that led to conversion.”

“We as a Church need to recapture what it means to be Catholic,” he said, explaining that all Catholics are meant to be missionaries – since they are all called to evangelize.

He quoted Pope Paul VI in his 1975 apostolic exhortation, “Evangelii Nuntiandi,” in which the pope stated: “Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize.”

In other words, said LeJeune, Catholics can say that “As a Catholic, I exist in order to evangelize.”

In his conclusion for the day, Dr. Andriani cited Sherry Weddell (author of the book “Forming Intentional Disciples”) who said that the majority of adult Catholics “do not believe that they can have a real relationship with God.”

“We don’t want that to be the case in our diocese,” said Dr. Andriani. “We want people to recognize that a personal relationship with God – with Jesus, with the Holy Spirit, is real, is necessary for discipleship.”

Dr. Andriani added that the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship hopes to continue having an annual event like these past four gatherings.

“I’m excited that you were here to share this day, and just thankful to the Lord and to all the people that make something like this happen,” he said. ■

*To learn more about the ministry of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, visit their webpage at [owensborodiocese.org/evangelization](http://owensborodiocese.org/evangelization) or contact Dr. Jeff Andriani at (270) 683-1545 or [jeff.andriani@pastoral.org](mailto:jeff.andriani@pastoral.org).*

# Finding Faith

## Podcast ministry shares stories of young adults' faith journeys

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A new podcast out of St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville has grown its audience beyond just parishioners because no matter where you live, “it’s uplifting to hear the stories of others,” says Jessy Bennett, the podcast’s creator and host.

“Finding Faith” podcast kicked off in late August 2020, and completed its first season in December with 20 episodes. A bonus episode about how to reflect on and share your story is being released in early 2021.

Bennett, who directs youth and young adult ministry at St. Mary of the Woods Parish, originally started the podcast as an extension of the parish’s young adult ministry, in order to share the stories of people in their 20s and 30s who are affiliated with the parish.

But her audience has grown as listeners have shared it with others beyond Whitesville and even out-of-state.

“It’s been incredible to get to witness all these stories and get to share them with people,” said Bennett in a Dec. 2, 2020 Zoom interview.

### Starting a podcast

Bennett said the idea of a podcast started as a bit

of an inside joke “because I am horrible with technology.”

But following a conversation with someone who suggested doing a podcast to help her goals of engaging young adults, and after discussing the idea with her husband, who also encouraged the idea, Bennett took the hint.

“God always uses other people to tell me what to do,” she said. “Message received!”

The first thing Bennett did was ask Fr. Brian Roby, her pastor, since the original idea was just

to interview local St. Mary’s parishioners. Fr. Roby provided a list of potential interviewees to contact. Bennett also tapped into her young adult ministry core team for suggestions.

Then she took the list to God in prayer “be-

cause it was his idea, not mine!” she said.

“Originally my goal was to get 10 episodes,” said Bennett. “I didn’t think I could get 10 people to say yes (to being interviewed).”

She read articles about podcasts, watched informational YouTube videos and talked to her husband, who was in the process of starting his own podcast for his business.

Her timing was perfect, too. Bennett said that if it wasn’t for the global pandemic, she never would have had the time to start a podcast. But since the

*“One thing I hope that listeners take away from this podcast is the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus.”*

*-Jessy Bennett*



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC  
Jessy Bennett edits audio for the Finding Faith podcast in her office at St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville on Nov. 5, 2020.

majority of ministry activities were cancelled at the parish this summer, she had plenty of time to research and plan out this project.

Reflecting on her now 20 episodes of Finding Faith, Bennett is glad she responded to the Holy

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*Finding Faith continued from page 10*

Spirit’s initial prompting.

**Unique stories**

Finding Faith follows a simple structure: the guest shares their story, and then Bennett follows up with some questions to clarify or get the guest’s advice on helping listeners “bolster and improve their own prayer life with Jesus,” she said.

Bennett receives an advance copy of the guest’s story so she knows ahead of time what they’ll be discussing. They don’t have to read their written story word-for-word, but it helps to give her an idea – and to guide the guest as they share.

Bennett also prints out a copy of their story to have on hand so that as they’re talking she can write notes in the margins to see what questions she might ask when they are finished.

Finding Faith’s list of guests “has been pretty eclectic,” said Bennett.

Her guests so far have included several converts to Catholicism, a seminarian, a director of parish children’s ministry, a physical therapist and mother, as well as the director of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center – Ben Warrell, who ministers to young adults.

Bennett said it’s been powerful to be present in

the moment that her guests are sharing their stories – listeners get to hear the edited, final audio, “but sometimes I’m a witness to the tears as well,” she said.

She has also received feedback from those who have benefited from it, including the diocese’s director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Charlie Hardesty, who was moved by a particular episode one day and called Jessy up to tell her.

Bennett has learned from her guests, too. One guest, Emily Payne, shared that her family picks a saint to ask for their intercession for their family every year. Bennett said she plans to begin that tradition with her own family.

Doing this podcast “has personally helped to build up my faith,” said Bennett.

**Bearing fruit**

Prior to interviewing guests on the podcast, Bennett always sends them the Finding Faith mission statement so that the episodes can stay consistent to that message.

The mission statement includes the sentence that “Everyone has a story and ‘Finding Faith’ seeks to tell those stories and allow others to ask the questions they need answered.”

In each episode, Bennett also provides her con-

tact information so that if listeners have questions, or are seeking someone to journey with them, they can reach out. She emphasizes that it is “ok to ask questions about the faith,” despite the societal myth that asking questions is a sign of not trusting.

“But questions (just) mean you don’t yet understand,” she said. “Most of the conversations people had with Jesus started with them questioning him.”

Bennett said the original purpose was for young adult audiences to hear from their peers, but anyone of any age is welcome to listen as they learn how to recognize these faith moments in their own lives.

“I’ve gotten praise for organizing this, but I’m just a witness – they’re baring their souls for people,” she said of her guests.

“One thing I hope that listeners take away from this podcast is the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus,” said Bennett. “That’s the goal and purpose of this podcast – to share encounters whether it’s an ‘a-ha moment’ or constant experiences of God showing up.” ■



COURTESY OF JESSY BENNETT  
The official logo of Finding Faith podcast.

**Finding Faith**  
 Want to start listening?  
 Website: <https://findingfaith.buzzsprout.com>  
 Facebook: @stmarywhitesvilleya  
 Instagram: @st\_mary\_ya  
 Questions, comments, seeking someone to journey with you?  
 Email Jessy Bennett at [findingfaith123@gmail.com](mailto:findingfaith123@gmail.com).

# Fifteen ways to gain an indulgence in the Year of St. Joseph

Rome Newsroom (CNA) - Pope Francis has decreed a Year of St. Joseph in which Catholics will have the opportunity to obtain a special plenary indulgence.

Until December 2021, there are many new ways that Catholics can receive an indulgence, including entrusting their daily work to the protection of St. Joseph the Worker or reciting the rosary with their families.

