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Diocesan seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling gives Bishop Medley a hug after the Feb. 17, 2020 vespers service celebrating the bishop's 10th anniversary of episcopal ordination. In January and February, Bishop Medley visited India and Myanmar to meet with the families of priests and seminarians from those countries who are serving in the diocese. **Page 6**



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Front page photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

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Submissions

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A Word From Bishop Medley

Can it be that God dwells on Earth?

Editor's note: On Feb. 17, 2020, the Diocese of Owensboro gathered at St. Stephen Cathedral for a vespers service in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Bishop Medley's episcopal ordination. The bishop's homily, which he gave at the service, is reprinted below.

"Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below; you keep your covenant of mercy with your servants who are faithful to you with their whole heart. Can it indeed be that God dwells on earth? If the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain you, how much less this temple which I have built!" Solomon speaks these words of praise and thanksgiving on the occasion of the dedication of the great temple. A dream come true. Decades they dreamed of the temple - and their greatest king of all, David, could not make it happen. Decades more they planned and labored. Its construction and its dedication the pinnacle of Solomon's glorious reign.

Tens of thousands had labored for years to create what was to be the grandest edifice of the entire world known to the Israelites. And it was splendid to behold. And it is not with disappointment or let-down that Solomon acknowledges that this magnificent temple cannot contain the mystery, the might, the magnificence of God.

In fact, after these decades of design and labor and skill, one might even sense that Solomon is relieved that the endeavors of human ingenuity have but glimpsed the grandeur of God. He acclaims the obvious: "there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below," and yet, "you keep your covenant of mercy with your servants."

So, even in the midst of great human accomplishment, it is all about God. Here we stand in our

cathedral, our 21st century temple, and we gather God's people from across 32 counties, 78 parishes, 60,000+ strong faithful Catholics, schools and universities, convents and religious houses, retreat centers and youth camps, shelters and pantries and all that we represent cannot contain a God who cannot be contained in heaven and on earth.

And thus Solomon asks, "Can it indeed be that God dwells on earth?" And for generation after generation and century after century faith-filled people have answered, "Yes." God can dwell on earth. God does dwell on the earth.

This reading from the Second Book of Kings was proclaimed in this cathedral on the eve of my ordination as bishop ten years ago. Perhaps I can speak this evening of how this reading spoke to me in 2010. Those of you who know me personally surely know that as much as I love ritual and celebration I am not altogether comfortable if I feel like the celebration is about me. And it is a challenge to be in the midst of the Church, having been called to be a bishop by Pope Benedict XVI, and not be tempted to feel like it is about me.

But upon my appointment I began to study the Church's ancient rituals for the ordination of a bishop and could see clearly that whenever the Church prays it is about God and the community that is always coming to know God.

"Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth below; you keep your covenant

of mercy with your servants who are faithful to you with their whole heart. Can it indeed be that God dwells on earth?"

So it is that we need reminders that the splendor and glory of creation, that the greatest of human accomplishments are but manifestations of a God who dwells on earth.

Ten years ago I stood in this place before you to promise that I understand that I had been sent, I had been called to serve. It is indeed a humbling moment in my life and priesthood to come to this temple, this cathedral, built of human hands and representing the temples built of human lives and to know that I was called to serve you as your bishop. And this night I stand with deep gratitude that God and you, have permitted me the blessings of ten years.

Naturally I faced an awesome learning curve. So many things that I thought I knew about the Diocese of Owensboro - but true as they were and are - there were so many parts of the story for me to discover. Catholicism in western Kentucky is a story of pioneer Catholics spreading across this vast region bearing little more than their faith and striving to build churches and schools. And for all the building none can contain the glory of God. None can house the Almighty God.

The vast parts of our story have unfolded before me. Very soon I realized the extraordinary blessings being visited upon our diocese, indeed our nation,

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BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR MARCH 2020

MARCH 1	2 p.m. Rite of Election – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro 6 p.m. Rite of Election – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MARCH 3	8 a.m. School Mass – St. Mary of the Woods School, Whitesville
MARCH 5	8 a.m. School Mass & Senior Conversations – Trinity High School, Whitesville
MARCH 8	10:30 a.m. Closing Mass for Youth 2000 – Brescia University, Owensboro 2 p.m. Scouting Religious Emblems Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MARCH 9	6 p.m. Young Adult Holy Hour – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MARCH 10	9 a.m. Senior Conversations – Owensboro Catholic High School
MARCH 11	5:30 p.m. Gathering with Owensboro West Deanery Religious Education – St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho
MARCH 12	Diocesan Day "Living as Missionary Disciples" – Owensboro Convention Center
MARCH 14	5:30 p.m. Confirmation – St. Ambrose Parish, Henshaw (Includes candidates from St. William Parish, Marion, & St. Francis Borgia Parish, Sturgis)
MARCH 16	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
MARCH 17	Legislative Day in Frankfort
MARCH 18	8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro 5:30 p.m. Confirmation – Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Irvington
MARCH 19	1:30 p.m. School Mass – Mary Carrico Catholic School, Knottsville
MARCH 21	4 p.m. Confirmation – St. Ann Parish, Morganfield
MARCH 22	10 a.m. Confirmation – St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown
MARCH 24	10 a.m. School Mass – St. Mary Middle School, Paducah 1-2 p.m. Paducah Office Hours
MARCH 26	11:15 a.m. School Mass – Maximilian Montessori Academy, Owensboro
MARCH 29	10 a.m. Confirmation – St. Charles Parish, Bardwell
MARCH 31	8 a.m. School Mass – Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School, Hopkinsville

A Word from Bishop Medley continued from page 3

by the continuing influx of new peoples. Pilgrims, pioneers like most of our ancestors. Peoples today who often do not look like the descendants of Europeans who came to America as a land of promise and hope and opportunity. It is a sign that God surely dwells in this land that still peoples come for that same reason.

The early Catholics on the Kentucky frontier were often here - in a genuine wilderness - because no one else wanted them. More than 200 years later we can appreciate that blessing. But it did not make frontier life easy.

All across the world oppressed and struggling peoples are seeking new homes because of violence and despair and want. Pope Francis pleads almost daily and challenges that nations of the earth where we are free to recognize and proclaim the dwelling place of God will welcome refugees and migrants.

