

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

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Together in spirit

Page 5



Español

Página 28



Young leaders

Page 24



Youth walk across Brescia University's campus in the morning of March 7, 2020, on their way to the faith and morals panel discussions at this year's Youth 2000 retreat. **Page 25**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



A large cross made of paper "daffodils" hangs in the hallway at Owensboro Catholic Schools K-3 Campus on March 3, 2020. **Page 9**
ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Front page photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

- 5** Separated physically, but not spiritually
As public Masses are suspended for foreseeable future, parishes press on
- 7** Sweet, but not surface level
Local author hopes her book helps readers fall in love with Jesus
- 9** Girls learn virtues, lives of the saints, via St. Therese-themed club
Program helps make saint stories accessible to young Catholics

Submissions

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

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

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

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5	Features	20	Evangelization
14	World	21	Anniversaries
15	Around the Diocese	23	Youth
17	Upcoming Events	28	Español
19	Opinion		

A Word From Bishop Medley

Editor's note: On March 16, 2020, Bishop William F. Medley released the following letter to the people of the Diocese of Owensboro. Since then, a further announcement was made on March 24 that the bishop would be suspending the public celebration of Masses until further notice, due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

My dear People of God,

As the world stands in a time of trial and confusion, it is important that we, as people of faith, remind ourselves that we are never beyond God's reach. Even as we speak of a need to isolate ourselves from public gatherings and even neighbors, we remain assured that God is close at hand.

In Psalm 46 we pray, "Be still and know that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted over the earth."

With the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and after consultation with other Kentucky bishops and our pastors, I am calling for the suspension of the public celebration of the Holy Eucharist (the Mass) effective immediately and to continue at least through Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020. Before Holy Week we will make a determination regarding future weeks based upon the information that will then be available.

Regarding gatherings other than Mass, I urge pastors to follow the CDC directives that people not participate in gatherings of more than 50 people. We must apply these rigorous safeguards to other parish events, such as fish fries, education/formation events, and parish meetings. I know some parishes have already made plans to convert their fish fries to take-out service only.

The diocese will be distributing materials to assist individuals and families in prayer that can be shared in the home. Likewise we are exploring options for

parishes to live-stream the celebration of the Mass. As more questions are answered we will give directives on the appropriateness of having churches open for private prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

I know that our priests, deacons and lay Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist want to generously make themselves available to bring Holy Communion to people. At the same time we must be cautious that we are not carrying the infection from house to house. Certainly if you or a family member desires the Anointing of the Sick in an extreme situation, every effort will be made to accommodate you in a hospital, nursing home, or in your home.

In this time of trial and anxiety, I urge everyone who is able to be particularly mindful of your neighbor, especially the vulnerable who should refrain from leaving home. Can you go to the store for them? Call and check on them, give them human contact if only by phone.

With schools closed and likely daycare centers closing, many parents are finding themselves in a bind regarding childcare. Can you lend a hand and a heart?

While it is a tremendous sacrifice for Catholics not to come to Mass, to the table of the Lord, it is imperative that we embrace this challenge for the common good of all. My prayer is that this unforeseen abstinence from the Eucharist will strengthen

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR APRIL 2020

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

APRIL 14	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield
APRIL 15	6 p.m. Diocesan Review Board Meeting
APRIL 16	9 a.m. Mass – Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus, Owensboro
APRIL 18	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm
APRIL 19	11 a.m. Confirmation – St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah 6 p.m. Mass – Murray State University Newman Center, Murray
APRIL 20	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting
APRIL 21	6:30 p.m. Confirmation – Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 22	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Alphonsus Parish, St. Joseph
APRIL 23	6:30 p.m. Confirmation – Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 25	12 p.m. Confirmation – Christ the King Parish, Scottsville 5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 26	10:30 a.m. Confirmation – Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawesville 3 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville
APRIL 27	6:30 p.m. Child Abuse Prevention Prayer Service – Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 28	9:30 a.m. Mass & Senior Conversations – St. Mary High School, Paducah
APRIL 29	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho
APRIL 30	9 a.m. Mass – Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus, Owensboro 6:30 p.m. Confirmation – St. Lawrence Parish, Philpot

Please visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/covid-2019> for the latest information relating to the diocese and the COVID-19 situation.

Continues on page 4

A Word from Bishop Medley continued from page 3

our hunger for God.

The Holy Eucharist is at the heart of who we are as Catholics. It is the source and the summit of our lives. I could never have imagined a day where as a bishop and pastor I would ask people not to attend

Mass. But this is the sacrifice to which we are called. We are never beyond the reach of God. And that reach can be multiplied by our acts of charity and concern for our neighbors.

Let us hold one another in prayer and pray espe-

cially for the sick, healthcare workers, and caregivers. God bless you. ■



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Special announcements from the bishop's office: Ordination, Chrism Mass

The diaconate ordination of seminarian Corey Bruns, set for Saturday, April 4, 2020, has been postponed due to the current COVID-19 situation. A new date has not been set at this time. Please pray for Corey and all our seminarians as their formation has been halted at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology due to the suspension of the spring semester and the closure of all their offices. Also postponed at this time is Chrism Mass, which was set for Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at the Owensboro Sportscenter. According to the Congregation for Divine Worship, a bishop may celebrate Chrism Mass outside of Holy Week. Bishop Medley intends to celebrate this Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral at a date to be determined. ■

Bishop abuse reporting service launched

BY WKC STAFF

In May 2019, Pope Francis released his apostolic letter, "Vos estis lux mundi" ("You are the light of the world") to address the issue of sexual abuse and bishop accountability in the global Catholic Church. "Vos estis" calls upon the metropolitan archbishops to undertake the responsibilities for receiving and assessing reports involving bishops that pertain to sexual abuse and related misconduct. In June 2019 the bishops of the United States approved the implementation plan for carrying out the directives of the Holy Father here in the United States.

As part of this ongoing commitment to carrying out "Vos estis," the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) was established. The service is operated by Convercent, Inc., an independent, third-party entity that provides intake services to private institutions for reports of sensitive topics, such as sexual harassment, through a secure, confidential

and professional platform. Individuals may go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or (800) 276-1562 in order to make a report.

When a report against a bishop from one of the seven dioceses in the Louisville province is received, it will be forwarded to Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, the local metropolitan archbishop. The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting service allows individuals to relay to Church authorities any reports of a U.S. Catholic bishop who has:

- Forced someone to perform or to submit to sexual acts through violence, threat or abuse of authority.
- Performed sexual acts with a minor or a vulnerable person.
- Produced, exhibited, possessed or distributed child pornography, or recruited or induced a minor or a vulnerable person to participate in pornographic exhibitions.

- Intentionally interfered with a civil or church investigation into allegations of sexual abuse committed by another cleric or religious. (This includes a cleric overseeing a diocese/eparchy in the absence of a diocesan or eparchial bishop.)

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) does not replace existing reporting systems for complaints against priests, deacons, religious or laity.

To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church other than a bishop, please call and speak confidentially to one of our Pastoral Assistance Coordinators: 270-852-8380 for Louanne Payne in English and 270-880-8360 for Susan Montalvo-Gesser or Miguel Quintanilla in Español. You may also visit our Office of Safe Environment online at owensborodiocese.org/safe for more information. ■

Separated physically, yet not spiritually

As public Masses are suspended for foreseeable future, parishes press on



COURTESY OF FR. JOSH MCCARTY

This picture, taken by Fr. Josh McCarty on March 18, was from the first Mass that Fr. McCarty celebrated privately after public Masses were suspended in the Diocese of Owensboro due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. He offered his Mass for his parishioners. "My hope is that people will find grace in the quiet" of this unusual time, Fr. McCarty told the WKC.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On March 16, 2020, Bishop William F. Medley made an announcement that was similar to statements released by bishops all across the United States, but that did not make it any easier: he was calling for the diocese-wide discontinuation of all public Masses.

This decision was not made lightly, but in response to the situation surrounding the growing pandemic of the Coronavirus Disease 2019, or COVID-19. The bishop wrote that "I could never have imagined a day where as a bishop and pastor I would ask people not to attend Mass. But this is the sacrifice to which we are called."

And on March 24, during press week for this is-

sue of *The Western Kentucky Catholic*, the evolving COVID-19 situation led the bishop to call for the suspension to continue "until further notice." This includes the celebration of Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter, as priests will privately celebrate these liturgies.

But even with public Masses suspended, pastors and parish leaders remain committed to serving their flocks to the best of their abilities. This often includes leaving churches open daily for private prayer (keeping in mind the CDC's directives of no more than 10 people in one place and the six-foot social distancing rule) and live-streaming (via Facebook, Vimeo and other platforms) the priests' private celebration of the Mass.

Fr. Julio Barrera, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Morgantown and Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam, posted a video in English and a video in Spanish on Holy Trinity's Facebook page on March 21, offering information and encouragement to his two parishes.

Besides inviting parishioners to watch his live-streamed Masses, he also suggested that they create a special place for prayer in their homes.

"Let's keep praying for one another," said Fr. Barrera, who on Sundays has been live-streaming both a Mass in English and a Mass in Spanish. "I know this can be difficult for us to be isolated. We are physically separated – but we are not separated spiritually."

Fr. Randy Howard at St. Agnes in Uniontown has begun a practice of praying and live-streaming the rosary at 3 p.m. In one video, posted on March

Continues on page 6

Parishes press on continued from page 5

22, he explained why he keeps the camera focused on his statue of Our Lady and a vase of flowers, rather than on himself.

“A sister of mine suggested that rather than focusing the camera on myself, instead perhaps having a statue of Mary, it might be easier to meditate that way,” he said in the video.

Other parishes, such as Christ the King in Madisonville, have also been offering a daily live-streamed rosary. Christ the King’s pastor, Fr. Carl McCarthy, shares a short reflection at the end of each rosary.

“I don’t know if you realize it or not, but the first day of spring was this past Thursday,” said Fr. McCarthy in his March 23 rosary video. “With everything going on in our world with this health crisis, we could have easily missed that spring has come.”

Fr. McCarthy urged viewers to do some self-care in the form of walking outside, if possible: “We need to remember to take care of ourselves and look to the creation that God has given us.”

Parishes’ various ministries have been striving to serve their communities during this time.

While they live-streamed pastor Fr. John Vaughan’s private celebration of Sunday Mass on March 22, Immaculate Parish in Owensboro realized parishioners might miss the music that went with the Mass. So music director, Matt Gray, uploaded a YouTube video of himself playing the Mass pieces on the piano.