These acts must be accompanied by sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the pope's intentions, the usual conditions to obtain any plenary indulgence.

Plenary indulgences remit all temporal punishment due to sin and must be accompanied by full detachment from sin.

According to the decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary on Dec. 8, there are 15 ways to receive an indulgence in the Year of St. Joseph:

1. Participate in a spiritual retreat for at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.
2. Pray for St. Joseph's intercession for the unemployed that they might find dignifying work.
3. Recite the Litany of St. Joseph for persecuted Christians. Byzantine Catholics have the option of an Akathist to St. Joseph.
4. Entrust one's daily work and activity to the protection of St. Joseph the Worker.
5. Follow St. Joseph's example in performing a corporal work of mercy. These include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the imprisoned, visiting the sick, and

burying the dead.

6. Perform one of the spiritual works of mercy, such as comforting the sorrowful, counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing the sinner, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving injuries, and praying for the living and the dead.
7. Pray the rosary together with one's family in order that "all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family."
8. Engaged couples can also receive an indulgence from praying the rosary together.
9. Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, because St. Joseph "invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will."
10. Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on St. Joseph Sunday, the Sunday after Christmas in the Byzantine Catholic tradition.
11. Celebrate the feast of St. Joseph on March 19 with an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph.
12. Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on the 19th of any month.
13. Honor Joseph with an act of piety or approved prayer on a Wednesday, the day traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph.
14. Pray to St. Joseph on the Feast of the Holy Family on Dec. 27.
15. Celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1 with an act of piety or prayer.

"All the faithful will thus have the opportunity to commit themselves, with prayers and good works, to obtain with the help of St. Joseph, head of the celestial Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that today afflict the contemporary world," the decree signed by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza said.

The elderly, the sick, and the dying who are unable to leave their homes due to the coronavirus pandemic also have special permission to receive an indulgence by "offering with trust in God the pains and discomforts" of their lives with a prayer to St. Joseph, hope of the sick and patron of a happy death.

The decree noted that in this instance the person must have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions for an indulgence, as well as a detachment from sin.

The Apostolic Penitentiary permits any prayer to St. Joseph approved by the Church, mentioning in particular the "To you, O blessed Joseph" prayer composed by Pope Leo XIII:

"To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities."

"O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of

***Continues on page 13***

## 'Generous, generous' donations collected for Brownsville thrift store via drive-by coat drive

BY KEVIN MUDD, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Father Carroll White Council 6743, Mother of Mercy Ladies Auxiliary, and St. Joseph Catholic Church Religious Education joined forces to collect coats, jackets, and other clothing items to be donated to the St. John Thrift Store and Food Pantry in Brownsville.

The coat drive was inspired by the Father Carroll White Council's video series "The Cross and Shield Award." This was the council's first year hosting the "Cross and Shield Award." The award acknowledges outstanding individuals, past and present, who have contributed, in a special way, by their acts of charity and works of mercy. A video was produced about each recipient and streamed on the council's Facebook page detailing the individuals. Dewayne and Barbara Fitzhugh, parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Sunfish and the operators of the St. John Thrift Store and Food Pantry, were one of the 2020 award recipients. The Fitzhughs' story is one of love of neighbor, selfless service, and determination.

Clothing began arriving as soon as word of the coat drive event went public. It culminated with a Nov. 21 drive-by at the St. Joseph parking lot.

"We had pop-up tents set up and vehicles positioned for us to store the donated coats," said James Clemons, Grand Knight of the council. "People could drive up, drop-off, and we would hand them a cup of homemade hot chocolate and marshmallows. It was a fun day."



COURTESY OF KEVIN MUDD

A member of the Father Carroll White Council 6743 gives collected coats to Dewayne and Barbara Fitzhugh, the operators of the St. John Thrift Store and Food Pantry in Brownsville.

The parish and community's support was incredible. Sixty-one heavy winter coats, 75 lighter jackets, 132 miscellaneous seasonal articles, and \$120 in monetary donations were collected and delivered to St. John Thrift Store.

"Without people like this to help us we could not do what we need to do," said Barbara Fitzhugh. "This is just a generous, generous donation." ■

*Kevin Mudd is a member of the Father Carroll White Council 6743. Follow the council's activities and initiatives at [www.facebook.com/kofc6743](http://www.facebook.com/kofc6743).*

### Year of St. Joseph indulgences continued from page 12

error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness."

"As once you rescued the Child Jesus from

deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your

example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen." ■

## 'Bluegrass on Beshear' fundraiser distributes \$24,054 to local life-affirming pregnancy centers



COURTESY OF LAURA SMITH

Tom O'Hagan (second from left), Grand Knight of Hopkinsville's Knights of Columbus Council, presents an \$8,018 check to Alpha Pregnancy Care Center's executive director, Amanda Westerfield, on Dec 3 outside of Alpha's facility in Hopkinsville. Others participating in the presentation are (right to left) administrative assistant Lesa Farmer, ARNP Sonographer Kristin Dossett, and client services director Kelley Smith. Jeff Smith (left), co-host of "Bluegrass on Beshear" from the Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council, looks on.



COURTESY OF LAURA SMITH

Fr. David Kennedy (right), pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Earlington, presents a check for \$8,018 to Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center's executive director, Mack Wells, outside of the facility on Dec 3. The check represents one-third of the donations raised for "Bluegrass on Beshear" in 2020. Event co-host Jeff Smith (left) from the Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council looks on.

BY JEFF SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The annual one-day charity music fest "Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear" could not be held this year due to COVID-19 concerns. However, during October and November, my wife Laura and I, as co-hosts with the Knights of Columbus, asked the public to donate in the event's name to support the continuing needs of local pro-life pregnancy care centers.

Area businesses, community organizations, churches and individuals responded impressively, donating \$24,054. This shattered "Bluegrass on Beshear's" previous record total - \$16,056 in 2019.

We were gratified by the public's response.

"It's wonderful to see so many people and businesses reach deep to support the great work of our pregnancy care centers," said Laura. "This has been a difficult year for everyone but the generosity of our community is overwhelming."

Proceeds from "Bluegrass on Beshear" are divided equally between three life-affirming pregnancy care centers: Alpha PCC in Hopkinsville, Door of Hope in Madisonville and H.O.P.E. Clinic of Benton and Eddyville.

On Dec. 3, each center received a check for \$8,018 from "Bluegrass on Beshear." The faith-based pregnancy care centers offer comprehensive services, including ultrasounds to determine viability of pregnancies, STD testing, mentoring, education for new parents, adoption referral and material support through the baby's second year. All services are at no cost to clients. ■

*Jeff Smith writes from Dawson Springs.*

# Knights flip burgers to support the community



## **Whitesville Knights of Columbus host a carryout fundraiser to benefit local families**

On the weekend of Dec. 12, Knights of Columbus Whitesville Council 2046 provided carryout meals to parishioners of St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville. Donations were accepted, and after the last Mass on Sunday the Knights had raised more than \$2,600 for needy families within the community.