In recent years and even recent weeks I have traveled to represent you to Catholics sustaining our church from afar. We have priests serving our diocese from Mexico, Guatemala, Nigeria, the Congo, Kenya, India and Myanmar. Without the gift of priesthood these ancient churches send us today we could not be celebrating the Mass and the sacraments across our diocese. Many churches would have to be closed without them. Too often when we see refugees and migrants our nation calculates a cost to us. Those who have eyes to see must see that the debt is ours. And I certainly am not just talking about the priests - but the witness to faith and confidence in God that these tens of thousands of new sisters and brothers bring our Church.

"Can it be that God dwells on the earth?" Yes, yes, and we can see and experience this every day.

In 2017 I visited Mexico and encountered the Church there - most notably at the Basilica of Our

Lady of Guadalupe where on any given day tens of thousands of faithful come in prayer and marvel that through St. Juan Diego our holy Blessed Mother found a way to remind suffering people that God dwells on the earth.

Just last week I returned from pastoral visits to India and Myanmar.

The purpose of my travel was to express gratitude for what these cultures share with our Catholic Church in this diocese. I was received into the homes and at the tables of the families of our priests and seminarians as a celebrity. Again, that's not my nature- but in prayer I humbly come to know that to them a bishop from another part of the world was the face of Christ to them. That is my vocation with them and with you. Undeserving as I am of such distinction - that is the experience of Church. On February 9 I was received at a parish church by more than one thousand people singing and dancing and bearing gifts. Their Church, without pews or chairs, seated probably 800 - sitting on the floor young and old alike. But the men, woman and children stood six and eight deep outside around the windows to listen to the word of God. There can be no mistaking God indeed dwells on the earth.

One of the great sadness of our Church in our day are well observed statistics of the decline in Church life and sacramental participation. Hardly a week passes that some parent or grandparent does not speak to me of the consternation that their children and grandchildren are not in and with the church. We can examine this to death. We live well in the United States. When we live well, the age old temptation is to believe that we have achieved everything on our own- and thus God is pushed further and further aside. Surely God dwells on the earth- but if we do not have eyes to see.

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A Word from Bishop Medley continued from page 4

When I see the crowds overflowing at churches in India and Myanmar I find great hope. Jesus' great commissioning was to go to all nations and proclaim His word and to baptize. Over 2000 years the Church has done this. The Christian population of both India and Myanmar is very small - perhaps 2 - 3 %. Yet what marvels God has wrought that faithful believers from these countries where it is not always easy to be Christian as a tiny minority - are today going forth to evangelize the world.

Thus Solomon's question: "Can it indeed be that God dwells on earth?" And down through the ages we have answered his question with a resounding yes. From the first verses of the first book of the bible we are reminded that we have been created in the image and likeness of God, little less than a God according to the psalmist. And it is this marvel that has driven men and women to build altars, temples, churches and shrines to the greater glory of God. The most primitive of peoples identified sacred spaces, marked those places, made pilgrimage to those places and adorned those places as holy. It is more than mere ritual and tradition that drives us to light a sanctuary lamp or strike a bell where we may encounter the person of God. It is our essence as human beings.

One of my favorite memories of the rites of my ordination happened here on the ordination eve. Bishop John McRaith blessed several objects that would become important insignia of my new office and calling. My ring, my miter and crozier. Also that evening I signed at the altar a profession of faith and an oath of fidelity. In my office today is a picture of Bishop McRaith and Sr. Joseph Angela Boone witnessing this moment. They remind me of those who were at my side ten years ago and not tonight. My mother and my brother, David. Archbishop Thomas Kelly. Everyone here misses someone who was with

them ten years ago. But if God dwells on the earth, these dearly beloved are not so far away.

While loved ones have passed from this world, all of us every year and every day encounter new people who remind us that God dwells on the earth. A bishop is called to be a father, a brother, and a friend to priests. I still strive to know how to do this - but I know that the blessings I receive far outweigh any I might hope to impart. The consecrated women of our diocese have been good and faithful servants and have taught me much. I am blessed with the faith and service of the staff of the Diocese of Owensboro. Only a couple of generations ago their service and ministries were almost always carried out by priests. And with humility and gratitude we have found that they can be done even better. And the faithful Catholics across this diocese inspire me and give me hope. I am especially proud of the four thousand young people I have confirmed, so pleased that God has used me to bring to them the gifts of the Holy Spirit. At least four thousand times I have laid my hands upon the heads of young people to call upon God's Holy Spirit to enter them. God does indeed dwell on the earth.

If God dwells on the earth we can hardly pray that we do not acknowledge Mary, the Mother of God. Ten years ago as my head was spinning with the attention and lauds visited upon me found my greatest inspiration was Mary. Chosen to be the Mother of God she traveled in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth who greeted her, "Blessed are young among women." Might that go to your head? And in her beautiful responding prayer Mary says something that might sound conceited. She says, "The Mighty One has done great things for me." Look at me. I am special. But instantly her perspective is gained, "The Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is

God's Name."

These profound words of Mary have been my motto as a bishop. "Holy is God's Name" lest I ever should forget that God is the source and giver of all good gifts. I pray only that those gifts bestowed upon me and this local church will always answer the human longing, "Can it be that God dwells on the earth?" Yes, yes, yes. ■



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Q&A Tribunal Explains

What about Catholics who married "outside" of the Catholic Church?

All Roman Catholics are bound by Church law to be married according to "form" (in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon, two qualified witnesses and in a Catholic Church). A Catholic who is married "outside" the Catholic Church, without the required dispensation (permission from observing form), is not considered married in the eyes of the Catholic Church. For such cases, a "Lack of Form" can be granted by parish priests.

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

Multilingual prayers, songs at vespers celebrating Bishop Medley's 10th episcopal anniversary

Says he has seen diocese blessed by 'continuing influx of new peoples'



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

After the Feb. 17, 2020 vespers celebrating his 10th anniversary of episcopal ordination, Bishop Medley pauses for a picture with a man and his son.

Editor's note: Read the full text of the bishop's homily on page 3.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

First sung by the cantor, and then repeated by the congregation, the refrain “Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, yesterday, today and forever,” flowed through St. Stephen Cathedral during the vespers (evening prayer) service on Feb. 17, 2020, in celebration of Bishop William F. Medley’s 10th anniversary of his episcopal ordination.

The cathedral’s interior lights dimmed and lit candles were held by the congregants filling the pews as the cantor chanted a prayer: “This night, look upon your servant William whom you chose as a pastor to watch over your flock.”