“In this absence of the Mass, especially on the weekend, I just thought I’d take a few moments here and go through the music that was selected for this Sunday that you would have heard if you were here,” said Gray.

And even though ordinary parish life has changed, parishioners continue offering their services to help their communities where they can.

On March 23, the Facebook page for St. Thomas More Parish’s Family Life Ministry posted that they would be starting up a “phone ministry” to “call and check in on our most vulnerable parishioners.”

“Please let us know if you are willing to be a part of this ministry!” read the post.

When St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield live-streamed their March 22 Sunday Mass, parishioner Tommy Higdon commented that he had collected bulk items to donate to a mission helping victims of the tornado that hit Tennessee in early March. After being told that the mission was overwhelmed with donations, Higdon wanted to let the vulnerable know they could turn to him for some supplies.

“Free to the elderly and the needy,” wrote Higdon. “Just reach out to me.”

Keeping in mind the pastoral needs of the faithful, multiple parishes have been offering creative ways for parishioners to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville posted on their Facebook page that pastor, Fr. Ken Mikulcik, would be hearing confessions on March 19 – but “be sure to practice social distancing with no more than 10 people in the church at one time.”

Fr. John Thomas, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, also found a solution to hearing confessions while remaining physically distant and safe.

Advertising “Outdoor Sacrament of Reconciliation” on his Facebook page on March 23, Fr. Thomas asked that the faithful remain in their cars in the parking lot, within an area marked with traffic cones, as he went from car to car to hear confessions – while keeping a safe distance.

Parish youth ministry, too, has been impacted by COVID-19 situation, but youth ministers are up

to the challenge.

Crissy Stevenson, youth minister at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, told the WKC that she encouraged her youth to participate in the “Biggest Youth Night Ever” on March 22, hosted digitally by Project YM, a national youth ministry resource organization.

“Project YM provided leader information with discussion questions, so when it was over, we were able to talk about the experience, check-in with one another, and pray together,” said Stevenson on March 24, admitting that this has been a learning curve.

“I’m trying to stick to virtual gatherings over Zoom a couple of nights a week, sending home post cards, and regular text message check-ins,” she added.

In the evening of Sunday, March 22, the youth ministry of St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro hosted an Instagram Live praise and worship session, which youth minister Matt Knight said went well.

“Our plan is to continue doing it throughout this time,” said Knight on March 24. “We had about 20 youth and 41 total people on the live stream. Parents are very thankful as they are able to show with their whole family watching.” ■

Pray and watch Mass online

For live-streamed Mass and prayer opportunities, visit [owensborodiocese.org/covid-2019](https://www.owensborodiocese.org/covid-2019). To add your parish to the list, please email communications@pastoral.org.

Sweet, but not surface level

Local author hopes her 'Christian contemporary romance' helps readers fall in love with Jesus

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Neena Gaynor, a local author and member of St. Stephen Cathedral, believes that reading fiction can become a “holy way to spend your time.”

Her first novel, “The Bird and the Bees,” will be released on April 21 from Mantle Rock Publishing. It will be available in paperback and e-book format.

“While the book is a ‘Christian contemporary romance,’ it’s my hope that the story inspires readers to fall deeper in love with Jesus,” said Gaynor.

“The Bird and the Bees” tells the story of Larkin Maybee, who after burying her mother in the foothills of Appalachia is left alone with a crazy aunt, a mountain of debt and a run-down, secluded cabin – as well as the task of caring for the cabin’s honeybees. As the protagonist begins to accept the kindness of the local people and the affection of a professional baseball player, she must decide the value of true love.

While Gaynor herself is Catholic – she entered the Church in 2017 – the book is not explicitly Catholic. The story steers clear of “very strong church language, because the character is largely unchurched,” said Gaynor.

And besides, “from my experience in learning the Christian market, people don’t typically want a sermon out of their free time,” she said.

Gaynor also explained that her book, while classi-



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Neena Gaynor, who belongs to St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, recently published her first novel.

fied as a “romance,” avoids anything “inappropriate” for “young readers – or even adults who aren’t interested in that.”

The Christian writer’s market is different from the regular market, and “that standard is really very high” she said, crediting Mantle Rock’s “great job”

in working with her.

“It’s something you can hand your young teenage daughter and not be terrified about,” she said. “They call it ‘sweet’ romance, which is another name for it; clean or sweet – and I just think the word sweet just exemplifies what it is.”

Continues on page 8

Local author continued from page 7

But Gaynor said the book’s plot is far from shallow, “because our faith is a deep faith.”

“So it’s sweet, but not surface level,” she said.

Gaynor said she had always wanted to be a writer, but her education is actually in nursing. She was a surgical nurse for a few years until she and her husband had children and she shifted her life to being a stay-at-home mom.

“If I’d never had children I don’t know if I’d ever have been a writer,” she said, explaining that her sons – Josey, 6, and Wiley, 4 – like her to be in their room as they fall asleep. After realizing she was spending far too much time scrolling on social media, she decided to “try and do something productive.”

So she took to writing on her laptop – and after a year, “I had a book,” said Gaynor.

She said it’s “kind of crazy” but just from sitting in their room, her sons had “carved out a writing time for me.”

Gaynor is no stranger to writing. Her husband, Wade, had played professional baseball for a number of years, and during that time she started writing devotions for the women of Baseball Chapel (which ministers to families within professional baseball).

In that, she said she discovered her gift for writing and “taking something I love and using it for Jesus.”

These days, she writes on her blog, WordsLikeHoney.com, and is a regular columnist for The Hancock County Clarion in Hancock County, and the Kentucky Today online news magazine.

She said her husband has been “encouraging” and “wonderful” throughout her journey as a new author.

“When someone says ‘My dream is to do this,’ he says ‘Why don’t you start?’” said Gaynor of her husband. “He grew up always thinking ‘I want to play professional baseball,’ and he got to do it, so when he hears someone else, especially his wife – someone he loves and wants to encourage anyway – say I want to write a book, he says ‘Well take your laptop! Go!’”

The novel’s love interest, she admits, is based heavily on her husband – he is a baseball player, after all – and more so than the main character resembles herself.

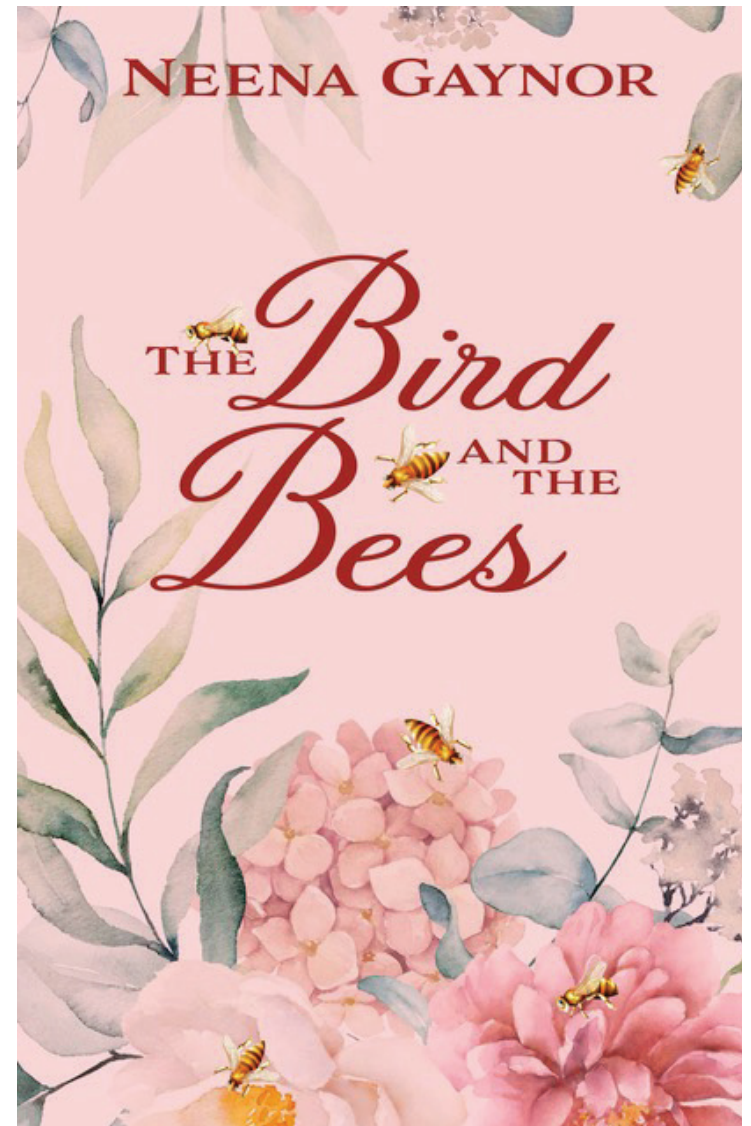
“It seems very autobiographical, but it’s not,” she said with a chuckle. For instance, her protagonist’s parents are not good parents, versus Gaynor’s own “such wonderful parents!”

She said the book includes discussion questions at the end, and is endorsed by Susan Brinkman, OCDS, director of communications and New Age research at Women of Grace, and also by Elizabeth Santorum Marcolini, New York Times Best Selling Author.

Gaynor said the theme of her book is “the power of choice,” and that “ultimately, at the end of the day, there is only one choice that matters – and it’s always just to follow Jesus.”

“While there are many circumstances in life we would never choose from flat tires, a parent addicted to drugs or alcohol, or devastating medical diagnoses, we aren’t alone,” she said. “The best response is always to embrace the Heart of Jesus. Always!” ■

“The Bird and the Bees” by Neena Gaynor is now available for pre-order on e-book and will be released in paperback on April 21, 2020. To find out more, visit <http://www.wordslikehoney.com/book>.



COURTESY OF NEENA GAYNOR
Neena Gaynor’s book, “The Bird and the Bees,” will be released on April 21, 2020.

Girls learn virtues, lives of the saints, via St. Therese-themed club



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

The members of the K-3 Campus's Little Flowers Girls Club gather for a group photo on March 3, 2020.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Sixty-two little girls filled the hallway inside Owensboro Catholic School's K-3 Campus in the afternoon of March 3, 2020, their voices raised in happy chatter as adult leaders organized them into a line. Though they were of varying ages – kindergarten through third grade – all had one thing in common: a t-shirt featuring an image of St. Therese of Lisieux and the words “Little Flowers Girls Club.”

“We started this last spring,” said Caroline Fleischmann, who helped establish the club last year. Her daughter, Maggie, is a third grader at the K-3 Campus, and a member of Little Flowers.