COURTESY OF JASON SIMON

(Left) Members of the Knights of Columbus Whitesville Council 2046 stand inside the Horn Community Center during the Dec. 12 carryout fundraiser for local families in need. (Right) Members of the Knights of Columbus Whitesville Council 2046 flip burgers during the Dec. 12 carryout fundraiser for local families in need.

## Hispanic Catholics embrace virtual prayer opportunities during pandemic

BY DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Zoom was a word that just about a year ago, I had not even heard of, or if I did, I was just not paying attention. Everything was going fine gathering in person for years. Reluctantly though, and just like many other ministries, I have befriended Zoom, the video conferencing platform. It has now become a welcomed companion, a tool to be used to communicate, connect, pray and share the Gospel with others.

Hispanic Catholics throughout our diocese have also had to adapt to the new reality. It has been a rocky learning process, especially when most do not have laptops and must rely on smaller screens on

their phones.

Even in the midst of a pandemic and limitations throughout 2020, wonderful things and connections did take place through screens in our diocese. The men's and women's Hispanic groups of Christ Renews His Parish have continued to meet through Zoom. The praying of rosaries and novenas through Facebook Live and also Zoom have become a new normal. Talks and segmented retreats in Spanish have also taken place and continue.

Just last month during Advent, we had the blessing of Fr. Julio Palarino leading a couple days of Advent reflections through Zoom. We had 49 participants for these Advent reflections. Fr. Julio, a priest from the Archdiocese of La Plata in Argentina, vis-

its us every year during the month of January. We were blessed to have him not only lead these talks in preparation for Christmas but also at times accompany other groups.

I want to conclude simply by commending all of our priests involved in Hispanic ministry for all their efforts not only in streaming services in Spanish, but for being creative in finding and learning new ways in how to evangelize during these difficult times.

May God bless all of our continuing efforts and methods. ■

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Ways to Give to the Disciples Response Fund

Online: [owensborodiocese.org/give](http://owensborodiocese.org/give)  
 Text: "Give" to 270-200-5919  
 Mail: Checks to 600 Locust Street,  
 Owensboro, KY 42301

### "Conversations on Living Prayer in the Spirit of Saint Angela"

Thursday, Jan. 14

Online 6:30-7:45 p.m.



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

Free - donations are appreciated. To register: 270-229-0206  
[retreatcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:retreatcenter@maplemount.org)  
[ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs](http://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs)



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
 Conference and Retreat Center  
 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY



A Prayerful Journey through Lent

### A Virtual Lenten Program for the Parish

- † Feb. 23: Praying in Stillness and Silence
- † March 2: Praying with Imagination & Heart
- † March 9: Praying Over Each Day
- † March 16: Praying with Art and Nature

**Tuesdays 6:30–7:30 p.m. CST**  
**Programs repeat on Sundays 4–5 p.m.**

Feb. 28 - March 7 - March 14 - March 21

This program is available to parishes in the Owensboro Diocese for the spiritual enrichment of the adult faith community. We welcome parish staffs and pastors to partner with us in the 2021 season of Lent to offer your church members an opportunity to enrich and deepen their prayer and relationship with God.

To learn more about delivery options and fees, please contact Maryann Joyce, director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center:  
 270-229-0206 • [maryann.joyce@maplemount.org](mailto:maryann.joyce@maplemount.org)  
 Learn more: [ursulinesmsj.org/retreat-center](http://ursulinesmsj.org/retreat-center)



**PRESENTER:** Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU, has been offering retreats, parish missions, and RCIA programs for over 25 years. With extensive training in theology, Scripture, spirituality, and spiritual direction, as well as teaching and administrative experience in her Ursuline community and at Brescia University, she brings to this Lenten program a deep love for and study of prayer and spirituality.



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
 Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
 Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356



### Spiritual Retreat For All Catholic Men

Saturday January 9th— 10AM Eastern/9AM Central



**Bishop Mark Spalding**  
**Patrick Kelly**  
**Dr. Jonathan Reyes**  
**Dr. Tim Gray**  
**Jared Zimmerer**  
**Fr. Sean Kilcawley**  
**Damien O'Connor**



Participate at satellite viewing Locations or from the comfort of your own home.

Register Today at [www.kofc-tn.org](http://www.kofc-tn.org)

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## JANUARY 2021 BULLETIN BOARD

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

### **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. Other individuals and organizations may contribute to it. The grants will be administered by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions. For complete details and applications forms, please visit [www.fdlc.org/arias-scholarship](http://www.fdlc.org/arias-scholarship) or [www.ltp.org/ariasscholarship](http://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](http://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](http://owensborodiocese.org/scouting) for details.

### **Save the Date: Earth Care Conference June 19-20**

"Honoring Earth: Celebrating the Sacred Outside and Within" will be full of insights into how we can honor God's creation of our earthly home. This event will take place on the weekend of June 19-20 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The conference begins at 9 a.m. Saturday with Kyle Kramer, executive director of the Pas-

sionist Earth and Spirit Center in Louisville, presenting "Our New Sacred Story: Finding our Place in an Unfolding Universe." With Thomas Berry as a guide, it will explore how to claim our place of belonging within our world and give ourselves to the Great Work of restoring a healthy relationship between us and the Earth. Participants have the choice of three breakout workshops. The Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning retreat are led by Emily DeMoor, faculty member at Brescia University in Owensboro. The fees are as follows: full conference and retreat with lodging and meals, \$150; Saturday afternoon and Sunday retreat only, which includes lodging and meals, \$110; Saturday morning conference only, \$40. Watch for further details at [ursulinesmsj.org](http://ursulinesmsj.org). To register, call 270-229-0206 or email [retreatcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:retreatcenter@maplemount.org) or sign up online at [ursulinesmsj.org/conference-retreat-center/registration-sponsored-programs](http://ursulinesmsj.org/conference-retreat-center/registration-sponsored-programs). Please note: We will be following the physical distancing and safety guidelines recommended for group gatherings.

### **Cursillistas and Hope**

Would you like to renew your hope and joy that you received at your Cursillo weekend? We need the hope and joy of Jesus in our hearts to be recognized by hearts and souls. Each of us is on a mission to not only have hope but to share it with others. Cursillistas need to be at meetings that renew our hope in God. Our School of Leaders meetings at Blessed Mother Parish on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. bring us new hope and joy each time we attend. We use the method we learned at our Cursillo weekends. We have a Come, Holy Spirit prayer, and get into small groups to share our piety, study and action of the month, about 15 minutes. We study our Leader's Manual to be prepared to work and share our hope and joy on the next weekends. Men and women are invited. After a period of study, Fr. Tom Buckman speaks on a topic of our faith, the Catholic cultures and traditions, popes' writings and saints or holy days of obligation. We keep safe protocols: masks, six feet distancing and cleaning after the meetings. Our Ultreyas (moving forward or onward) held at Blessed Mother are hope and joy on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. These meetings are held starting with the Holy Spirit prayer, a song chosen by one of those attending, small groups, and

a guest speaker who talks about what Cursillo has meant to them or their prayer life. We have about a 10-minute talk, then some of us talk about how the speaker has impacted our lives. Men and women are invited. We'd love to see you! – Mary Hagan, Cursillo #42, 1990

Contact Denis or Martha Wheatley, (270) 922-0029 or (270) 927-6540

### **Ultreya & School of Leaders important information**

Please remember that it is most important to continue to study and learn the Cursillo method by attending Ultreyas and School of Leaders. Come and see what we are doing to grow closer to God and evangelize the world, one friend at a time.