The multilingual liturgy included songs and prayers not just in English, but also in Spanish, Burmese and Swahili – a point which Bishop Medley emphasized in his homily, translated into Spanish by Deacon Chris Gutiérrez.

“What marvels God has wrought that faithful believers from these countries – where it is not always easy to be Christian as a tiny minority – are today going forth to evangelize the world,” said the bishop, who on Feb. 13 had returned from a pastoral visit to India and Myanmar (also known as Burma).

The bishop said that after he was called from his native Archdiocese of Louisville to serve western Kentucky in 2010, he “faced an awesome learning curve.”

Bishop Medley stated that Catholicism in western Kentucky is a “story of pioneer Catholics spreading across this vast region bearing little more than their faith and striving to build churches and schools.”

“Very soon I realized the extraordinary blessings being visited upon our diocese – indeed our nation – by the continuing influx of new peoples,” said the bishop. “Peoples today who often do not look like the descendants of Europeans who came to America as a land of promise and hope and opportunity.”

The bishop said this is a sign that God “surely dwells in this land.”

He said that after 10 years of serving as the bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro in Kentucky, “It is indeed a humbling moment in my life and priesthood to come to this temple, this cathedral, built of human hands and representing the temples built of human lives and to know that I was called to serve you as your bishop.”

“And this night,” he added, “I stand with deep gratitude that God and you have permitted me the blessings of 10 years.”

Bishop Medley said that 10 years ago, as his head was “spinning” with the attention of becoming a bishop, his greatest inspiration was Mary, the Mother of God.

“The Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is God’s Name,” said the bishop, quoting Mary’s Magnificat upon visiting her cousin Elizabeth.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

The Congolese Choir of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green sing the traditional song “Ma Isha Yangu Yesu Nitakufuataee Mahali Pote (Jesus I’ll Follow You All My Life),” during the Feb. 17, 2020 vespers celebrating Bishop Medley’s 10th anniversary of episcopal ordination.

Bishop Medley said Mary’s words, “Holy is God’s Name,” have been his motto as bishop, “lest I ever should forget that God is the source and giver of all good gifts.”

Following the homily, the Congolese Choir of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green sang the traditional song “Ma Isha Yangu Yesu Nitakufuataee Mahali Pote (Jesus I’ll Follow You All My Life),” with the additional verse “For giving us Bishop William Medley, what shall I give you?”

The Magnificat – a standard part of Catholic evening prayer – was sung in

the form of the “Magnificat” song by David Haas. It was the same piece played at Bishop Medley’s episcopal ordination 10 years prior on Feb. 10, 2010.

The intercessions were offered in three languages – Spanish, English and Burmese – and the Our Father was sung by the Burmese Choir of Holy Spirit Parish. And as another nod to Bishop Medley’s work in welcoming all cultures within the diocese, Deacon Gutiérrez presented the bishop with a plaque listing all of the prayers and sacrifices offered by the local Latino community for the bishop.

Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, vicar general of the diocese, invited all of the priests present to gather around Bishop Medley in the cathedral sanctuary, extend their hands and pray a blessing over him.

Prior to the end of the service, Fr. Reynolds also shared a few remarks for the occasion of the bishop’s anniversary.

Fr. Reynolds said the bishop has a “heart of a pastor” because he was a pastor for many years in Louisville.

“Our bishop is a good listener,” said Fr. Reynolds, adding that Bishop Medley is known to “reflect, weigh” and consult with others before making decisions, but then he makes the decision “with no wavering afterwards.”

Fr. Reynolds said many in the diocese know the bishop best from when he celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation – having confirmed approximately 4,000 young people to date.

He said that the bishop’s tradition of reading the letters from the confirmandi and visiting with them before the Confirmation Mass, “that personal time, is creating a harvest for the future.”

“Thank you, Bishop Medley, for your great devotion and love of your diocese, of your priests, and of your people,” said Fr. Reynolds. ■

Bishop felt ‘the grace of the moment’ throughout his pastoral visit to India and Myanmar

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

After returning from his Jan. 24-Feb. 13, 2020 pastoral visit to India and Myanmar (also known as

Burma) with Fr. John Thomas, Bishop William F. Medley said the journey “gave me hope that the Gospel and the Church are thriving.”

“We anguish over the statistics of our (Western)

culture” that young people are leaving the Church and vocations numbers are down, the bishop told The Western Kentucky Catholic on Feb. 14, 2020.

But in India and in Myanmar, Bishop Medley

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COURTESY OF BISHOP MEDLEY

On Feb. 1, 2020, Bishop Medley gave First Holy Communion to two nephews of Fr. Suneesh Mathew, HGN, in their parish church.



COURTESY OF BISHOP MEDLEY

In January 2020, Bishop Medley and Fr. John Thomas are greeted by the residents of Good News Home for men with special emotional and mental disabilities. This home is a ministry of the Heralds of Good News, St. Paul Province.

said it was powerful “to see the Church so vibrant.”

Planning a pilgrimage

Fr. John Thomas, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green – home to a large community of parishioners who are Burmese refugees – traveled with Bishop Medley.

“As a diocese, we have been so blessed with international priests and international seminarians,” said Fr. Thomas in a WKC interview on Feb. 14, 2020. “I’ve had the honor and pleasure of working with our international priests over the years.”

On April 13, 2019, Bishop Medley presided over the transitional diaconate ordination of seminarian Stephen Van Lal Than, one of two Burmese seminarians currently studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Owensboro, and the first Burmese seminarian to be ordained a deacon for the diocese.

(When Deacon Than is ordained on May 23, 2020, he will be the first Burmese seminarian ordained a priest for the diocese.)

The bishop was so moved by the ordination liturgy, and the faith of the Burmese community present, that he emailed Fr. Thomas a week later that it was time to make the trip.

“They’ve given the Church too much not to go there and say thank-you,” the bishop told the WKC.

This trip, which would take them first to India and then to Myanmar, “was not sightseeing,” Fr. Thomas told the WKC.

“The bishop said to me, ‘My goal is the people, and the families’” of the priests and seminarians who minister in the diocese, Fr. Thomas recalled.

The bishop told the WKC that he saw the trip “as a pilgrimage and a pastoral visit.”

“There wasn’t a time that I didn’t feel the grace

of the moment,” said Bishop Medley.

India

Bishop Medley and Fr. Thomas arrived in India on Jan. 26.