Fleischmann said there was a Little Flowers club about 10 years ago, but it had folded. This time around, she said the club has blossomed as “girls talked to their friends about it” and interest grew.

The Little Flowers Girls Club program, named for St. Therese – who is often called “the Little Flower” – was written by Rachel Watkins in 1993 to help girls learn virtues through scriptures and the lives of female saints. Today it is distributed by Behold Publications, headquartered in Buckner, Ky., and there are about 400 Little Flowers Girls Clubs worldwide.

Joan Stromberg, co-owner of Behold Publications, told the WKC that registration as a club is voluntary, so there may be even more clubs in oper-

ation that are unregistered. They also do not register individual girls, “so our best guess based on the materials we sell every year is about 5,000-6,000 girls who use our programs each year,” she said.

“Most of our clubs are in the U.S., although they are also popular on military bases around the world and other English-speaking countries,” said Stromberg.

The girls gathered in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, (which shares a campus with the K-3 school), greeted by Sr. M. Francis Teresa Scully, DCJ. Sr. Scully, whose main ministry is directing the Carmel Home in Owensboro, also helps plan and lead the Little Flowers meetings.

Hayden Flynn was given the role of leading the St. Therese prayer that day.

“May I always do the little things of life extra well for the love of God,” said Hayden, reading the prayer out of their Little Flowers workbook.

A quick snack followed, and then Sr. Scully rose to speak.

“Today you will be earning your truthfulness badge,” she said to the girls, who now wore light blue sashes featuring various badges. “You’ll be learning about St. Bridget of Sweden.”

“She practiced charity in what she spoke and how she spoke,” said Sr. Scully.

Workbooks opened to the section on St. Bridget, the girls colored an illustration of the saint as a young girl. Then they started on their craft of the day, with the older “leaders” (third graders) assisting

Continues on page 10

Little Flowers continued from page 9



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

(Left) Sr. M. Francis Teresa Scully, DCJ, welcomes the Little Flowers Girls Club members into the parish hall at Our Lady of Lourdes in Owensboro on March 3, 2020. (Right) Several Little Flowers members look at a picture in their club workbook on March 3, 2020.

the younger girls.

Fleischmann said they meet twice a month and activities include service projects, such as making baby blankets for the local Birthright of Owensboro (a pregnancy care center), and visiting and doing crafts with the residents of the Carmel Home.

For their previous meeting, the girls had learned about St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and earned their “virtue of industry” badges as they assembled a large daffodil cross to hang in the K-3 school for Lent. They have also held a mother-daughter tea, and are planning a mother-daughter camping trip at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center this summer.

Fleischmann said the school’s principal, Jim Tinius, is unable to attend the meetings but is “very supportive” of Little Flowers, as is Kristen Miller, the

school’s differentiated learning specialist. On Little Flowers meeting days, Tinius lets the members wear their club t-shirts with their school uniform bottoms.

Susie Harris is a regular volunteer at Little Flowers, since she has two granddaughters in the club – Avery Mills in first grade, and Laney Latanzio in kindergarten.

Harris said she finds it “wonderful that (Little Flowers) can put such complex stories about the saints on their level.”

Mary Osborne, a third-grader, told the WKC that it’s “really cool to be able to help with the littler kids.”

Her fellow third graders take their roles just as seriously, and just enjoy being a part of the club overall.

Catherine Ray said she enjoys helping the young-

er girls, such as assisting when they can’t find a page number. Anna Mudd recalled making bracelets for their neighbors, Valentines for the elderly, and Christmas caroling for the elderly, too.

Fleischmann said she relies heavily on the commitment of the many volunteers, moms and grandmothers who assist in planning and running the meetings and activities.

“My main goal is that they are full of joy,” said Fleischmann of the Little Flowers, and her daughter, Maggie, couldn’t agree more.

“What I love about it is that we all get to have fun, and we all get to learn about the saints,” she said. ■

If you’d like to contact Caroline to find out more about starting your own Little Flowers club, email her at carolinefleischmann@gmail.com.

Outposts of a missionary Church

There is hope for the Church, says evangelization speaker



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Tim Glemkowski, the president and founder of L'Alto Catholic Institute, speaks at the March 12, 2020 "Living as Missionary Disciples" event in the Diocese of Owensboro, held at the Owensboro Convention Center.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Tim Glemkowski, the president and founder of L'Alto Catholic Institute, likes to use the example of explorers Lewis and Clark when talking about the challenges facing parishes in the 21st century.

Lewis and Clark brought canoes on their exploration, thinking that they would be mostly crossing through water. However, they encountered mountain after mountain instead – causing them to have to carry their canoes as they traveled through the mountains.

It was a well-thought plan, but the explorers were not equipped for the actual challenges to face them.

Similarly, in many parishes today, "we've built canoes that existed for particular purposes," said Glemkowski in a Feb. 28 interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

By "canoes" he means parish life still operating under the outdated belief that Christianity – and religion itself – is an ordinary part of modern society.

But parishes aren't so lucky anymore, said Glemkowski, who spoke on March 12 to pastors and other parish leaders gathered at the Owensboro Convention Center to kick off the Diocese of Owensboro's third year of its "Living as Missionary Disciples" initiative, led by the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. Following Year 1 (Encounter) and Year 2 (Accompany), Year 3's theme is "Community."

Glemkowski served as the keynote speaker for the event, which also included Morning Prayer and Midday Prayer as a community, table group discussion, and lunch.

Glemkowski, who himself identifies as a Millennial, told the WKC in February that Millennials have been seen as representing the first post-Christian generation. The following Generation Z is even less connected with organized religion, he said.

Across the country – including in the Diocese of Owensboro – fewer Catholic weddings take place, fewer infants are being baptized, and even fewer people are entering into full communion with the Catholic Church via the Rite of Christian Initiation

(RCIA).

"People are discouraged," said Glemkowski of pastors and parish leadership seeing the troubling future: a rapidly-declining Church in the United States.

But what's worse is when "a lot of parish leaders are used to decline," he told the WKC, adding that many parishes have simply accepted the lack of engagement and plummeting membership.

Glemkowski believes there is hope, however.

In today's society, everywhere is mission territory, and parishes must see themselves as "outposts of a missionary Church," he said.

"We've bought into the really weird lie that evangelization means big events and budgets," said Glemkowski. While in fact, "twelve ordinary, uneducated apostles evangelized the whole world."

He recommended that parish leaders gather "a few people around who really get it," to form teams focused on engaging and evangelizing. And as those few, dedicated people work to spread the Good News, it should have a ripple effect in parish communities and beyond.

"Just being told there is hope and seeing the impact and growth, people's lives have been changed," he said. "The Gospel still has the power to change the human heart." ■

To learn more about the ministry of L'Alto Catholic Institute, visit www.laltocatholic.com or contact them via www.laltocatholic.com/contact or by calling (630) 384-9031.

Hopkinsville parish kicks off anti-porn project with Safe Haven Sunday

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville recently launched a new anti-pornography program from the Diocese of Owensboro and according to parish team member Dee Dailey, “the response from parishioners has been good.”

The program is called the Clean Heart Initiative (CleanHeartInitiative.org) and based on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2015 pastoral statement on combatting pornography, “Create in Me a Clean Heart.”

“I hope and pray that the information passed out has opened the door to further discussion in relationships where it’s needed,” said Dailey.

Sts. Peter and Paul’s initiative was kicked off with Safe Haven Sunday on the weekend of February 15/16, 2020. Dailey said the kickoff was preceded by several weeks of information in the bulletin.

That weekend after each Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul ushers and Clean Heart team members handed out information to all adults over 18.

“It included several brochures and links to sites that are helpful for individuals and families dealing with the issue of pornography, that we received through Danny May (diocesan director of marriage and family life), after reviewing them with him and in committee,” said Dailey.

Fr. Richard Meredith, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, said most adults accepted the materials they

were offered after the Masses, and that the parish held follow-up information sessions for adults in the weeks after.

The sessions included watching the “Informed” videos from IntegrityRestored.com, which seeks to equip families, churches and communities in the fight against pornography.

Dailey said the Clean Heart team chose to use the videos because they were presented by experts



in the field, and that the team “thought it would be much better to let experts with very different backgrounds present the information.”

Fr. Meredith said they plan to encourage the parish’s adult small groups to watch and to discuss the videos.

“The consensus is that these are valuable, well done, and very helpful,” said Fr. Meredith. “Like our safe environment commitments, this initiative will need to be on-going.”

Dee said the materials they use for their presentations are geared toward adults, but through the initiative the parish also has several age-appropriate

books and materials for parents to use with their children. These can be loaned out to parents, or purchased from the diocese.

“One of those is ‘Good Pictures, Bad Pictures’ for different ages to help children know what to report to their parents and avoid,” said Dailey. “Another book is ‘Wonderfully Made’ about babies.”

“But it’s up to the parents to choose what to use with their children,” she added.

Dailey said both preparing to launch the initiative and implementing it “went even more smoothly than we may have expected,” and encouraged interested parishes to consider launching their own Clean Heart program.

“I imagine many parishes may be holding back because of unknowns,” she said, but, “it is certainly needed information.”

Dailey said the process was fairly simple to bring Clean Heart to her parish. She provided a basic overview of how it worked for them.

“Gather a committee of 5-10 people who are interested in helping; meet with Danny May; discuss and view the videos from the Informed Series; build a reasonable calendar of Safe Haven Sunday and presentation of videos to the parish; and order materials,” she said, adding that it is cheaper to order through the diocese than through the individual websites.

Dailey said the diocese’s materials include small cards to hand out.

Continues on page 13

Safe Haven Sunday continued from page 12

“These cards basically help people think about what the signs of pornography use are,” said Dailey, explaining that this is basically the same as other addictions. “Change in mood or behavior; a person being indifferent to things they used to enjoy; a usually social person become more withdrawn; a preoccupation with sex, sexually-oriented pictures, talk, shows; finding porn in a child’s room, to name a few.”

The cards also include places people can go to for help and resources for porn-proofing the home.

May said the concept of Safe Haven Sunday was developed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans in partnership with Covenant Eyes, a software company which monitors and works to filter out pornography in the home.

While the Diocese of Owensboro has not officially partnered with Covenant Eyes for their own pro-

gram, May said they are ordering the “Equipped” books for parents from Covenant Eyes “and following the model created by New Orleans.”

“Bishop Medley suggested we pilot the Clean Heart Initiative in parishes to start small and grow slowly,” said May.

He said as other parishes are interested, he will work with Ethan Bennett – a counselor with Abba Healing Services in Owensboro – to train parish and parish cluster teams. Most recently, May and Bennett have filmed training videos for the teams to use in order to better streamline the process.