Owensboro: Blessed Mother Parish, 601 E. 23rd St., Owensboro, KY 42303

- School of Leaders: First Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
- Ultreya: Fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

Hopkinsville: Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, 902 E. 9th St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240

- School of Leaders: Fourth Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.
- Ultreya: Third Sunday of the month at 12 noon

Hawpsville: Immaculate Conception Parish, 115 Main St., Hopkinsville, KY 42348

- School of Leaders: Second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- Does not hold Ultreyas at this time

### **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](https://wku.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5dxqmlFFOd67nD)

# ‘Tremendously helpful’ counseling assistance opportunity increases support during pandemic

BY DANNY MAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

For most people, the COVID-19 era has brought a rollercoaster of emotions. The weight of uncertainty, a global sense of loss, and the daily count of rising cases has caused added stress for many of us.

In response to an increased need for emotional and mental support, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro is expanding the CAP (Counseling Assistance Program) program, which offers counseling at a reduced rate to parishioners in the diocese. Around 15 counselors throughout the diocese currently participate in CAP, but we are in the process of adding more counselors in response to the pandemic and other growing concerns. One of those concerns is a need for counseling in Spanish. Right now, we have two Spanish speaking counselors in CAP, and a third is in the works.

Here’s how CAP typically works. If a parishioner cannot bill insurance or Medicare, they can simply contact a counselor from the CAP list on the website and present a proof of parish membership to be eligible for CAP. Proof of parish membership would be a parish envelope

The client can approach a counselor directly. The counselor then sends an invoice to Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities (not the client) then invoices the parish for reimbursement. The fee is usually split equally among the client, Catholic Charities, and the parish.

Most of the CAP counselors are practicing Catholics, but the ones who aren’t agree to practice with-



LIGHTSTOCK

A married couple in crisis sits beside each other on a couch.

in the teachings of the Catholic Church. Several CAP counselors have specialized expertise in areas such as trauma, grief, marriage and family issues, or addictions.

CAP has been offered by the diocese for many years, but was originally known as the “Congregational Assistance Program.” With the onset of COVID-19, Catholic Charities and the Office of Marriage & Family Life partnered to promote CAP through a thorough Facebook ad campaign that was very successful in spreading the word.

It’s our hope to make it well-known that the diocese cares about our families and puts a priority on

each parishioner’s mental and emotional health; not just their spiritual health. Like Jesus walking with the disciples, we see CAP as a great example of the ministry of accompaniment.

Fr. Mike Williams has been referring people to CAP for years, especially as campus minister at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center at Western Kentucky University. He says, “Over the years I have found the counselors provided through CAP tremendously helpful to the many, many students I have referred to them! The counselors build on the spiritual direction I provide to help the students integrate the different facets of their lives.”

*Continues on page 19*

# A vision for evangelization for 2021 and beyond



FILE PHOTO  
Dr. Jeff Andrini

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

What comes to mind when you hear the words: Encounter, Accompany, Community and

Send? At best, you may see these four movements as the underpinnings of Living as Missionary Disciples, which has been the four-year focus of our diocese. At worst, they may vaguely remind you of an effort of the diocese that you thought was over a long time ago.

The document by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, titled “Living as Missionary Disciples,” picks up on this theme that started with Pope Francis in 2013 with his apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel.” Here he says that “we are all called to be missionary disciples.” Our mission is the mission of Jesus and we are called to be transformed from within

through our relationship with him.

All the priests of our diocese and those who serve on a parish staff have participated in four annual events to be renewed personally and to catch a vision of parish renewal and growth for the future. Here is the Vision Statement for the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship in our Diocese:

“In response to God’s love for us, every person within the Diocese of Owensboro will come to know Jesus in a personal way, grow in maturity as a disciple, and be sent forth to joyfully employ our gifts to make present the reign of God.”

What words in this statement excite or challenge you?

In response to God’s love, a God who gives us life and walks with us through everything we go through, we are filled with gratitude. God is not far off and aloof, but rather God is closer to us than the air we breathe. We are God’s beloved; however, many Catholics are unsure of how close Jesus is to us and that we need to meet him personally and choose to follow him. This encounter with the Divine One transforms us and helps us mature as disciples. Then

we are sent forth to share our gifts and make present the reign of God to all those in need.

This is a powerful vision that Pope Francis and the bishops of our country are calling us to embrace. Our parishes are the outposts of God’s kingdom in our local community and need to be places where people encounter the life-fulfilling love of Jesus and are transformed into a people that reflect God’s kingdom.

You have a bigger role in this than you may know.

As a baptized follower of Jesus, you are called to be a leader in your local parish. Renewal starts in the heart of each disciple and together we are invited to make present God’s kingdom in our midst. The Office of Evangelization and Discipleship is here to help you and your parish be renewed. What do you, or, in your opinion, what does your parish need to take a step forward in living the vision of missionary discipleship? Please email me to share your thoughts.

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](mailto:jeff.andrini@pastoral.org).*

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## **Counseling assistance continued from page 18**

Dr. Jill Duba Sauerheber is one of those CAP counselors, and says she is blessed by the faithfulness, determination, perseverance, and dependence on our Savior she sees in her CAP clients: “CAP has provided me with so many opportunities to work with Catholics who are going through personal and interpersonal difficulties and transitions. Together,

we have worked through marital and other relational discord and betrayal; family generational traumas; sexual and other kinds of abuse histories; as well as anxiety, depression, OCD and scrupulosity.”

Dr. Sauerheber continued, “My CAP clients have and continue to provide me with a renewed sense of hope in the work that I do. And I am in turn grateful

to them.”

For more information and list of participating counselors, visit [owensborodiocese.org/counseling](http://owensborodiocese.org/counseling). ■

*Danny May is the director of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Office of Marriage & Family Life. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life](http://owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life).*

# January 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](mailto:charlotte.hedges@pastoral.org).

### **Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

Leo & Mary Hagan, 56  
Robert & Debbie Newman, 51  
Terry & Jan Storm, 52  
Robert & Dena Montgomery, 65

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### Office of Marriage & Family Life

Visit [owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life](https://owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life) for marriage prep, marriage & family enrichment, support & counseling services, natural family planning, and much more!