Fr. Thomas said that in planning the trip, they coordinated with the Heralds of Good News – the religious community to which the majority of western Kentucky’s Indian priests belong. That way, during their time in India they had the chance to visit the families of most of the Indian priests serving the diocese.

“Sometimes even two homes in one day,” added Fr. Thomas.

They visited with the families of Fr. Jegin Puthenpurackal, HGN; Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN; Fr. Suneesh Mathew, HGN; Fr. Shaju Thomas Madhavappallil, HGN; Fr. Jojo Joseph, HGN; as well as with the family of Fr. Babu Kalathumkal Joseph, who had belonged to the Heralds previously, but has since incardinated in the Diocese of Owensboro (become a diocesan priest).

Fr. Thomas said that in many cultures, food is a symbol of hospitality, and that this was certainly apparent in India. He said that visiting home after home in India – along with all of the feasting – felt like Christmastime.

“In India they were so proud to introduce us to their families, to have us at their homes, to meet parents, brothers, sisters,” said Fr. Thomas – an experience that both he and the bishop considered very humbling.

They also met the superior of the Heralds of Good News, visited the Heralds’ minor seminary, and had the chance to participate in Mass at a home for indigent elderly, ministered to by the Heralds’ St. Paul Province.

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Myanmar

The bishop and Fr. Thomas arrived in Myanmar on Feb. 2, immediately welcomed by Fr. Timothy Khui Shing Ling's family in Yangon. (Fr. Shing Ling served the Burmese refugee population in the Diocese of Owensboro for a number of years and has remained close with the diocese.)

Later, they visited the families of Burmese seminarians Deacon Stephen Van Lal Than and Martin Ma Na Ling. They even had the chance to visit the home of and share a meal with Ling's family.

Fr. Thomas said the experience was different from meeting the families of the Indian priests. For the most part, the Heralds priests – belonging to a missionary congregation— are in the U.S. temporarily, until they are sent to other mission territory.

“But Stephen and Martin's families, they did not just give their children to the Church, but to us (in the United States) for the rest of their lives,” said Fr. Thomas.

He said the seminarians' families were so grateful, so thankful that their sons had been welcomed and cared for in the U.S.

As the seminarians' parents thanked Bishop Medley for accepting their sons, he responded, “You gave him – through God – a vocation to the priesthood!”

“A call to the priesthood comes through the family, and you've given him that call,” said the bishop.

Fr. Thomas said he was impacted by the families' “warmth, genuineness, and sincerity.”

“We've experienced that through the priests and the seminarians, but to experience their families was profoundly beautiful,” said Fr. Thomas.

While in Myanmar, they met up with the local bishop in Myanmar, and attended a large Mass of what the bishop guessed to be “well over 1,000 peo-

ple” at St. Theresa, the parish of Fr. Shing Ling.

They also visited a Catholic Montessori school operated by Fr. Shing Ling, which included a boarding house for the students. (The children's families lived too remotely for the children to travel to school every day.)

Everywhere they went in Myanmar, Bishop Medley and Fr. Thomas were warmly welcomed with celebrations, feasting, and sometimes even dance performances.

The bishop was humbled by this reception. He said he realized that, “It wasn't me. It's that I was something special of a Church that they love.”

To the ends of the earth

The bishop said he has thought a lot about how Myanmar and India are countries that “even a century ago, the United States was sending missionaries to. But now they are sending missionaries to us.”

Fr. Thomas agrees.

“In our country, religious vocations are not prevalent; we have a need for priests' vocations and religious vocations,” said Fr. Thomas. And yet, the Church in the West continues to survive “because of these people, their families, who are so kind, who offered their (sons) in service to our Church.”

The bishop said it is clear that in countries like India and Myanmar, “missionary discipleship is still thriving.”

“This has affected me for the rest of my life, especially when I think of ‘losing’ the Church in the West,” said Bishop Medley. “We prayed that that Gospel would go to the ends of the earth – and now, that it will hopefully come back around to us.” ■



COURTESY OF FR. JOHN THOMAS
Bishop Medley visits the home and family of Diocese of Owensboro seminarian, Martin Ma Na Ling, during their pastoral visit to Myanmar in February 2020. The woman shown is Ling's mother.



COURTESY OF FR. JOHN THOMAS
Bishop Medley greets the students of St. Paul Montessori Little Home in Mindat, Chin State, Myanmar, during his pastoral visit in February 2020.

St. Joseph Monastery hosts relic, icon for Passionist tri-centennial



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC FILE PHOTO

The Icon of the Passionist Jubilee is displayed in front of the altar in the chapel of St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville on Jan. 30, 2020.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

An icon commissioned by the Passionist Fathers – along with a first-class relic of their founder, St. Paul of the Cross – has been traveling on pilgrimage around the world for the occasion of the Passionist congregation’s 300th anniversary.

On Jan. 30, 2020, the icon and relic were brought and made available for a Mass, prayer service and a few hours of veneration at St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, home to a community of cloistered Passionist nuns.

Mother John Mary Read, CP, the mother superior of St. Joseph Monastery, described it as “wonderful” to be able to host the icon and relic of their founder.

“We know an icon is not just a picture we look at, but is an image that allows us into the reality of the Paschal Mystery,” she said.

The icon features Jesus and aspects of his Passion including the crucifix, Calvary, and angels ministering to him. Also featured are St. Paul of the Cross and other Passionist saints such as St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, Blessed Dominic of the Mother

of God, St. Gemma Galgani and Blessed Isidore de Loor.

Three hundred years prior, in December 1720, St. Paul of the Cross had founded the Passionist congregation. In 1771, the first monastery of Passionist nuns was established, and Passionist nuns across the world will celebrate their 250th anniversary in 2021.

Also in 2021, the local Passionist nuns will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of their monastery in Owensboro, Ky. (This December, in 2020, they will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the monastery’s relocation from Owensboro to its present location in Whitesville.)

Fr. Louis Caporiccio, CPM, the chaplain of the monastery, presided at the Mass and prayer service.

If you want a true image of God, “look at his Passion,” said Fr. Caporiccio in his homily during the prayer service. He quoted the late priest and author, Fr. Thomas Dubay, in that celebrating something means affirming that “something is good.”

Fr. Caporiccio said everyone gathered in the chapel at St. Joseph Monastery were indeed “affirming that this foundation (of the Passionist congregation) is a very good thing!”

He said that to much of society, it seems odd to celebrate something so tragic – the death of an innocent man more than 2,000 years ago.