Dailey said she looks forward to continuing outreach in small groups.

“As Fr. Meredith likes to say ‘it’s a modest beginning,’” she said. “But it is a beginning and we pray it will help.” ■

Clean Heart Initiative

To learn more about the Clean Heart Initiative and Safe Haven Sunday, visit cleanheartinitiative.org.

Note: *Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro is the other parish in the diocese currently set to pilot the Clean Heart Initiative. But as their Safe Haven Sunday was originally scheduled to take place the weekend of March 21/22, and all Masses had been suspended at that time due to the current COVID-19 situation, the kickoff has been postponed.*

Candidates and catechumens take next step at 2020 Rite of Election celebrations

TINA KASEY | WKC

During the 2 p.m. Rite of Election celebration on March 1 at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, sponsors introduce the candidates to Bishop William F. Medley.

BY WKC STAFF

On Feb. 23 at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, and at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on March 1 at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, the Rite of Election celebration was held for candidates and catechumens journeying toward entering the Catholic Church at Easter. The Rite of Election goes back to the history of the Israelites, when God called them to be his elect – his chosen people – to later spread the Good News to all the world. Catechumens are those awaiting the Sacrament of Baptism at the Easter Vigil, and candidates are those awaiting the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Holy Communion. This year, Paducah’s Rite of Election had 12 catechumens and 28 candidates register to attend; Owensboro’s 2 p.m. Rite of Election had 22 catechumens and 51 candidates register to attend; and Owensboro’s 6 p.m. Rite of Election had 28 catechumens and 35 candidates register to attend. ■

‘Every man for himself’ is not a solution to pandemic, pope says

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES, CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As more and more countries start to feel the economic pinch due to the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis urged business leaders to seek solutions that will not hurt employees and their families.

“Each (country) must find concrete solutions depending on their situation, but of course, ‘every man for himself,’ is not a solution,” the pope said in an interview via Skype that aired in Spain March 22. “A business that lays off employees to save itself is not a solution. In this moment, instead of laying off, we must welcome and make everyone feel that there is a society of solidarity.”

When told by Spanish journalist Jordi Evole that business leaders could argue that he may not be knowledgeable business management and the struggles of maintaining a business with staggering production losses, the pope said they were right in their assertion.

But, he continued: “I do know the hardships that will face the employee, the workers and their families. And there are certain realities appearing, and we are being asked to take care of those realities.”

Commenting on the images of him blessing an empty St. Peter’s Square at the end of his Sunday Angelus address, Pope Francis said that the square has become “a desert.”

Although he does not meet with groups, the pope said he still holds personal meetings “every hour or every half-hour, and I continue to work normally.”

He was also asked if he was an “optimist” when it came to how the world would be after the current crisis is over.

“I don’t like that word because optimism sounds to me like makeup,” something false and superficial, he said. “I have hope in humanity, in men and women, and I have hope in the people. I have a lot of hope (in) the people who will take lessons from this crisis to rethink their lives. We are going to come out better, although there will be fewer of us, of course. Many will remain on the path and it is hard. But I have faith we will come out of this better.”

While all of Italy has been on lockdown since March 9 and Spain followed suit March 14, more and more countries, including the United States, have begun to adopt similar measures in an effort to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

As of March 22, the Italian government reported that 5,476 people had died from the virus. However, the daily death toll experienced a slight decrease, which possibly indicated that lockdown measures were working.

When asked what he would tell men, women and families who live in fear due to the pandemic, the pope said that “the last thing I would do is tell them something.”

“What I try to do is make them feel that I am close to them. Today, the language of gestures is more important than words. Of course, something should be said, but it is the gesture of sending them a greeting” that is most important, he said.

The current pandemic, Pope Francis added, has

If you can’t go to confession, take your sorrow directly to God, pope says

People who cannot get to confession because of the coronavirus lockdown or another serious reason can go to God directly, be specific about their sins, request pardon and experience God’s loving forgiveness, Pope Francis said March 20 during his livestreamed morning Mass. Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, “‘I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.’ And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church, N. 1452, says: “When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called ‘perfect’ — contrition of charity. Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible.” Full story: cnsstopstories.com/2020/03/20/if-you-cant-go-to-confession-take-your-sorrow-directly-to-god-pope-says

- Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

also revealed the plight of the less fortunate, which is a tragedy “that is concealed from societies.”

“A couple of days ago, a police officer — with good intentions — told a man, ‘Sir, please go home, you can’t be out here in the street.’ And this man told him, ‘I don’t have a home. I live on the street,’” the pope recalled.

“We must start to be close to those people who we only know as a concept: the homeless, those who are taken advantage, the sad world of exploited women which is all a business. And this brings us close to those people who, in a way, have very little hope because they don’t have anywhere to lean on. It’s very sad but at the same time, we start to realize that these people exist,” he said. ■

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Permanent diaconate candidates installed into Ministry of Acolyte



COURTESY OF LARENA LAWSON
(Left to right) Hal Jones, Bill Clark, Gayle Rhodes, TJ Dennison, Frank Bosh, John Knight and Tony Carmona were installed into the Ministry of Acolyte for permanent deacon candidates.



COURTESY OF LARENA LAWSON
Gayle Rhodes kneels before Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, vicar general of the Diocese of Owensboro, during the Feb. 29, 2020 institution into the Ministry of Acolyte for permanent deacon candidates.

BY WKC STAFF

On the morning of Feb. 29, 2020, seven men were installed in the Ministry of Acolyte by Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, vicar general for the Diocese of Owensboro. (Fr. Reynolds acted by proxy for Bishop William F. Medley, who was sick with a cold that day.) The candidates will be ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2021.

The candidates are: Frank Bosh (St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah, Ky.); Tony Carmona (Fort Campbell Catholic Community, Tenn.); Bill Clark (St. John Parish, Lone Oak, Tenn.); T.J. Dennison (St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield, Ky.); Hal Jones (St. Jude Parish, Clinton, Ky.); John Knight (Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson, Ky.); and Gayle Rhodes (Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro, Ky.). ■

“Quiet Time with God” Contemplative Week

Sunday, June 7–Friday, June 12



Come, spend time alone, spend time with God, spend time with others. Let the peaceful and holy surroundings of Mount Saint Joseph rejuvenate your soul through prayer and quiet time with God and self. Spiritual direction is available for those who wish it.

To register: 270-229-0206
retreatcenter@maplemount.org or online:
ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY

Lent is a time to 'reorder' our lives, says bishop at Ash Wednesday liturgy

BY WKC STAFF

At his Feb. 26, 2020 noon Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro celebrating Ash Wednesday, Bishop William F. Medley told the faithful that "Lent is about spring."

"Soon enough, nature will cooperate and show us that," he said, "but we can experience that new life and new hope today."

The bishop said that however full someone's prayer life may be, "Lent is a time to reorder that," and that this is a season to "be conscious as we deny ourselves something that some people never have." ■

ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley blesses the ashes on Feb. 26, 2020, during St. Stephen Cathedral's noon Ash Wednesday Mass.



Parish celebrates pastor's 54th birthday



COURTESY OF SARAH BROCK

Fr. John Okoro, pastor of St. Ambrose Parish in Morganfield, St. Francis Borgia Parish in Sturgis and St. William Parish in Marion, celebrated his 54th birthday on February 24. Here's a photo from his celebration with the St. William community, which provided him with a cake decorated with soccer balls.



Photo Courtesy of Lolek Productions

Passionist Vocation Retreats

Open to Single, Catholic
women ages 17-30

**June 26-28,
2020**

Interested? Contact us:

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8564 Crisp Road
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(270) 233-4571
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Wonder what it's like being a Nun?
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APRIL 2020 BULLETIN BOARD

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

Nominate a catechetical leader today!

The Offices of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry are asking for nominations for the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award. The recipient of this award will be announced at the Appreciation Dinner for Catechetical and Youth Ministers on May 8, 2020 at Christ the King Gym, Madisonville. Anyone in the Diocese of Owensboro may nominate an individual for this award. Nominees should be (or have been) professional ministers working for a minimum of five years in the Diocese of Owensboro in the field of catechetics. The deadline for nominations is April 22, 2020. Contact charlie.hardesty@pastoral.org or visit owensborodiocese.org/catechetical-leader-award for the digital nomination form. All nomination forms should be mailed to the Faith Formation Office, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130 or emailed to charlie.hardesty@pastoral.org by April 22, 2020.

Drive-Thru BBQ Sale at St. Lawrence

Sunday, April 26 at 11 a.m. Located at St. Lawrence Picnic Grounds, 6119 St. Lawrence Rd., Philpot, KY. (270) 281-4802

Container Collection for the Mandeville Diocese Set to Begin May 1, 2020

The Owensboro Diocese and the Mandeville Diocese are set to begin a collection of goods for a shipping container to provide needed items for education and healthcare for the children and needy adults in Jamaica. The collection will begin on May 1, 2020 and run through September 21, 2020. A full list of what is requested and how these should be collected can be found at owensborodiocese.org/mandeville-sister-diocese.

Please contact Deacon Richard Murphy before August 15, 2020 (the earlier the better) and let him know what you plan to collect. He can be reached by phone at 270-683-1545 and by email at richard.murphy@pastoral.org.

Camino with Frs. Will Thompson and Gary Clark

While this year's Camino trip is full, names are being accepted of those interested in participating in 2021. This is a chance of a lifetime to walk the way of St. James in Spain on a 9 day Camino to Santiago.

Please send an email to Fr. Gary Clark at gary.clark@pastoral.org or Fr. Will Thompson at stjosephandpaulparish.org to let them know you are interested in the 2021 trip. You will be contacted when registration opens.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development local grant information

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is a national social justice program of the U. S. Catholic Bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community controlled, self-help organizations, and through transformative education of the non-poor. Each November, the Diocese of Owensboro participates in the national Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection. From that collection, a percentage of monies are retained to provide grant funding to local organizations which meet CCHD criteria. Catholic Charities administers and allocates the grant funding. Those interested in applying for the grant should contact Deacon Richard Murphy at (270) 683-1545, by email at richard.murphy@pastoral.org or visit owensborodiocese.org/cchd. Grant applications must be received by May 20, 2020 so the grants can be awarded on or before June 20, 2020.

Yarn Spinners Weekend May 29-31

If you enjoy yarn spinning, weaving, rug hooking, knitting or crocheting, you are welcome to attend the May 29-31 spinners weekend at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). All skill levels are welcome. Experience the fun and fellowship of working on your projects with other yarn enthusiasts. The fee is \$164 for two nights; \$82 for one night, or \$25 for commuters. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online: ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/ Note: There will also be yarn spinning weekends in August and November.