## 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.

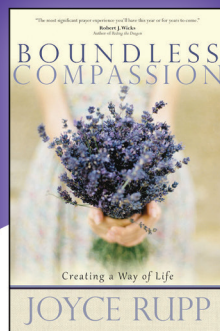
For a list of counselors ready to speak to you, visit [owensborodiocese.org/counseling](https://owensborodiocese.org/counseling).

*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](mailto: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

# Our Marian Shrine that took more than 15 years to build

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

As Catholics, we are known for our spiritual devotions, traditions and aesthetic rituals. However, of all our characteristic features, we are perhaps most renowned for our devotion to the Blessed Mother. Whether it be our rosaries, miraculous medals, or front yard statues of Mary, we seemingly love to take any opportunity to celebrate the Holy Virgin. This is so true that we start each year with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. So, this month's article will retell one of the most ardent pursuits of Marian devotion in our diocese. By utilizing our archival records, we will examine the story of our Marian Shrine in Bowling Green.

Nearly fifty years ago, in 1973, Fr. Ben Luther felt moved to create a shrine to honor Mary in the diocese. He first proposed the idea to Bishop Henry J. Soenneker, stating that he would fundraise utilizing his newsletter. The bishop had no objection and so Fr. Luther moved forward with his plan.

Though his newsletter's audience was relatively small (numbering about 5,000 people) the project was received favorably, and donations began to trickle in. From the newsletter's small audience, the cause caught the attention of some very influential people, including Fr. Robert Fox, the renowned Catholic author and personality, who made the first donation. This also led to the project being mentioned in the prominent publications of the National Catholic Register and Our Sunday Visitor. Following this, the appeal received several thousands of dollars, pouring in from more than 30 states and even some from outside of the U.S.

The initial plan was to construct an outdoor

shrine. After inquiring about the possibility of the shrine finding its home at Mount Saint Joseph, the Ursuline Sisters joyfully accepted as long as they approved of the design. Following this, a string of hateful vandalisms struck the Mount, destroying several outdoor statues. This resulted in Fr. Luther concluding that the outdoor shrine would not be a possibility at the Mount; nor would it be a possibility at the other option, St. Anthony in Browns Valley, as the seclusion of the location made further vandalism a possibility. Even with these options exhausted, Fr. Luther was driven to continue by a love for the Blessed Mother.

By 1977, fundraising began to slow. In addition, Fr. Luther was relocated in 1978 to St. Pius X in Calvert City, where he saw no possibilities for a shrine. In 1980, he was transferred to New York City to continue his clerical studies. However, he continued to have faith that the shrine would be built.

By 1987, Fr. Luther was stationed at St. Joseph in Bowling Green. He had renovated and dedicated the rectory chapel to Mary, but this was not enough. Finally, after receiving permission from Bishop John J. McRaith, construction of the shrine began. Overcome with love for Mary, the community began to flood the project with donations, nearly matching the sizable sum accumulated in the nearly 15 years before. On May 7, 1989, the Shrine of Mary Mother of the Church and Model of all Christians was blessed and has served as a place of worship and pilgrimage ever since.

May Fr. Luther's devotion to Christ and his Blessed Mother inspire us to a deeper sense of service. ■



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES  
Pictured is Fr. Ben Luther in 1965.

*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](mailto:edward.wilson@pastoral.org).*

# Two seminarians accepted as candidates for the priesthood



COURTESY OF DEACON COREY BRUNS  
 (Left to right) Seminarian Christopher Grief with Bishop William F. Medley and Fr. Jason McClure, diocesan director of vocations, on Dec. 13, 2020 at Grief's home parish of St. John the Evangelist in Paducah.

**BY WKC STAFF**

In December 2020, two of the Diocese of Owensboro's seminarians took their next step toward being ordained to the diocesan priesthood.

On Sunday, Dec. 13, seminarian Christopher Earl Grief was accepted as a Candidate for Holy Orders by Bishop William F. Medley, at Grief's home parish of St. John the Evangelist in Paducah. Grief is in Second Theology and studies at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

On Sunday, Dec. 20, seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling was accepted as a Candidate for Holy Orders by Bishop William F. Medley, at Ma Na Ling's home parish of Holy Spirit in Bowling Green. Ma Na Ling is in Second Theology and studies at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Please continue to pray for our seminarians as they study and discern God's call in their lives.



COURTESY OF OWENSBORO VOCATIONS  
 Seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling with Bishop William F. Medley at Ma Na Ling's home parish of Holy Spirit in Bowling Green on Dec. 20, 2020.

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COURTESY OF OWENSBORO VOCATIONS


(Left to right) Seminarians Christopher Grief, Joseph McGinnis, Martin Ma Na Ling; Bishop William F. Medley; and seminarians Christopher Kight, Flynn Mudd and Christopher French at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green on Dec. 20, 2020. That day, Ma Na Ling was accepted as a Candidate for Holy Orders.




COURTESY OF DAVID GRIEF

(Left to right) Seminarians Christopher French, Christopher Grief, Deacon Corey Bruns and Flynn Mudd on Dec. 13, 2020 at Grief's home parish of St. John the Evangelist in Paducah when Grief was accepted as a Candidate for Holy Orders..

## Contact the Office of Vocations

 (270) 683-1545

 [owensborovocations.com](http://owensborovocations.com)

 [jason.mcclure@pastoral.org](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org)  
[fred.litke@pastoral.org](mailto:fred.litke@pastoral.org)

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

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

## Happy anniversary to our priests!

This month we celebrate the anniversaries of:

**Fr. Brad Whistle** | Ordained 1/10/1981  
Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah

**Fr. Tony Stevenson** | Ordained 1/10/1981  
Pastor of St. Anthony and St. Mary of the Woods Parishes, Hardinsburg

**Fr. Augusty Valomchalil** | Ordained 1/16/1996  
Pastor of St. William Parish, Knottsville; and St. Lawrence Parish, Philpot

**Fr. Ken Mikulcik** | Ordained 1/10/1998  
Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville

**Fr. Anthoni Ottagon, HGN** | Ordained 1/8/2003 | Pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish, Owensboro; and St. Elizabeth Parish, Curdsville

**Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara** | Ordained 1/17/2004  
Parochial vicar of Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green

**Fr. Suneesh Mathew, HGN** | Ordained 1/2/2008 | Pastor of Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro

**Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN** | Ordained 1/6/2008  
Parochial vicar of St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro



# Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

## Un acto de amor propio y caridad hacia los demás

Después de muchos meses agotadores de incertidumbre causados por la pandemia del COVID-19, diciembre finalmente trajo una buena noticia a los Estados Unidos: se habían aprobado varias vacunas para combatir el virus.

El anuncio sobre estas vacunas, sin embargo, planteó serias cuestiones morales. En pocas palabras, a menudo surgen preguntas con el desarrollo de vacunas en general porque la investigación que condujo a su desarrollo a menudo ha involucrado tejidos extraídos de abortos.