Looking at a crucifix, “all they see is a man who is humiliated, a man who is suffering, a man who is fastened to an ancient instrument of torture,” said Fr. Caporiccio.

Continues on page 11

Relic icon continued from page 10



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC FILE PHOTO
Fr. Louis Caporiccio, CPM, blesses those gathered in the chapel with a first-class relic of St. Paul of the Cross, who founded the Passionists 300 years ago.

And yet, “the Passion is a necessary condition to get to Heaven,” said Fr. Caporiccio, calling the Passion “a manifestation of God’s great love for the world – for you and for me.”

Several laypeople visitors attended the celebration that morning, as well as faculty, staff and the entire student body of Trinity High School in Whitesville.

Emily Hernandez, principal at Trinity, said she was grateful to the Passionists for extending an invitation for the high school to attend the prayer service. The day also coincided with annual Catholic Schools Week, which took place this year from Jan. 26- Feb. 1.

“Facilitating discipleship is what we do at Trinity High School, and this was a wonderful opportunity for our student body as we joined with these sisters in this powerful celebration,” said Hernandez. “We were so thankful our entire student body was able

The Catholic Church and relics: A brief history

BY EDWARD WILSON, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

There are three classes* of relics:

First-class: Remains from the body of a saint (e.g., bone fragment) as well as items directly associated with the events of Christ’s life or Passion (e.g., a piece of the True Cross).

Second-class: An item used or owned by a saint (e.g., a possession or fragment of clothing).

Third-class: An item (e.g., a piece of cloth) that has been touched to a first- or second-class relic. Often, a third-class relic is affixed to a prayer card or medal associated with a particular saint.

Relic veneration has a long and unbroken history in the Catholic Church. Perhaps the earliest recorded account occurred around 156 A.D., when the remains of St. Polycarp were gathered by his followers and placed in a designated space to be adored yearly on the date of his martyrdom.

Many believe that veneration of relics is no longer an accepted practice of the Church, following Vatican II. This, however, is not the case. The sacred status of relics has been affirmed numerous times, including at the

Council of Trent (1545-1563), the Second Vatican Council (1962-1968), and in Pope St. John Paul II’s authorized 1983 Code of Canon Law (cf. canons 1281-89).

Scripture also supports the practice of veneration; Matthew 9:20-22, 2 Kings 13:20-21, Acts 19:11-12, and several other passages, illustrate the significance of relics. Though the practice may seem outdated to many, particularly in the West, relics continue to be a treasured part of Catholic practice. In 2019, Pope Francis even made headlines for gifting relics of St. Peter to Patriarch Bartholomew, the Orthodox Archbishop of Constantinople, revealing the sacred place that relics still occupy in the Catholic faith.

Tradition, canon law, and Scripture all support this practice that allows Catholics to both give honor to and attain a physical closeness with the Communion of Saints. ■

*Definitions courtesy of St. Anthony Chapel, Pittsburgh, Penn.

Edward Wilson is the director of the Diocese of Owensboro’s archives and the archives of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/archives.

to celebrate such an event during Catholic Schools Week.”

Christopher Jungers, whose day job is serving as the director of East Coast donor relations for the Passionists of Holy Cross Province, had traveled with fellow volunteer Bob Rizzi of Baltimore to bring the icon and relic to this region.

Rizzi, who said he had always wanted to do a pilgrimage, considered the opportunity “a blessing in my life to be able to be a part of this.”

Jungers said he has found, as he has traveled across the United States, that their pilgrimage journey “touches people deeply and it goes so much to the heart for our Catholic faith.”

He said that for Catholics, “tangible” items like the relic and icon are “so comforting and grace-filled.”

“I feel as if I’m bringing to people a touchable, real sense of St. Paul of the Cross and the Passionists,” he said. ■

Parish music directors plan for ‘reverent, meaningful’ Triduum liturgies



COURTESY OF JAMES HESS

The adult singers of STM Choir at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah rehearse in February 2020.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

While Easter won't arrive until April 12 this year, parish music directors are already preparing for what one music director calls "the most important week in the life of the Church" – the Triduum, which comprises Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

"We begin looking at music for Lent about two weeks before Lent begins," explained James Wells, the music director at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, in a Feb. 14 email to The Western Ken-

tucky Catholic. He said the cathedral's musicians begin reviewing the Triduum music almost as soon as Lent begins.

Wells said it requires great attention to details and planning to "offer liturgies which we hope will be reverent and meaningful worship experiences."

This is also true for James Hess, the director of sacred music and liturgical ministry at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah.

"The STM Choir, which currently numbers 28 singers, provides music each Sunday, September through June, in addition to Christmas, Ash Wednesday, the annual Tenebrae Service and the Triduum Liturgies," said Hess in a Feb. 13 email.

Hess said that typically, music at St. Thomas More is rehearsed two to three weeks prior to its use, though more difficult pieces may require additional rehearsal time.

"Service music, including setting of texts for Holy Week and Easter, are chosen so they can be used for several (or sometimes many!) years," said Hess.

For example, on Ash Wednesday the St. Thomas More choir sings "Come Back to the Lord" by Leo Nestor during the imposition of ashes. Hess said this piece includes the antiphon from the Book of Joel, and verses drawn from a fourth-century text.

"We make every effort to choose texts and music that are worthy of the liturgy, are accessible to the congregation and will stand the test of time," said Hess.

Talented, fast learners

Wells complimented the cathedral's music ministry, which he said features "great musicians and fast learners."

"We mainly have one choir that sings throughout the Church year, as well as a strong group of cantors who minister on a rotating schedule," said Wells.

Wells said when he plans out his music he always begins with the scripture readings for the celebration or the rituals taking place "so that the selections reflect the messages of the scripture readings."

When it comes to Lent and the Triduum, Wells mostly leans toward the "well-known, expected pieces" – "I don't think I've ever been to an Easter Sunday Mass in which we didn't sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," he added – but he tries to sprinkle in a few new pieces over the course of a season.

"There are so many composers releasing new music daily that it's important not to overlook music that has been written much more recently," said Wells. "I think it's important to practice a healthy balance."

Hess said that in addition to the STM Choir, his parish also has a children's choir of about 16 young people, a liturgical hand bell choir, and three cantors who rotate through the Spanish Masses.

St. Thomas More tends to utilize a repertoire of music that has built up over the years, which Hess credits to both current pastor, Fr. Brad Whistle, and previous pastor, Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, for building and maintaining the parish's music program.