Praying Your Dreams: Finding God Within June 13

"Praying Your Dreams: Finding God Within" will allow you to recognize your dreams as an invitation from God to be more fully and profoundly a spiritual seeker. The retreat takes place on Saturday, June 13, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56.) This program will help those who seek a deeper understanding

of God and themselves. They will be given dreamwork tools and techniques to find meaning in their dreams and will learn to work with the Holy Spirit and the language of symbols. The presenter is Theresa O'Bryan, a graduate of Mount Saint Joseph Academy, Maple Mount, and of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana with a degree in pastoral theology. She is a spiritual director and counselor and a hospital chaplain. The \$40 fee includes lunch (the cost is \$45 at the door). To request a flyer or to register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online at ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs.

Nominate a teacher for 2020 Educator of the Year

The Catholic Schools Office and the Principals and Administrators of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (PACCESS) are again asking for nominations for Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year. The winner will be announced at the 2020 Celebration of Catholic Schools event. Anyone, with the exception of an immediate family member, may nominate an educator for the award. All information concerning nominees will be kept confidential, including the name of the person submitting the nomination. The educator must currently be employed in the Diocese of Owensboro and must have taught for a minimum of five years in the diocesan schools. The outstanding Catholic School Educator must be a role model as an outstanding human being; have a major influence in the lives of students; show concern with the faith development as well as the physical, mental and emotional development of students; and encourage students to improve their abilities and talents. The deadline for nominations is July 1, 2020. For more information and to nominate someone, visit owensborodiocese.org/educator-award.

Bunkobabes Trip to Garden of The Gods, the Royal Gorge & Colorado Springs

September 19-27, 2020. \$950 per person (double occupancy) with \$75 due upon signing and final payment due July 12. Enjoy your chartered comfortable bus ride departing from the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fancy Farm, KY; 8 nights lodging; 14 meals; tour of the Garden of the Gods, visit to the United States Air Force Academy, visit the Royal Gorge, including Bridge & Aerial Tram, visit Historic Manitou Springs at the foot of famous Pikes Peak, guided tour of Colorado Springs, visit the U.S. Olympic Training Center, and much more. For more information or to register, contact Barbara Sue Wilson at 270-623-6990 or Judy Thomas at 270-623-8462.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 Parish Picnic Schedule in the Diocese of Owensboro

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

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

DATE	SERVING TIME	PARISH
MAY 16	Serving at 11 a.m.	Carmel Home, Owensboro
MAY 24	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
MAY 30	Serving at 5 p.m.	Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
JUNE 6	Booths open at 3 p.m., serving at 4 p.m.	Precious Blood, Owensboro
JUNE 6	Serving from 4 p.m.	St. Joseph, Leitchfield
JUNE 13	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Pius X, Owensboro
JUNE 20	Serving at 3 p.m.	Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
JUNE 20	Serving at 3 p.m.	St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
JUNE 27	Games at 3 p.m., serving at 4 p.m.	St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
JUNE 27	Serving at 5 p.m.	St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly
JULY 4	Serving from 4-8 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall across from St. Anthony, Clarkson	St. Anthony, St. Benedict & St. Augustine's Tri-Parish Picnic
JULY 4	Serving from 3-9:30 p.m.	St. Anthony, Hardinsburg
JULY 4	Serving 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; 5-7 p.m.	St. Denis, Fancy Farm
JULY 11	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
JULY 18	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
JULY 18	Serving from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; 4:30-7:30 p.m.	St. Charles, Bardwell
JULY 25	Serving at 3-7 p.m.	St. Paul, Grayson County
JULY 25	Serving from 4-9:30 p.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady
AUG 1	Events noon- 3 p.m., carry-outs at 11 a.m.	Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro
AUG 1	Serving from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
AUG 4	Drive-thru pickup at 4 p.m.	St. Martin, Rome
AUG 8	Serving from 5 - 8 p.m.	St. Ann, Morganfield
SEPT 12	Serving at 5 p.m.	St. Agnes, Uniontown
SEPT 19	Serving from 4 - 8 p.m.	Christ the King, Madisonville
SEPT 19	Booths open 3 p.m., serving at 4 p.m.	Blessed Mother, Owensboro
SEPT 20	Serving at 11 a.m., Mary Carrico Catholic School Picnic	St. Lawrence Picnic Grounds, Philpot
SEPT 26	Drive-thru pickup from 1 - 3 p.m.	Immaculate, Owensboro
SEPT 26	10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Honeyfest chicken & pork dinner with raffle & silent auction ending 4 p.m.	St. Elizabeth, Clarkson
SEPT 27	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
SEPT 27	Serving from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	St. Joseph, Central City

12 Keys to Spiritual Vitality



Photo by pressfoto

Powerful Lessons to Living Agelessly

This program is based on the writing and research of Dr. Richard Johnson, founder of Senior Adult Ministry.

You will learn the 12 essential "keys" of aging and spirituality that transform this time of life into an ageless soul-adventure. This is a seven-session course offered on Wednesday mornings on these dates:

May 6 • May 13 • May 20 • May 27

June 3 • June 10 • June 17

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Fee: \$25 includes Educational Faith Assessment profile by Dr. Richard Johnson, plus all sessions.

A major portion of the cost is being covered by a grant from the Diocese Disciples Response Fund.



PROGRAM FACILITATOR

Maryann Joyce is the new director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount, Ky. Her passion for accompanying others on the spiritual journey has led her work as a spiritual director, hospice chaplain and retreat facilitator. She brings her recent studies in spiritual gerontology to this program.

Classes will be held at St. Stephen Cathedral Community Room

610 Locust St., Owensboro



**SAINT STEPHEN
CATHEDRAL**

Please register: 270-229-0206

retreatcenter@maplemount.org

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

Looking for a way to make a difference? Consider the permanent diaconate

BY DEACON MICHAEL CLAPP, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

If we have been paying attention even part of the time, we've seen it is glaringly clear that we live in a society badly in need of moral clarity.

That's not saying the Catholic Church should be placed in charge of civil matters; as George Weigel put it, we are here to teach, not to rule.

But the need for moral wisdom is dire, isn't it? So much needs to be done in the areas of evangelization – defending those who cannot help themselves, immigration reform, and myriad other issues.

Our priests certainly do all they can along those lines. They are dedicated to God and work hard. But they already have rather full plates with just the regular business of running a parish. They give their best, but there remains much to be done.

Knowing this, the Diocese of Owensboro has added roughly 30 English-speaking permanent deacons through ordination in 2012 and 2017, along with five Hispanic deacons last year. Lord willing, another class of candidates will be ordained next year.

You may have a deacon at your parish already. The deacon's ministry is patterned after the idea of Christ as servant. Certainly, a deacon functions in liturgical settings as directed by the parish priest, but he should also be visible away from the altar, in service to parish and community.

Seeing the benefit of the permanent diaconate, Bishop Medley wishes the program to continue. Planning has therefore begun to bring together the next class of candidates.

Catholic men of good standing who would be between age 35 and 64 at ordination are therefore being sought to attend one of three informational meetings set for the fall of this year.

If you feel a calling from God to step up and contribute to Church and community, or at least are curious about the permanent diaconate, watch the pages of The Western Kentucky Catholic for announcements of times, dates, and locations for those meetings. They will be held in different areas of the diocese.

Additionally, if you know of someone you think should explore the diacon-



LAURA CLARKE | WKC

Bishop Medley lays his hands on the head of Scott Jones, calling down the Holy Spirit upon him, during the Sept. 16, 2017 permanent diaconate ordination at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green. Deacon Jones today serves at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah.

ate, don't hesitate to let them know you believe in them!

For now, those interested should discuss the matter with their pastor. If married, discuss it intently with your spouse, as her approval, understanding and support will be vital. Seek out a deacon – and a spouse – and pepper them with questions.

Do keep something in mind: the ordained life is a calling, and not necessarily for everyone (and that's okay!). But if you are, at the very least, curious, then as Scripture reminds us, don't be afraid.

Investigate the program. God won't lead to the diaconate and leave you hanging. If it is correct for you, He will help you make it work.

So if the urge is there, follow it. The Church could use your skills! ■

Deacon Michael Clapp serves at St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield. To learn more about the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Owensboro, visit owensborodiocese.org/permanent-diaconate.

We all have a role to play in living Jesus' mission

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

On March 12, 2020, at the Owensboro Convention Center, approximately 250 ministry leaders attended our diocese's third annual event to focus on the importance of the New Evangelization and Discipleship. As most of you know, the purpose of these events has been to inform and engage our ministry leaders and parishes about the United States bishops' 2017 statement titled "Living as Missionary Disciples." The focus of this year is on "Community."

Our speaker was Tim Glemkowski. Each parish received a copy of Tim's book, "Made for Mission: Renewing your Parish Culture." We were challenged to consider the question, "What is the Holy Spirit up to?" Our parish communities are undergoing major changes. We looked at four types of parishes; dying, declining, swelling and growing. As we discern where we are as a parish, we must discern what the Spirit is doing.

We were challenged to consider that many of our parishes are stuck in a maintenance mode. We are centered on the pastoral care of our own people and have settled for this manageable status quo, instead of living the mission of Jesus as a community.

Tim suggested that Vatican II, our last several popes, and many Church documents make clear there is a "clarion call" to the laity to live the mission of Jesus. It is literally up to all of us sitting in the pews, in the words of Mufasa from The Lion King movie, to "remember who we are." We are sons and daughters of God, called to be disciples of Jesus and

therefore must live the mission of our Master. We each have an important role to play and it cannot be left to our pastors and professional ministers; it is up to all of us.

The Church needs leaders and the good news is that we have so many talented, smart, and dynamic leaders in our pews: business owners, teachers, doctors, trades people – so many experts! The challenge may be to renew these leaders in their own relationship with God and help them see that their parish needs their God-given gifts to be relevant, successful and focused on the true mission. We all have a role to play in building a community of disciples.

Many of us love our parishes. We have grown up and shared life with these wonderful people. But unless we refocus and renew our mission to create disciples of Jesus by helping people feel welcomed, experience belonging and have a life-changing encounter with Jesus, the decline will continue. That is not God's will and the Holy Spirit is leading us into renewal! We have the resources of 44,000-plus Catholics in western Kentucky to respond. As a diocese, we are going to offer Alpha in January 2021. Check it out and consider if your parish will participate (Alpha.org/Catholic). Contact me for more information and please pray daily for the success of the church's mission in western Kentucky. Look for more updates next month! ■

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the office of Evangelization and Discipleship. To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/evangelization.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



You are invited to join Bishop Medley in prayer

**Monday,
April 27, 2020
at 6:30 p.m.**

Sts. Joseph & Paul
Parish, Owensboro

Pray for protection and healing for all impacted by child abuse.