Como nosotros afirmamos moralmente que el aborto es gravemente inmoral, entonces se nos presenta la cuestión de la moralidad de cualquier beneficio obtenido de esa investigación. Ésta es una preocupación importante y relevante. No se equivocan: cuando hablamos de tejidos extraídos de abortos estamos hablando de un ser humano abortado, un bebé abortado.

Mis palabras aquí quizás se equivoquen por simplificar demasiado el asunto. Urjo a quienes deseen obtener más información a visitar [www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines](http://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines). Allí encontrarán detalles de las diferentes vacunas que han sido aprobadas o se espera que sean aprobadas.

Dado las consecuencias tan graves para el mundo en este momento a causa del virus COVID-19, encontramos a la Iglesia afirmando el desarrollo de muchas vacunas. Como consumidores, la mayoría

de nosotros probablemente no tengamos la opción de elegir cuáles vacunas están disponibles. Dudo en hablar sobre vacunas individuales aquí porque estoy escribiendo al menos dos semanas antes de que se publique este artículo. Con la información y los datos que cambian a diario, quiero evitar la difusión de información errónea. También debo aclarar aquí que no tengo experiencia en lo que respecta a la eficacia científica y médica de las vacunas. Por supuesto, deben buscar ese consejo en los profesionales de la salud.

El 14 de diciembre de 2020, la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU. (USCCB) emitió una declaración en la que aseguraba a los católicos que estar inmunizados contra el COVID-19 es “moralmente permisible y puede ser un acto de amor propio y caridad hacia los demás”. La declaración fue emitida conjuntamente por el Arzobispo Joseph Naumann, Arzobispo de Kansas City en Kansas y presidente del Comité de Actividades Pro-vida; y el Obispo Kevin Rhoades, Obispo de Fort Wayne-South Bend y presidente del Comité de Doctrina.

Para algunos, esta conclusión puede ser simplemente sentido común. Para todos, debería plantear preguntas válidas debido a las conexiones con la investigación científica y la utilización de células de fetos abortados. Pero las cuestiones morales serias exigen considerar seriamente la conciencia por parte de científicos, gobiernos e individuos. La declaración

### CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ENERO DE 2021:

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

<b>14 DE ENERO</b>	10 a.m.   Convocatoria de sacerdotes a través de Zoom
<b>18 DE ENERO</b>	10 a.m.   Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal - Centro Católico McRaith (MCC) 1:30 p.m.   Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal - MCC
<b>20 DE ENERO</b>	6 p.m.   Reunión de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana - MCC
<b>21 DE ENERO</b>	3 p.m.   Reunión de sacerdotes a través de Zoom
<b>23 DE ENERO</b>	4 p.m.   Confirmación - Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson
<b>24 DE ENERO</b>	9 a.m.   Confirmación - Parroquia San Francisco de Asís, Guthrie
<b>25 DE ENERO</b>	6 p.m.   Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas - MCC
<b>26 DE ENERO</b>	10 a.m.   Horas de oficina de Paducah - Hospital de Mercy Health Lourdes
<b>27 DE ENERO</b>	9 a.m.   Misa Escolar - Escuela San José, Bowling Green

de la USCCB refleja esa consideración moral tan seria, y su conclusión está respaldada por investigaciones previas de la Congregación para la Doctrina de la Fe del Vaticano y la Academia Pontificia de Ciencias.

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Varias empresas farmacéuticas distintas están desarrollando vacunas. Sus métodos de investigación varían. La Iglesia Católica ha sostenido durante mucho tiempo que los investigadores deben evitar, si es posible, las vacunas que tengan alguna conexión con el aborto. La declaración de la USCCB identifica algunas investigaciones que han tenido conexiones remotas con procedimientos objetables. Hace más de 50 años, mucho antes de la legalización del aborto en los Estados Unidos, se practicaban abortos y los tejidos de esos fetos abortos se usaban ocasionalmente en la investigación. Desde ese momento, las líneas celulares de investigación se han mantenido vivas. Desde 1968 no se ha involucrado ninguna materia nueva de aborto.

Si bien el uso de materia fetal abortada de cualquier proceso o edad es moralmente objetable, existen diferentes grados de responsabilidad en la cooperación con el mal, es decir, en la aceptación de vacunas elaboradas con líneas celulares fetales. La declaración de la USCCB declara: “En cuanto a la responsabilidad moral de quienes son simplemente los receptores de las vacunas, la Congregación [para la Doctrina de la Fe] afirma que un grave peligro para la salud podría justificar el uso de ‘una vacuna elaborada con líneas celulares de origen ilícito.’” Otra forma de decir esto es reconocer que un peligro extraordinario puede merecer una acción extraordinaria, como la autodefensa contra un agresor injusto.

Un ejemplo histórico de esto es la vacuna que se ha desarrollado para combatir la rubéola (sarampión alemán). No hay alternativa a esta vacuna, que utilizó líneas celulares fetales obtenidas por aborto en la década de 1960. Sin embargo, la rubéola presenta peligros considerables, que pueden dañar al feto de una mujer embarazada. Según los Centros para el

Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades, si una mujer embarazada no vacunada contrae rubéola, las posibles complicaciones incluyen un aborto espontáneo o que el bebé contraiga rubéola, lo que resulta en defectos de nacimiento graves. La participación en el mal inicial del aborto en este caso, siendo muy remota, y las preocupaciones por la salud de los vulnerables, llevaron a la Iglesia a afirmar a los padres en su elección de vacunar a sus hijos, y la rubéola fue eliminada de los EE.UU. en 2004.

Debemos tener en cuenta que algunas personas no pueden ser vacunadas y tienen que confiar en que el resto de la comunidad se vuelva inmune para contener la enfermedad. Cada persona que se enferma con el COVID-19 supone una carga adicional para los sistemas de salud y los trabajadores, que en algunos lugares han estado inundados.

El Arzobispo Naumann y el Obispo Rhoades concluyen su declaración afirmando que la urgencia de la crisis que enfrentamos, la falta de vacunas alternativas disponibles y el hecho de que la conexión entre un aborto que ocurrió hace décadas y recibir la vacuna hoy es remota. No se equivoquen: la cooperación remota con el mal está mal, pero hay medidas y matices, como el peligro grave para la salud durante la pandemia del COVID-19.

Cuando llegue la oportunidad de que ustedes y sus seres queridos puedan vacunarse, habrá datos actualizados. La declaración de la USCCB afirma: “Vacunarse de manera segura contra el COVID-19 debe considerarse un acto de amor al prójimo y parte de nuestra responsabilidad moral por el bien común”.

La conclusión es que la Iglesia Católica en 2021 ve que la inoculación con las nuevas vacunas para el COVID-19 en las circunstancias actuales puede estar moralmente justificada y puede ser un acto de

caridad y demostrar una preocupación por el bien común. ■



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

Lea la declaración de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (en inglés) aquí: [www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines](http://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines).