Continues on page 13

Triduum liturgies continued from page 12

“This year we are drawing music from known repertoire for Lent and the Triduum but plan on singing all new choral pieces for Eastertide,” said Hess.

Season of prayer

Lent and the Triduum are certainly times of prayer and growth, but Hess and Wells admit they are also times of great busyness for parish music/liturgy directors.

Wells said the Triduum liturgies at St. Stephen Cathedral involve scheduling and directing nearly 270 liturgical ministers, which includes practices for altar servers and musicians; and coordinating with the art and environment committee, liturgical coordinators and sacristans “who work behind the scenes to help make these liturgies flow smoothly.”

Hess said the most difficult part for him is making sure all of the singers are available, since this time of year always coincides with spring break and other activities. Regardless, “our musicians are very committed and they make every effort to be available

for rehearsals and singing activities,” he said.

Hess said he relies considerably on the expertise of his fellow staff members Derrick Anderson, the associate director of music; and Kelly Wiggins Groves, St. Thomas More’s children’s choir director who also serves as the parish’s director of family life.

Wells added that a parish’s ministry is never limited to the efforts of the clergy and pastoral team, and that he knows the cathedral’s community is “deeply appreciative” of the service of their many volunteers.

“The rewards for the hard work and attention to detail are realized when we experience beautiful and uplifting liturgies,” said Wells.

Hess said there are “innumerable personal rewards” in working in church music, but for him, the most uplifting is when the choir takes ownership of a text and, through musical phrasing and nuance, expresses to and prays with the assembly!”

“It is most thrilling!” he said. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD/WKC FILE PHOTO
James Wells, the music director at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, plays the organ during the Good Friday service on April 19, 2019.

Updates shared on Ursuline ministry in Chile



BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

Sr. Mary Elizabeth “Mimi” Ballard, OSU, director of Casa Ursulina (Diana Ortiz Ursuline Center for Women) in Chillan, Chile, was home for a visit at Mount Saint Joseph in mid-January 2020. She gave a presentation to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and others who could attend on Jan. 15. The talk was an overview of the Ursuline Sisters’ ministry in Chile, including how their emphasis has changed over the years as the needs have changed. She also announced the transition of Casa Ursulina from an Ursuline-owned property to an independent not-for-profit. “Sr. Mimi” has been the director of Casa Ursulina since 1997. She said over 200 women are enrolled in classes there. ■

COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

(Left) Sr. Mary Elizabeth “Mimi” Ballard, OSU, gives a presentation on Casa Ursulina at Mount Saint Joseph on Jan. 15, 2020.



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ
People sing and pray during Encuentro on Jan. 25, 2020, held at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville.



COURTESY OF HALEY HAMILTON
Students of Owensboro Catholic Schools recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the Jan. 31, 2020 Western Kentucky National School Choice Week Rally, held at the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #2499
Knights of Columbus Council #2499 attend the Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky on Feb. 15, 2020.

Encuentro welcomes 420 people in Hopkinsville

BY WKC STAFF

On Jan. 25, 2020, Hispanic/Latino families from around the Diocese of Owensboro gathered for the annual Encuentro at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville. Approximately 420 people attended. The all-day event featured a holy hour, confession, and the chance to pray and connect with other families from around western Kentucky. Encuentro was once again led by Fr. Julio Cesar Palarino, who comes to Kentucky each year for the gathering. A youth track, led by the diocese's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, was available for the young people. ■

School Choice Week Rally hosted in Owensboro

BY WKC STAFF

On Jan. 31, 2020, the Catholic Schools Office for the Diocese of Owensboro hosted EdChoice Kentucky at the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Owensboro for a National School Choice Week Rally. The major topic at the rally was of a scholarship tax credit program in Kentucky. This program would provide a tax credit for those who donate to the scholarship fund. Previous attempts to create a program such as this in Kentucky have failed; however a newly proposed law is in front of the House and Senate. Schools represented at the rally included Holy Name of Jesus School, Owensboro Catholic Middle and High Schools, St. Mary of the Woods School, Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School, and Trinity High School. ■

Catholic men's conference sees 400+ attendees

BY CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Approximately 425 men attended another successful Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky, which took place Feb. 15, 2020 at the RiverPark Center in Owensboro.

Patrick Madrid opened the conference with a presentation on how to share and explain our Catholic beliefs with non-Catholics. He discussed many of the issues that persons of other faiths often present to Catholics, and provided in-

Continues on page 15

Schedule of 2020 fish fries in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: Canons 1250 and 1251 state that all Fridays are days of penance in the Catholic Church. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops requests that Catholics abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent, and practice some form of penance on the other Fridays throughout the year. Due to fish being a popular Lenten Friday option in this part of the world, the tradition of Friday fish fries has become a common activity for many. Below is information for the 2020 fish fries offered within the Diocese of Owensboro, provided by the parishes and local community organizations. All questions about the individual fish fries should be directed to the parishes and organizations.

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

April 3 | Serving from 5-7 p.m. | Add space. (270) 926-4741

Christ the King, Madisonville

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving from 5-7 p.m. (270) 821-5494

Holy Name Men's Club, Henderson

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving at 5 p.m. (270) 826-2096

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

March 6, 13, 20, 27 | Serving at 5 p.m. (270) 274-3414

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving from 4:30-7 p.m. in the parish hall | (270) 842-7777

Knights of Columbus Council #817, Owensboro

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving at 5 p.m. in the hall behind St. Pius X, Owensboro | (270) 926-6959

Knights of Columbus Father Carroll White Council, Clarkson (across from St. Anthony)

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving from 4:30-7 p.m.; carryouts available | (270) 242-7955

Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council #1055, Paducah

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving from 4-7:30 p.m. (270) 442-1923

Mary Carrico Catholic School, Knottsville

March 6, 13, 20 | Serving at 4:30 p.m. (270) 281-5526

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. in the parish hall | (270) 684-5369

Precious Blood, Owensboro

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. in the parish hall | (270) 684-6888

St. Agnes, Uniontown

March 6 and 20; April 3 | Serving at 5 p.m. (270) 822-4416

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Fish fry & live auction: April 3; | serving at 5 p.m., auction at 6:30 p.m. | (270) 229-4164