April Wedding Anniversaries

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

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Robert & Pat Risch, 53
Thomas & Shirley Coomes, 61
Bobby & Patricia Rafferty, 57
Louis & Mary Aull, 59
Joseph & Sharon Wink, 51
Michael & Donna Koger, 50
Danny & Patty Merimee, 52
Carl & Mildred Spurrier, 67
Tony & Carolyn Clark, 51
Paul & Joyce Christian, 71
John & Ashlie Iracane, 25
Kenneth & Elaine Williams, 57

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Ben & Gloria Adams, 55
Christ the King, Madisonville
John & Diane Clark, 51
William & Rebecca Markham, 54

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Michael & Latasha Biggs, 5
Warren & Cori Blake, 5
Bill & Kathy Duncan, 25
Rudy & Lucia Felty, 40
Christopher & Michelle Harpole, 10
Thomas & Peg Lewis, 52
Wayne & Donna Majors, 40
Ronald & Brenda Sauer, 53
Albert & Nadine Schwallier, 68

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

James & Helen Bailey, 64
Everett & Mary Leasor, 54
Jonathan & Vicky Turner, 10

Ko Benedict Reh & Kue Rosy Meh, 5
Kevin & Hannah Taylor, 5

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Bob & Beverly Steckler, 67
John & Velma Davis, 52

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Clayton & Gloria Gray, 58

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Gregory & Deborah Arnold, 50
Jeff & Cindy Fulkerson, 25
Brad & Beverly Hamilton, 60
Philip & Brenda Phelps, 51
Ralph & Judy Thomas, 61
Bill & Deborah Glenn, 50
Charles & Anna Ruth Thompson, 64
Maurice & Shirley Wink, 61
Steve & Debbie Woodard, 40
Michael & Audra Foster, 25

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Brandon & Chassidy Staves, 5
John & Kathryn Benson, 10
James & Heather Patton, 10
Jerry & Robin Winfield, 40
Donald & Mary Weaver, 56
Rex & Margaret Robinson, 56
Charles & Mary Lois Payne, 59
Edward & Agnes Stallings, 57
David & Mary Jane Strehl, 51
Todd & Pat Stelmach, 51

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Brandon & Lauren Fogle, 10
Michael & Brenda Swift, 52
Brad & Virginia O'Connell, 5

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Richard & Nancy Mayes, 62
Mike & Barbara Davis, 51

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Larry & Vickie Rhodes, 52
Bill & Charlene Hite, 51
Billy Joe & Beverly Buckman, 51
Lark & Sharon Buckman, 50
Benny & Rita French, 66
Warren & Cori Blake, 5

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Donald & Ginny Peters, 58
Richard & Brenda McIntire, 40

St. Ann, Morganfield

Cameron & Erin Berrong, 5
Jimmy & Virginia Mills, 50
Ronald & Ellen Mattingly, 54
Mike & Cathy Greenwell, 51

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Joseph & Sharon Wink, 51

St. Anthony, Peonia

Ralph & Joyce Pierce, 53
Thomas & Bonnie Osbourne, 51

St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel

Carl & Joyce Eskridge, 57
Pat & Wilma Lenhart, 56
Kenneth & Amanda Dowell, 5

St. Anthony Padua, Grand Rivers

Bob & Lois Tashjian, 64

St. Augustine, Reed

Hershel & Barbara Smith, 51

St. Charles, Livermore

John & Marsha Logsdon, 52

St. Columba, Lewisport

Brad & Michelle Gregory, 25

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Rodney & Terry Jo Wiley, 25

St. Francis of Assisi, Elkton

Albert & JoAnn Fagnoli, 56

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Ryan & Kassie Miller, 10
Roger & Irene Price, 52

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Joe & Carol Anne Mikez, 65
James J. & Velda Carbonel, 56
Larry & LaDonna Roberts, 50
William J. & Sandra Moore, 51
William & Judith Neihoff, 57

St. Henry, Aurora

John & Carol York, 55

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Leo & Jeanette Pendel, 5
Andrew & Kyle Hayden, 10
Richard & Kim Thomas, 40
Joseph Jr. & Joyce Toon, 51

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

William & Annamarie Bryce, 25
Jeff & Chloe Dejarnette, 5
Robert & Dolores Rudzinski, 54

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Greg & Melissa Hart, 25

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Sebastian & Bertha Hurtado, 5
Mario & Amalia Medina, 53
Tony & Lindsay Luciano, 54
Larry & Helen Sullivan, 52
Joe & Evelyn Jolley, 56

St. Jude, Clinton

David & Anita Burton, 50

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Tony & Mary Helen Rhodes, 59

St. Leo, Murray

Douglas & Vicky Lambert, 54
Edward & Marilyn Wolf, 57

St. Martin, Rome

Richard & Anita Dixon, 57

St. Mary, LaCenter

Jim & Mary Virginia Bumpous, 56
Bob & Mary Ann Noe, 56

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Gerald & Betty Bartley, 57

Continues on page 22

ANNIVERSARIES

Continued from page 21

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Tyler & Emma Grant, 5
Aaron & Heather Stephens, 5
Rollie & Amy Pike, 25
Wayne & Doris Rhodes, 50
Roger & Brenda Hagan, 51
Sam & Betty Coomes, 52
James & Betty Poole, 57
Ray & Patty Hamilton, 54
Tommy & Joyce Higdon, 55
Thomas & Anna Wathen, 53

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Thomas & Karen Gossett, 5
Robert & Gerty Sigler, 5
William & Christine Baker, 5

St. Paul, Princeton

Herman & Beth Berton, 59

St. Peter, Waverly

Fred & Phyllis Crowdus, 50

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Jim & Rose Drury, 61

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Bernard & Elsie Galloway, 56
John & Wanda Williams, 64
Charles & Lois Hoskins, 56
Baw Reh & Susan Peh Meh, 5
Mae Reh & Mya Aye, 5
Robert & Mary Lou Storm, 40
Timothy & Betty Bowen, 40
Alan & Shirley Howard, 61

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

John & Helen O'Reilly, 61
Jimmy & Dorothy Payne, 50
Adam & Christy O'Bryan, 10
Jerry & Amanda Simmons, 10
Carl & Thelma Jarboe, 59
Rick & Paige Askins, 10
Andy & Connie Brumfield, 40
Steve & Missy Masterson, 25
John & Whitney Roach, 10
Jerry & Pat Sturgeon, 52

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Tommy & Barbara Smith, 51
Tony & Nancy Bennett, 25

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Tommy & Brenda England, 58

James & Judy Ward, 59

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Roger & Phyllis Eckelkamp, 62
Kenneth & Barbara Powers, 55
Joe & Louise Doyle, 50
Richard & Judith Strubin, 53
John & Paula Hall, 55
Paul & Dawn Dunningham, 60
Clifford & Helen Romain, 51
Robert & Alyce Chmielewski, 57
Hugh & Connie Calhoun, 54

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Jason & Jamie Thompson, 5
Jim & Emma Lou Marrett, 40
Charles & Mary Ann Medley, 50
Fred & Faye Whelan, 65
Archie, Jr. & Angela Clark, 65
Anthony & Mary Alice Higdon, 68

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Steve & Earline Wurth, 56
Jim & Mary Bumpous, 56
Minh Nguyen & Valerie Vu, 5
Jim & Shelly Eason, 25

Bill & Linda Adams, 55

Martin & Valerie Amundson, 50
Fernando & Rosa Palacios, 25

St. William, Knottsville

Bruce & Sandy Whitehouse, 50
Phillip Roger & Mary Ann Adams, 57
Robert & Clara Brown, 55
Paul & Theresa Crowe, 58

St. William of Vercelli, Marion

Jack & Debbye Mason, 52

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Jeremy & Megan Storm, 5
Chris & Jane Lovekamp, 50
John & Esther Blandford, 50
David & Mary Patton, 54
Paul & Joyce Lambert, 56

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Billy & Harriette Hancock, 65
Carol & Simpson Clifford, 59
Michael & Marilyn Stocker, 55
David & Deborah Colbert, 40
Christopher & Jennifer Diedrich, 5

Women Shaped by Faith: Shaping Bodies & Hearts for God's Purposes

Join us for an inspiring day of whole-person wellness to develop and nurture our spirit, mind and body.

Theresa Rowe will teach on the health benefits of combining our faith, mindset and fitness, using biblical principles for daily application.

Also included is a Pilates for the Soul Mat Workout, specifically designed for every level of fitness.

Fee: \$30 which includes lunch

Note: The fee is \$40 at the door.



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Saturday, June 20

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Workshop led by Theresa Rowe



Theresa Rowe is an author, radio and television host, fitness expert, and motivational health and wellness speaker. She is a nationally certified fitness professional and founder of Shaped by Faith. She has taught thousands of people how to use their faith to inspire fitness, and their fitness to strengthen their faith. She is the co-host of Project Volunteer on KET TV and has produced three faith-based fitness DVDs.

To register, call 270-229-0206

Email retreatcenter@maplemount.org

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

Through Gasper scholarship, deceased youth's faith-filled legacy lives on

BY DIANE WILLIS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When I first arrived at Immaculate Parish 10 years ago, one of the youth I became acquainted with was Taylor Widmer. At that time, he was a young 12-year-old boy. I had no idea what impact this little kid would have not only on me, but our entire parish and even Owensboro. I quickly appreciated Taylor not just for his willingness to serve and witty personality, (but also because he loved the Fighting Illini, my Alma Mater). Taylor grew up in the Church and enjoyed participating in youth activities, serving Mass, even helping with Children's Liturgy. But his biggest joy was attending Gasper River Youth Camp and Retreat Center in the summer. It was there that his Christian leadership skills were honed. It was there that he fell more in love with Christ.

Fast forward to August 2014. The whole community mourned as we heard the news of Taylor's tragic death in an auto accident. Shock, disbelief hit us all – why did God take such a wonderful, kind, the “greatest kid ever”? We will never have the answer, but I do know that many great things have happened since this tragedy.

After Taylor's death, the Widmer family established a scholarship for two individuals from Immaculate to attend summer camp at Gasper River. When at camp, Taylor was known to have scaled the vertical playground and then of course helped everyone else over it. After Taylor's passing, Gasper was kind enough to name it “Taylor's Wall.” The Widmer family thought it appropriate to see that others receive an opportunity to attend the camp that made

such a difference in their son's life.