## Advertencia de no acostumbrarnos

En la declaración de la USCCB, el Arzobispo Joseph Naumann y el Obispo Kevin Rhoades advierten que no debemos dejarnos llevar por una actitud del acostumbrarnos al aborto. Aconsejan a los fieles que “...debemos estar alertas para que las nuevas vacunas contra el COVID-19 no nos desensibilicen ni debiliten nuestra determinación de oponernos al mal del aborto en sí y al posterior uso de células fetales en la investigación”.

# El Papa Francisco declara un Año especial de San José



LAURA RIGSBY | WKC

Una estatua de San José se ve dentro de la Parroquia de San José en Bowling Green el 15 de diciembre de 2020.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El 8 de diciembre de 2020, la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, el Papa Francisco proclamó un “Año de San José” en honor al 150 aniversario de la declaración del Papa Pío IX de San José como Patrono de la Iglesia Universal.

En su nueva Carta apostólica titulada *Patris corde* (“Con corazón de padre”), el Papa Francisco explicó que “Todos pueden encontrar en san José —el hombre que pasa desapercibido, el hombre de la presencia diaria, discreta y oculta— un intercesor, un apoyo y una guía en tiempos de dificultad. San José nos recuerda que todos los que están aparentemente ocultos o en “segunda línea” tienen un protagonismo sin igual en la historia de la salvación. A todos ellos va dirigida una palabra de reconocimiento y de gratitud”.

El P. Ryan Harpole, párroco de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, dijo que este año es una “gran oportunidad para concentrarnos en las mara-

villosas características de San José”.

Citó a Santa Teresa de Ávila, quien dijo lo siguiente sobre San José: “Querría yo persuadir a todos fuesen muy devotos de este glorioso Santo [San José], por la experiencia que tengo de los bienes que alcanza de Dios. No he conocido persona que de veras le sea devota y haga particulares servicios que no la vea más aprovechada en la virtud; porque aprovecha en gran manera en las almas que a él se encomiendan”.

Y el P. Will Thompson, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, comentó que San José revela la magnanimidad ya que es conocido como “el silencioso”.

“El que realmente no habla en el Evangelio; sin embargo, está encargado de proveer y proteger a la Sagrada Familia”, dijo el P. Thompson. ■

Para leer la Carta apostólica del Papa Francisco en su totalidad, visite [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-let-tera-ap\\_20201208\\_patris-corde.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-let-tera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html).

## Oración especial de San José del Papa Francisco

El Papa Francisco escribió lo siguiente en una nota al pie en “*Patris corde*”:

*Todos los días, durante más de cuarenta años, después de Laudes, recito una oración a san José tomada de un libro de devociones francés del siglo XIX, de la Congregación de las Religiosas de Jesús y María, que expresa devoción, confianza y un cierto reto a san José: «Glorioso patriarca san José, cuyo poder sabe hacer posibles las cosas imposibles, ven en mi ayuda en estos momentos de angustia y dificultad. Toma bajo tu protección las situaciones tan graves y difíciles que te confío, para que tengan una buena solución. Mi amado Padre, toda mi confianza está puesta en ti. Que no se diga que te haya invocado en vano y, como puedes hacer todo con Jesús y María, muéstrame que tu bondad es tan grande como tu poder. Amén.*

# 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

## **Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual**

Para denunciar una sospecha de abuso, llame a la Línea Directa de Protección Infantil de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su Fiscal Local del Commonwealth. Para reportar abuso, actual o pasado, a la diócesis por parte de cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a Louanne Payne, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinadoras de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270-880-8360. También puede visitar la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro ([owensborodiocese.org/safe](http://owensborodiocese.org/safe)) para obtener más información.

# Bienvenido seas 2021



FOTO DE ARCHIVO  
Diácono Cristóbal Gutierrez.

Hermanas y Hermanos en la diócesis de Owensboro.

Sin duda alguna este pasado año 2020 fue un año distinto, retador y difícil. Distinto porque en lo que va de las vidas de todos los que leerán este pequeño escrito, casi estoy seguro nadie ha pasado por una situación de pandemia como la que hemos y seguimos viviendo. Retador porque nos hemos visto obligados a recalibrar en serio, aquello que debe ser lo más importante en nuestras vidas. El amar a Dios

sobre todas cosas y sobre todo el dejarnos amar y abrazar por Jesucristo. El abrazar a nuestros hijos, nuestros papás, a nuestras esposas y esposos y decirles cuánto los amamos. El degustar con emoción renovada, gran devoción y disposición interna de la sagrada comunión del Cuerpo de nuestro Señor en la Santa Misa. Estos son sólo algunos de los actos más importantes que nuestra vulnerabilidad frente a una pandemia debería enseñarnos. Y difícil, ya que también como pueblo inmigrante, incluso antes de que todo esto comenzara, ya se era una comunidad que sufría por tantas otras razones.

Sin embargo, y a pesar de toda esta situación que se ha venido dando, es importantísimo reconocer la enorme creatividad y el esfuerzo de tantos de ustedes y de nuestros líderes en Ministerio Hispano por el uso de nuevos métodos disponibles en mantenernos conectados, seguir formándonos e incluso proclamar la palabra de Dios. A nuestros sacerdotes hispanos por su empeño en transmitir las Misas por Facebook y continua cercanía, ¡Gracias! A nuestras religiosas hispanas por su continuo esfuerzo de acompañar y hacerse presentes en las comunidades ¡Gracias! A nuestros líderes laicos, personal de Ministerio Hispano en las parroquias que han proveído conexiones por zoom y otros medios, ¡Gracias! A nuestros movimientos y grupos como la Renovación, Cristo Renueva su Parroquia, cofradías y devotos de distintos advocaciones marianas que han organizado novenas, retiros y rosarios por Zoom, ¡Gracias!

Cierro haciendo eco de la frase que nuestro señor Obispo William recientemente ha repetido: “Nunca estamos más allá del alcance del amor de Dios”.

En otras palabras, pase lo que pase estamos en las manos de Dios y El siempre cuidará de cada uno y de nuestras familias.

Ojala pues, y que este pasado año 2020, haya sido una oportunidad de recordarnos lo pequeños y pasajero que son nuestras vidas terrenas y de lo importante de vernos una vez más como peregrinos rumbo a un lugar mucho mejor y de paz. Yo les deseo un Feliz Nuevo Año y les mando un abrazo y saludo fraterno. ■

*Diácono Cristóbal Gutierrez  
Oficina de Ministerio Hispano/Latino  
Diócesis de Owensboro*



**¿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](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org) o llamando (270) 683-1545 (oficina) o (270) 875-2868 (celular del P. Jason).

Aprenda más en [owensborodiocese.org/vocations](http://owensborodiocese.org/vocations)

# Los católicos ‘existen para evangelizar’

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El 1 de diciembre de 2020, las parroquias de toda la Diócesis de Owensboro se reunieron virtualmente para un “Día del Discipulado” inspirado en el documento de los obispos estadounidenses de 2017, “Viviendo como discípulos misioneros”.