St. Ann, Morganfield

March 13 and 27 | Serving from 5-7 p.m. (270) 389-2287

St. Charles, Bardwell

March 6 and 13 | Serving from 5-7 p.m. (270) 642-2586

St. Columba, Lewisport

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving from 4-7 p.m. (270) 927-8419

St. Henry, Hardin

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving from 5-7 p.m. Call in and pickup available | (270) 474-8058

St. Leo, Murray

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving from 4:30-6:30 p.m. | (270) 753-3876

St. Martin, Rome

March 6 and 20 | Serving begins at 5 p.m.; carryouts available | (270) 685-0339

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

March 6, 20; April 3 | Serving at 6 p.m. (270) 764-1983

St. Pius X Knights of Columbus, Calvert City

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving from 4-7 p.m. (270) 395-4727

St. Romuald Interparochial School Fish Fry, Hardinsburg

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving at 4 p.m. (270) 756-5504

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

March 6, 13, 20, 27 | Serving from 5-7 p.m. (270) 273-3185

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

March 20 | Serving from 5-7 p.m. in the Fr. John Vaughan Community Center (undercroft) (270) 683-6525

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3 | Serving from 4:30-7 p.m. (270) 247-2843

Whitesville Lions Club Fish Fry Fundraiser at Whitesville Senior Citizen Center, 10345 Hwy. 54, Whitesville

March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10 | Serving at 5 p.m. For to-go orders call (270) 233-4332

Men's conference continued from page 14

formative explanations on how to respond to those inquiries in a loving and charitable way.

Bruce Sullivan began life in the southern Baptist tradition and eventually became a member and minister of the Church of Christ. Bruce explained why

the fullness of truth is found within the Catholic Church and centered his presentation around the importance of Christ's death on the cross, and how it shows Christ's great love for us.

National Catholic speaker Brian Greenfield's first talk discussed the Gospel story of Lazarus and

how Jesus can bring us back to true life despite any past failings, ridicule from others, or other issues that separate us from God. The conference concluded with a full church attending 5 p.m. Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Medley. ■

To learn more, visit kycatholic.com.

MARCH 2020 BULLETIN BOARD

Lenten Sacrament Series at Immaculate

A Lenten Sacrament Series will be presented at Immaculate Parish on March 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Fr. John Vaughan, pastor of Immaculate will help us to see the importance of the sacraments in our lives. The presentation, discussion, and dialogue will take place on the Mondays listed above from 6:30-8 p.m. in Immaculate's Parish Family Center. This event is free and open to all. Childcare is provided. Please call (270) 683-0689 if needed.

Lenten Days of Quiet March 12 or April 9

All are invited to the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center for a Lenten Day of Quiet on Thursday, March 12 and/or Thursday, April 9. Come enjoy a day of prayer and silence to be with the Lord. Participants can join the Ursuline Sisters for prayer at 6:55 a.m. or Mass at 7:15 a.m. or evening prayer at 4:45 p.m. You will be given a bedroom to use for the day. Materials will be available in our library such as meditation CDs, the Shrine Walk CD, and mandala pages to color. The Gift Shop will be open, and the peace of the grounds are always available to enjoy. There is an option to meet with a spiritual director. Check in begins at 8 a.m. and the doors close at 5 p.m. The cost is \$30 which includes lunch. The Center is located at 8001 Cummings Road (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56.) To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or register online at ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs.

Yarn Spinners Weekend March 13-15

If you enjoy yarn spinning, weaving, rug hooking, knitting or crocheting, you are welcome to attend the March 13-15 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 be future yarn spinning weekends in May, August and November.

Join Blessed Mother for Living Stations

Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro will present "The Living Stations of the Cross" on Friday, March 20 at 6 p.m. and again on Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m. You are invited to enter into a visual experience of the 14 steps Jesus took to Calvary and to leave as a witness to what our Lord has done for us.

Holy Name of Jesus Knights of Columbus corn hole tournament

When: 3-21-2020

Where: Holy Name School Gym, Henderson

Check-in: 8 a.m. CST

Format: Best of three games

Prizes: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place payouts

Entry fee: \$50 per team

First bags thrown at 9 a.m. CST. Concessions available. 1st place: \$500, 2nd place: \$300, 3rd place: \$200. (Prize money based on 50 teams.) For more information or to send team information contact Brad Eadens at glasskid81@yahoo.com or (270) 724-1618 (text please), no later than March 16, 2020. Payment will be made at check-in on event day. Cash and checks written to the Knights of Columbus only. Join us for fun, fellowship and healthy competition as you support the Knights of Columbus #1320.

The World Apostolate of Fatima's Tour for Peace coming to St. John the Evangelist!

The world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima is on a Tour For Peace in the U.S. and around the world this year of 2020 continuing what Our Blessed Mother requested at Fatima in Portugal. St. John the Evangelist Parish in Paducah will host the tour on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Please join us that day to hear the story of Fatima and venerate this beautiful statue that set out from Fatima in 1947 to bring the graces of Fatima to all who might not ever be able to make a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal. Hundreds and favors and graces, including cures, and countless conversions are associated with the image. The presence of this special Statue (sculpted according to the description of Sister Lucia, the Fatima seer) is a great gift to our community.

Schedule for the day:

9 a.m. Welcome and Mass | 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Prayers and Devotions at the top of each hour | 6 p.m. Evening Prayer, Talk, and Closing

Contact the Parish Office at (270) 554-3810 for more information. Learn more at www.fatimatourforpeace.com. Sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, a Public Association of the Faithful under the Vatican.

Join 40 Days for Life in Southwest Indiana

Here is an opportunity for the Diocese of Owensboro to join this Lent. The Right to Life Southwest Indiana has a 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign that begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, and ends on Palm Sunday, April 5. Volunteers choose a time and day to pray outside of Planned Parenthood in Evansville or any abortion facility for the end of abortion. If you would like any more information regarding this opportunity, please contact Cathie Francis-Martin, the Executive Administrative Assistant of the Right to Life of Southwest Indiana, at CFrancis@rtlswin.org.

Join St. Lawrence for Live Stations

An invitation from St. Lawrence Parish. Come and pray with us at our annual Live Stations of the Cross on Palm Sunday, April 5, at 4 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church Cem-

etry, 6119 St. Lawrence Road, St. Lawrence, KY. In case of rain it will be moved to Monday, April 6 of Holy Week at 5:30 p.m.