Over the years, several others have added to the scholarship and this year, Immaculate will award five scholarships: two from the Widmer family, two from the parish men's club and one from an anonymous friend.

I asked several of our former recipients their thoughts about receiving this award. Parker Jones was one of the first recipients of the award. At that time, he was only in fourth grade. Parker loved all the fun activities they had, but he also started to realize there was a lot more to it than that. Through adoration and the Sacraments (and the guidance of his counselors and the priest) he grew in his Catholic faith that week. He continued to go to Gasper every summer after that for several years, and every year he came back more on fire for the Catholic faith. He also formed some of his strongest friendships at Gasper, as he and his friends would share things on their hearts prompted by the Holy Spirit. He found out firsthand that Gasper is helping to cultivate a new generation of saints.

One of the 2018 recipients, Andrew Gray, noted, “In just one week at camp, I felt that Gasper River helped me get more in touch with my Catholic faith than anything else I've ever done.”

A 2016 recipient, Abby Hagan, shared, “A few years ago, I was blessed with the opportunity to attend Gasper River's Summer Camp because I was given a scholarship in memory of Taylor Widmer. I've attended Gasper River's camps multiple times now and every time I have grown in my faith tremendously. I have made new friends that have en-



COURTESY OF IMMACULATE PARISH

Taylor Widmer scales “the wall” at Gasper River's Camp LIFE (Living It For Eternity) in summer 2014. After his death in August 2014, the wall was renamed “Taylor's Wall” in his memory.

couraged me to stay close to the Lord. I have even been a camp counselor and I taught middle schoolers about Christ's love.”

And even though Taylor is no longer with us on this earth, his presence is felt every summer by the students of Immaculate. I praise God for the gift of Taylor Widmer, his family and friends who donate scholarships so others can experience Christ through camp, and for the staff of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. ■

Diane Willis is the director of faith formation and youth ministry at Immaculate Parish in Owensboro.

Editor's note: According to Ben Warrell, the director of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, they encourage all families to check with their parishes for financial assistance in sending their child to camp. “Most parishes are incredibly generous and supportive of their families,” said Warrell.

The Lazarus Retreat #2: An opportunity for encounter and servant leadership



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

The youth participants and leadership of the Diocese of Owensboro's second annual Lazarus Retreat at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center.

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Our second experience of the Lazarus Retreat was held at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green on Feb. 14-16, 2020. We were joined by 15 first-time participants from across the diocese including youth from Blessed Mother Parish, St. Stephen Cathedral, Sts. Joseph

and Paul Parish, and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro; Christ the King Parish in Madisonville; St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm; St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville; St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho; St. John the Baptist Parish in Fordsville; and St. Romuald Parish in Hardinsburg.

The Lazarus Retreat utilizes the story of the raising of Lazarus (John 11: 1-46). While on retreat, the

youth are invited to explore the things in life that keep them bound up, entombed, and unable to hear the voice of Jesus calling them to life. The goal of the retreat is inviting the young people into the Good News of Jesus Christ; helping them abandon the things that lead to death and respond to Jesus calling them to new life.

New to this year's retreat was the presence of an Agape Team. This group, made up of youth and adults from the first Lazarus Retreat in 2019, added a servant leadership component to the retreat experience and spent their formation time looking at the Washing of Feet and other scriptures focused on servant leadership. This group worked diligently behind the scenes to pray over the retreat, serve and prepare food, clean, and provide special gifts and any other needed services for the retreat. There were six youth from across the diocese who were part of the Agape Team.

We are very thankful for the adults involved in the Lazarus Retreat who gave talks and served as small group leaders. The next Lazarus Retreat will be at Gasper River on Feb.12-14, 2021. Information about signing up will be made available in fall 2020. All high school youth from across the diocese are invited to attend, but there is only space for 40 total youth participants. ■

Charlie Hardesty is the director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro. To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry.

Youth 2000 retreat provides opportunities for prayer, catechesis



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Panelists – consisting of a religious sister, a single laywoman and a married laywoman – lead the middle school girls' faith and morals panel on March 7, 2020 during the Youth 2000 retreat.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Brother Sean Paul Wood, CFR, gives his testimony at the Youth 2000 retreat on March 7, 2020, hosted at Brescia University in Owensboro.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Fr. Basilio Az Cuc, parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, hears a youth's confession on March 7, 2020 during the Youth 2000 retreat, held at Brescia University in Owensboro.

BY WKC STAFF

A total of 405 young people from all around western Kentucky gathered at Brescia University in Owensboro for the annual Youth 2000 retreat, held this year from March 6-8, 2020. The retreat, which welcomed ages 13-30 (also offering a college-age discussion group), was the 23rd to take place in the Diocese of Owensboro. Featuring Mass, talks and confession, the retreat provided young people a chance to pray and share their faith with peers. Faith and morals panels for middle school boys, middle school girls, high school boys and high school girls were also offered in the morning and the afternoon on Saturday.

The focal point of the retreat was ongoing Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as the Eucharist was placed in a monstrance and made available for prayer at the center of Brescia's gym-turned-sacred space/chapel for the weekend. Mass was also celebrated in this location due to the large number of participants.

The weekend concluded with the Sunday liturgy celebrated by Bishop William F. Medley.

Youth 2000 is a national organization based in Dallas. The local retreat is led by the Marian Shrine Committee and cosponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. ■

Twenty-five confirmed at Our Lady of Lourdes



COURTESY OF KAREN EARLY

On Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, Bishop William F. Medley bestowed the Sacrament of Confirmation on 25 young men and women at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro. ■

Mount Saint Joseph hosts Confirmation retreat day



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Youth from Immaculate Conception Parish in Hawesville and St. Columba Parish in Lewisport work on a poster and skit to depict one of the gifts of the Spirit they studied during the March 7 Confirmation retreat – piety.

Fifty-eight candidates and catechists gathered to learn about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit during the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center's Confirmation retreat day on March 7, 2020.

The retreat, which was held in the gym, was led by Jack Tuinier, director of youth ministry and faith formation at Christ the King Parish in Ferdinand, Ind. He was assisted by Maryann Joyce, Retreat Center director. ■

 **Sacred Heart**
ACADEMY
Learners to Leaders

PRINCIPAL

Sacred Heart Academy, an all-girls Catholic high school in Louisville, Kentucky seeks a Principal beginning July 1, 2020. The Principal will promote the Catholic educational development of the school's staff and students, with emphasis on the Ursuline core values. The Principal is responsible for personnel management including recruiting and supporting highly qualified faculty and staff. This position ensures the ongoing development of rigorous academic standards, works collaboratively with the administrative team and is an integral part of the planning, managing and monitoring of the annual budget.

Sacred Heart Schools offers a comprehensive benefits package to employees working at least 30 hours per week, which includes a 50% tuition discount at all four campus schools. Sacred Heart Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Doctorate in education or related field preferred. Current state certification in education specializing in administration. Experience as a teacher. Experience as a Catholic school Principal. Supportive member of a Catholic parish. **Interested candidates should send a letter of interest and resume to shsemployment@shslou.org.**

Bishop celebrates annual Scout Mass for religious emblems

In the afternoon of March 8, 2020, Bishop William F. Medley celebrated the annual Scout Mass for members of the Boy and Girl Scouts within the Diocese of Owensboro, in the chapel at Brescia University in Owensboro. Where applicable, scouts were presented with their religious emblems such as the Parvuli Dei, Light of Christ, and I Live My Faith emblems. ■



COURTESY OF JENNIFER HOLLAND
Girl Scouts Olivia Carr, Campbell Liggett and Paige Goldsberry take a picture with Bishop Medley following the March 8 Mass.



COURTESY OF JENNIFER HOLLAND
Cub Scout Declan Barnett and Boy Scout Nolan Barnett with Bishop Medley following the March 8 Mass.

Trinity student wins poster contest for suicide prevention



COURTESY OF ANNA MCDANIEL
Maddie Aguilar, a junior at Trinity High School in Whitesville, holds her award certificate on March 9 after winning a RiverValley Behavioral Health poster contest on the topic of suicide prevention.



COURTESY OF ANNA MCDANIEL
Maddie Aguilar, a junior at Trinity High School in Whitesville, holds her winning poster while surrounded by family and representatives of RiverValley Behavioral Health on March 9.

On March 9, Maddie Aguilar, a junior at Trinity High School in Whitesville, was announced to be the first-place winner in a suicide prevention poster contest sponsored by RiverValley Behavioral Health.

Representatives from RiverValley came out to the high school, where an assembly was gathered in the school's gym, to present Aguilar with an award certificate. The contest, called the Zero Suicide Poster Contest, invited students throughout the region to submit posters using positive wording, creativity and the National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255. All of the posters were displayed at RiverValley Behavioral Health and voted on by clients, staff and visitors in fall 2019.

Aguilar received a \$250 gift card and her poster will be displayed in schools across the region. ■

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Nota de la Editora: El 16 de marzo de 2020, el Obispo William F. Medley mandó la siguiente carta al pueblo de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Desde entonces, se hizo un nuevo anuncio el 24 de marzo de que el obispo suspendería la celebración pública de las Misas hasta nuevo aviso, debido a la situación actual de COVID-19.

Mi estimado pueblo de Dios,

En este momento que el mundo se encuentra en un tiempo de prueba y confusión, es importante que nosotros, como personas de fe, nos recordemos que nunca estamos más allá del alcance de Dios. Incluso cuando hablamos de la necesidad de aislarnos de las reuniones públicas e incluso de los vecinos, estamos seguros de que Dios está cerca.

En el Salmo 46 oramos: "Ríndanse y reconozcan que yo soy Dios: yo estoy por encima de las naciones, por encima de toda la tierra".

Con la información más reciente de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC por sus siglas en inglés), y después de consultar con otros obispos de Kentucky y nuestros párrocos, estoy pidiendo la suspensión de la celebración pública de la Sagrada Eucaristía (la Misa) efectivo inmediatamente y que siga suspendida por lo menos hasta después del Domingo de Ramos, 5 de abril de 2020. Antes de la Semana Santa, tomaremos una determinación con respecto a las próximas semanas dependiendo de la información que estará disponible.

Con respecto a las reuniones que no sean la Misa, insto a los párrocos a seguir las directivas de los CDC de que las personas no participen en reuniones de más de 50 personas.

Debemos aplicar estas protecciones rigurosas a otros eventos parroquiales, como las comidas de pescado, eventos de educación/formación y reuniones parroquiales. Sé que algunas parroquias ya han hecho planes para cambiar sus comidas de pescado

para servir comida para llevar solamente.