El día contó con el presentador invitado Marcel LeJeune, fundador y presidente de Catholic Missionary Disciples [Discípulos misioneros católicos], con sede en College Station, Texas.

“Como saben, toda la diócesis ha estado trabajando intencionalmente para crecer como discípulos misioneros durante los últimos tres años”, dijo el Dr. Jeff Andrini, director de la Oficina de Evangelización y Discipulado de la diócesis, al presentar el evento, que se llevó a cabo a través de Zoom, una plataforma de videoconferencia

El Dr. Andrini explicó que la comunidad hispana de la diócesis se ha estado involucrada con los temas de la iniciativa de “Encuentro, Acompañamiento, Comunidad y Envío” a través del proceso del V Encuentro 2017-2020 - el tema fue “Discípulos Misioneros: Testigos del amor de Dios”.

Agregó que, si bien el evento del 1 de diciembre se presentó solo en inglés, se están realizando planes para “asegurarnos de que estos mismos temas se fomenten en las comunidades hispanas en nuestras parroquias y en toda la diócesis”.

La oración de apertura fue dirigida por el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino, y Susan Montalvo-Gesser, directora de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de



## ZOOM SCREENSHOT

El 1 de diciembre de 2020, el Día del Discipulado de la Diócesis de Owensboro se llevó a cabo virtualmente. Presentadores: El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino, quien ayudó a dirigir la oración de apertura; el Dr. Jeff Andrini, director de la Oficina de Evangelización y Discipulado, quien organizó el evento; Danny May, director de la Oficina de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar, quien moderó las preguntas de los participantes; Susan Montalvo-Gesser, directora de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro, quien ayudó a dirigir la oración de apertura; y el Obispo William F. Medley, quien dio un discurso de apertura.

Owensboro. Fueron seguidos por el Obispo William F. Medley, quien dio un discurso de apertura.

El Obispo Medley recordó que el último Día de Discipulado ocurrió el 12 de marzo de 2020, pocos días antes de que Kentucky cerrara negocios, lugares de culto y otras entidades a la luz de la propagación de la pandemia del COVID-19.

El obispo dijo que sus recuerdos de las últimas tres reuniones “se centraron en la gente, en ustedes”.

“Zoom puede ser bueno, (pero) no puede sustituir la interacción humana y la comunidad que surge de eso”, dijo el Obispo Medley. “Pero en tiempos de pandemia, en tiempos de ‘superpropagación’, hacemos lo que podemos”.

En sus múltiples presentaciones a lo largo del

evento de un día de duración, LeJeune habló sobre lo que él llama una “crisis de identidad católica”.

Dijo que, en la sociedad del siglo XXI, es común que las personas se identifiquen como “católicos”, pero nunca han puesto un pie en una iglesia excepto en una boda o un funeral.

Citó al Papa Pablo VI en su exhortación apostólica de 1975, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, en la que el Papa declaró: “Evangelizar constituye, en efecto, la dicha y vocación propia de la Iglesia, su identidad más profunda. Ella existe para evangelizar” (14).

En otras palabras, dijo LeJeune, los católicos pueden decir que “como católico, existo para evangelizar”. ■

# Caridades Católicas amplía la asistencia de consejería

POR DANNY MAY, ESPECIAL PARA EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Para la mayoría de las personas, la era del COVID-19 ha sido un sube y baja emocional. El peso de la incertidumbre, una sensación global de pérdida y el recuento diario de casos en aumento han causado estrés adicional para muchos de nosotros.

En respuesta a una mayor necesidad de apoyo emocional y mental, Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro está expandiendo el programa CAP (Programa de Asistencia de Consejería), que ofrece consejería a un precio reducido a los feligreses de la diócesis. Alrededor de 15 consejeros de toda la diócesis participan actualmente en CAP, pero estamos en el proceso de agregar más consejeros en respuesta a la pandemia y otras preocupaciones crecientes. Una de esas preocupaciones es la necesidad de consejería en español. En este momento, tenemos dos consejeros de habla hispana en CAP, y un tercero está en proceso.

Así es como funciona CAP normalmente: Si el seguro médico o Medicare de un feligrés no cubre la consejería o no tiene seguro médico, simplemente puede comunicarse con un consejero de la lista de CAP en el sitio web y presentar un comprobante de ser miembro de una parroquia para ser elegible para CAP. Un comprobante podría ser un sobre de la colecta (que se mandan a los parroquianos).

El cliente puede comunicarse con el consejero directamente. El consejero envía una factura a Caridades Católicas. Caridades Católicas (no el cliente) luego solicita un reembolso de la parroquia. La tarifa generalmente se divide en partes iguales entre el cliente, Caridades Católicas y la parroquia. Para obtener más información y una lista de los consejeros participantes, visite [owensborodiocese.org/counseling](http://owensborodiocese.org/counseling). ■



LIGHTSTOCK  
Un matrimonio en crisis.

## **El Ministerio Hispano / Latino ha estado ocupado liderando grupos de oración y reflexiones disponibles para todos a través de Zoom:**

- Reflexiones compartidas del Evangelio del Domingo (Zoom): Sábados | 11:00am
  - Grupo de Oración de Hombres: Domingos | 8:00am
  - Grupo de Oración de Mujeres: Lunes | 6:00pm

Para el enlace de Zoom: Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez (270) 880-8018

# Dos seminaristas aceptados como candidatos al sacerdocio



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE DAVID GRIEF

(De izquierda a derecha) Los seminaristas Christopher French, Christopher Grief, el Diácono Corey Bruns y Flynn Mudd el 13 de diciembre de 2020 en la parroquia de Grief, San Juan Evangelista, en Paducah.

## POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

En diciembre de 2020, dos de los seminaristas de la Diócesis de Owensboro dieron el siguiente paso para ser ordenados al sacerdocio diocesano.

El domingo 13 de diciembre, el seminarista Christopher Earl Grief fue aceptado como candidato a las Órdenes Sagradas por el Obispo William F. Medley, en la parroquia de San Juan Evangelista en Paducah, la parroquia de Grief. Grief está en el segundo año de Teología y estudia en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad.

El domingo 20 de diciembre, el seminarista Martin Ma Na Ling fue aceptado como Candidato a las Órdenes Sagradas por el Obispo William F. Medley, en la parroquia del Espíritu Santo de Ma Na Ling en Bowling Green. Ma Na Ling está en el segundo año de Teología y estudia en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad.

Por favor, continúen orando por nuestros seminaristas mientras estudian y disciernen el llamado de Dios en sus vidas. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE OWENSBORO VOCATIONS  
El seminarista Martin Ma Na Ling con el obispo William F. Medley en la Parroquia Espíritu Santo en Bowling Green el 20 de diciembre de 2020.