La diócesis estará distribuyendo materiales para ayudar a las personas y familias con oraciones que se pueden compartir en el hogar. Asimismo, estamos explorando opciones para que las parroquias transmitan en vivo la celebración de la Misa. A medida que se nos respondan a nuestras preguntas, daremos directivas sobre la conveniencia de tener iglesias abiertas para la oración privada y la Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento.

Sé que nuestros sacerdotes, diáconos y ministros extraordinarios laicos de la Sagrada Eucaristía quieren generosamente estar disponibles para llevar la Sagrada Comunión a las personas. Al mismo tiempo, debemos tener cuidado de no llevar la infección de casa en casa.

Ciertamente, si usted o un miembro de su familia desea la Unción de los enfermos en una situación extrema, se hará todo lo posible para acomodarlo en un hospital, hogar de ancianos o en su hogar.

En este momento de prueba y ansiedad, animo a todos los que puedan estar especialmente pendientes de sus vecinos, particularmente los vulnerables que deberían abstenerse de salir de casa. ¿Pueden ir a la tienda por ellos? Llámenlos y vean cómo están, bríndenles contacto humano, aunque solo sea por teléfono.

Con las escuelas cerradas y probablemente las guarderías cerrando pronto, muchos padres se encuentran en una situación difícil con respecto al cuidado de niños. ¿Pueden echar una mano y un

Anuncios especiales de la oficina del obispo:

La ordenación diaconal del seminarista Corey Bruns, programada para el sábado, 4 de abril de 2020, se ha pospuesto debido a la situación actual de COVID-19. No se ha establecido una nueva fecha en este momento. Oren por Corey y todos nuestros seminaristas ya que su formación en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad se ha detenido debido a la suspensión del semestre de primavera y el cierre de todas sus oficinas.

También se ha pospuesto la Misa Crismal, que fue programada para el martes, 7 de abril de 2020 en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter]. Según la Congregación del Culto Divino, un obispo puede celebrar la Misa Crismal fuera de la Semana Santa. El Obispo Medley tiene la intención de celebrar esta Misa en la Catedral de San Esteban en una fecha por determinar.

Obispo Medley continúa en página 29

Continuado de la página 28

corazón?

Si bien es un gran sacrificio para los católicos no llegar a la Misa, a la mesa del Señor, es imperativo que aceptemos este desafío por el bien común de todos. Mi oración es que esta abstinencia imprevista de la Eucaristía fortalezca nuestra hambre de Dios.

La Sagrada Eucaristía está en el centro de quienes somos como católicos. Es fuente y culmen de nuestras vidas. Yo nunca podría haber imaginado un día en el que como obispo y pastor pediría a la gente que no asistiera a la Misa. Pero este es el sacrificio al que estamos llamados.

Nunca estamos más allá del alcance de Dios. Y ese alcance puede extenderse por nuestros actos de caridad y preocupación por nuestros vecinos.

Oremos unos por otros y oremos especialmente por los enfermos, los trabajadores de la salud y los que cuidan a los enfermos. Dios los bendiga.. ■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Visite <https://owensborodiocese.org/covid-2019/> para ver un mensaje en video del Obispo Medley y su mensaje leído en video por el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez en español. Misa en español transmitida en vivo y oportunidades de oración también se puede acceder en esta página web. Para agregar su parroquia a la lista, envíe un correo electrónico a communications@pastoral.org.

Se lanza un servicio para denunciar abuso por parte de obispos

En mayo de 2019, el papa Francisco lanzó su carta apostólica *Vos estis lux mundi* (Vosotros sois la luz del mundo) para abordar la cuestión del abuso sexual y la rendición de cuentas de los obispos en la Iglesia Católica mundial. *Vos estis* hace un llamado a los arzobispos metropolitanos para que asuman las responsabilidades de recibir y evaluar denuncias concernientes a abuso sexual y conducta impropia relacionada que involucren a obispos. En junio de 2019, los obispos de los Estados Unidos aprobaron el plan de implementación para llevar a cabo las directivas del Santo Padre aquí en los Estados Unidos.

Como parte de este compromiso continuo para llevar a cabo *Vos estis*, se ha establecido el Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR), o Servicio de Denuncias de Abusos de Obispos Católicos. El servicio es operado por Convercent, Inc., una entidad externa e independiente que presta servicios a instituciones privadas para admitir sus denuncias sobre temas delicados como el acoso sexual a través de una plataforma segura, confidencial y profesional. Las personas individuales pueden acudir a ReportBishopAbuse.org/?lang=es para presentar una denuncia. Las denuncias también se aceptan a través del (800) 276-1562.

Cuando se reciba una denuncia, esta será remitida al Arzobispo Joseph E. Kurtz, al arzobispo metropolitano local.

El servicio de Denuncias de Abusos de Obispos Católicos permite a personas individuales transmitir a las autoridades de la Iglesia cualquier denuncia sobre un obispo católico estadounidense que haya hecho lo siguiente:

- obligar a alguien a realizar o someterse a actos sexuales mediante violencia, amenaza o abuso de autoridad;
- realizar actos sexuales con un menor o una persona vulnerable;
- producir, exhibir, poseer o distribuir pornografía infantil, o reclutar o inducir a un menor o una persona vulnerable a participar en exhibiciones pornográficas; o,
- un obispo diocesano o eparquial (o un clérigo que supervisa una diócesis o eparquía en ausencia de un obispo diocesano o eparquial), que haya interferido intencionalmente con una investigación civil o eclesiástica sobre acusaciones de abuso sexual cometido por otro clérigo o religioso.

Para reportar abusos a la diócesis, ya sean actuales o anteriores, por parte de cualquier persona que actúa en nombre de la Iglesia, favor de llamar a Susan Montalvo-Gesser o Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinador de Asistencia Pastoral: 270-880-8360. ■

El retiro Youth 2000 brinda oportunidades para la oración, la catequesis



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El P. Basilio Az Cuc, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, escucha la confesión de un adolescente el 7 de marzo de 2020 durante el retiro de Youth 2000, llevado a cabo en la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro.

Un total de 405 adolescentes y jóvenes llegaron de a través del oeste de Kentucky a la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro para el retiro anual de Youth 2000, que se celebró este año del 6 al 8 de marzo de 2020. El retiro, donde fueron invitados los de 13 a 30 años (que también ofreció un grupo pequeño para jóvenes adultos), fue el 23° en la Diócesis de Owensboro. El fin de semana concluyó con la liturgia dominical celebrada por el Obispo William F. Medley. ■

EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA ABRIL DE 2020:

Tenga en cuenta: Las siguientes fechas están sujetas a cambios o cancelaciones debido a la situación actual de COVID-19.

14 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San José, Leitchfield
15 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Reunión de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana
16 DE ABRIL	9 a.m. Misa – Escuela Católica de Owensboro, Campus 4-6, Owensboro
18 DE ABRIL	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Jerónimo, Fancy Farm
19 DE ABRIL	11 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah
	6 p.m. Misa – Centro Newman, Universidad Estatal Murray, Murray
20 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal
	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal
21 DE ABRIL	6:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santísima Madre, Owensboro
22 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Alfonso, San José
23 DE ABRIL	6:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro
25 DE ABRIL	12 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Cristo Rey, Scottsville
	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pío X, Owensboro
26 DE ABRIL	10:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Inmaculada Concepción, Hawesville
	3 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville
27 DE ABRIL	6:30 p.m. Servicio de Oración para la Prevención del Abuso Infantil – Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro
28 DE ABRIL	9:30 a.m. Misa & Conversaciones con los "Seniors" – Escuela Preparatoria Santa María, Paducah
29 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María Magdalena, Sorgho
	9 a.m. Misa – Escuela Católica de Owensboro, Campus K-3, Owensboro
30 DE ABRIL	6:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Lorenzo, Philpot

Parroquias con Misas en Español

Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam
Sábados – 5:00 p.m.

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
Jueves – 6:30 p.m.
Sábados – 7:00 p.m.
Domingos – 12:30 p.m.

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

Parroquia de San José, Central City
Cada Primer Domingo del Mes - 8:00 a.m.

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

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Guthrie
Sábados – 6:00 p.m.
Domingos – 12:00 p.m.

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
Domingos – 1:30 p.m.

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

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

Domingos – 1:00 p.m.

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**
Domingos – 2:00 p.m. y 10:30 p.m.
Jueves – 5:30 p.m.

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

Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville
Domingos – 6:00 p.m.

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
Domingos – 12:30 p.m.

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

**Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad,
Morgantown**
Domingos – 9:15 a.m.

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
Sábados – 5:30 p.m.

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

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro
Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 8:00 p.m.

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

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah
Domingos – 1:00 p.m.

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

**Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús,
Russellville**
Domingos – 2:00 p.m.

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

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree
Miércoles – 12:00 p.m.
Jueves – 12:00 p.m.
Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 7:30 p.m.

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) para obtener más información.

Líderes parroquiales se reúnen para dialogar sobre la Nueva Evangelización



El 12 de marzo, los líderes parroquiales se reunieron en el Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro para el tercer evento anual de la diócesis, "Viviendo como discípulos misioneros". El enfoque de este año es "Comunidad", sobre el cual los participantes oraron y dialogaron en grupos. En el evento, la diócesis anunció que se ofrecerá el programa de Alpha en las parroquias a partir de enero de 2021. Obtenga más información en alphausa.org/espanol. ■

ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Aynde Bennett, ministro juvenil en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, reza con su grupo de mesa durante el evento "Viviendo como discípulos misioneros" del 12 de marzo en el Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro.

Los candidatos y catecúmenos dan el siguiente paso en las celebraciones del Rito de Elección del 2020

El 23 de febrero en la Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah, y el 1 de marzo en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro a las 2 p.m. y 6 p.m., se celebraron Ritos de Elección para los candidatos y catecúmenos que están en su camino para ingresar a la Iglesia Católica en la Pascua. El Rito de Elección tiene sus orígenes en la historia de los israelitas, cuando Dios los llamó a ser sus elegidos, su pueblo elegido, para luego difundir la Buena Nueva a todo el mundo. Los catecúmenos son los que esperan el Sacramento del Bautismo en la Vigilia Pascual, y los candidatos son los que esperan los Sacramentos de la Confirmación y/o la Sagrada Comunión. ■



TINA KASEY | WKC

Durante la celebración del Rito de Elección de las 2 p.m. el 1 de marzo en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro, los padrinos presentaron a los candidatos al Obispo William F. Medley.