Gennesaret Retreat April 24-26

Those who have a chronic or serious health issue could be a candidate for the April 24-26 Gennesaret retreat at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The Gennesaret retreat is designed for persons whose medical conditions would otherwise hinder them from attending a weekend overnight retreat. The retreat is being offered by the Diocese of Owensboro and hosted by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. If you are interested in attending, or would like to learn how you can support this ministry, call Tom or Amy Payne: 270-316-0403. Fall Gennesaret Retreat: Oct. 9-11.

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

Camino with Frs. Will Thompson and Gary Clark

Fr. Gary Clark is offering the chance of a lifetime to walk the way of St. James in Spain. Fly out of Evansville on Monday, July 13, walk 9 days on the Camino to Santiago and return on Friday, July 24. Trip cost is \$2,500/person. This includes airfare to and from Spain, train fare, motor coach transfers, travel insurance, two nights in hotels, two meals and albergues (hostel) along the way. Because of the quick turnaround on this trip, all reservations must be confirmed by May 1, 2020. To reserve your spot, the full \$2,500 payment is required when registering. Also, a word of caution. This pilgrimage is not for the faint of heart. We will walk 131 miles in 9 days in the July heat of Spain which is much like Kentucky. The terrain is similar to the hills of Kentucky as well: lots of hills and rocks at times. Please take this into consideration when making reservations. If you are interested, contact Fr. Gary Clark at Holy Name Catholic Church at 270-826-2096 or gary.clark@pastoral.org, or Fr. Will Thompson at 270-683-5641 or will.thompson@pastoral.org. Please note: we only have 12 spots available for this trip.

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 to address the root causes of poverty in America. Each November, the Diocese of Owensboro participates in a national 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 should contact Deacon Richard Murphy at (270) 683-1545, richard.murphy@pastoral.org or visit owensborodiocese.org/cchd. May 20, 2020 deadline.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Beginnings, in collaboration with the Diocese of Owensboro, will offer a 6-week group, focused on healing trauma for adult women survivors of sexual abuse by clergy. This group is occurring based upon the evaluation responses from the spring 2019 support group for survivors of sexual abuse.

WHO: Adult women, age 18 and older

WHEN: This group will begin on Thursday, March 5, 2020

WHERE: New Beginnings – 1716 Scherm Rd, Owensboro, KY

FACILITATOR: Jennifer Francis-Gehring, LCSW – Social worker for 20 years, clinical therapist at New Beginnings Sexual Assault Support Services.

Please contact Jennifer Francis-Gehring, LCSW, with New Beginnings at 270-926-7273 to register. Childcare is not available.



Diocese of Owensboro Marian Shrine Events Committee

Pilgrimage

Our Lady of Good Help, Champion, WI
Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Perryville, MO
National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Libertyville, IL
Our Lady of Sorrows National Shrine Basilica, Chicago, IL

July 24-27, 2020

Spiritual Director: Father Ken Geraci, C.P.M.

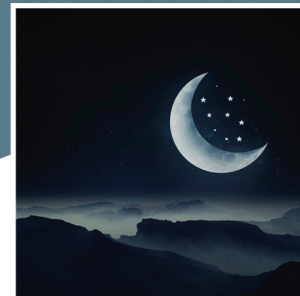
Group Coordinator: Tracey Danzer 270-315-8434

Registration Coordinator: Karen Austin 270-929-8555

\$400 per person (ages 21 and older) includes the cost of transportation and 3 nights lodging (double occupancy), meals are additional.

Full payment is due by May 1, 2020.

For more information please visit owensborodiocese.org/marian-pilgrimage



Praying Your Dreams: Finding God Within

This program will allow you to recognize your dreams as an invitation from God to be more fully and profoundly a spiritual seeker. It will help those who seek a deeper understanding of God and themselves. Participants 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.

Saturday, April 18
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fee: \$40 which includes lunch

Note: The fee is \$45 at the door.

RETREAT PRESENTER



Theresa O'Bryan graduated from the Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Maple Mount, Ky., and from Saint Mary-of-the Woods College in Indiana with a degree in pastoral theology. She is a spiritual

director and dream counselor who also works as a hospital chaplain.



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Please register: 270-229-0206

retreatcenter@maplemount.org

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

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. For parish contact information, visit 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
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

Rachel's Vineyard

A Safe Haven

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential, and non-judgemental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

Join us for a weekend of Emotional Healing and Spiritual Renewal

March 20 - 22, 2020
Retreat Center near Nashville, TN

Contact: Wendy
270.474.4707
wendyc@hopeafterabortionky.com

ALL conversations are held in strict confidence.

www.hopeafterabortionky.com

The Knights of Columbus in Clarkson is hosting a

FISH FRY DINNER

4 oz COD Fish Loins, French Fries, Cole Slaw & Hush Puppies including your drink and dessert

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

FRIDAYS:
January 17th, 24th & 31st
February 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
March 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th
April 3rd

Serving Hours:
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Adults \$11.00
Seniors \$10.00
Children 5-12 \$8.00
Under 5 FREE

WE ALSO OFFER BINGO! Sundays at 1:00 p.m.
License# 0000076

RAFFLES:
1st Prize: 75" Samsung UHD TV with a Samsung Dolby Digital Soundbar with Wireless Subwoofer
2nd Prize: Samsung 10.1" Galaxy Tab A 128GB Tablet (2019, Wi-Fi Only, Black)

Open to Public Carryout Available

Knights of Columbus • Father Carroll White
1219 St. Anthony Church Rd., Clarkson • 270-242-7955

Living as Missionary Disciples!

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



FILE PHOTO
Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship.

and was back asking for our financial support. And what was going through my 16-year-old mind? What would go through yours? I was thinking, “God, don’t call me to be a missionary.”

Our diocese has been on a special journey for the past two years. It began with the announcement of the new Office of Evangelization and the first assignment by Bishop Medley was to learn from and discern our response to the U. S. Catholic Bishops’ statement titled, “Living as Missionary Disciples.” Quoting Pope Francis, it says, “I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are. Mere administration can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be permanently in a state of mission.” (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 25)

The call to be on mission takes us back to the beginnings of the early Church. Jesus told his early

followers, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.” (Mark 1:15) The mission is to celebrate the in-breaking of the reign of God into our daily lives. This reign is present now; we simply need to participate in it. But how? First, we need to hear the Gospel and have an encounter with Jesus.

When we hear of God’s love for humanity and for each one of us personally, we need to respond. Our response needs to be to repent of our sin, our selfishness, our failure to put God first in our lives and invite God to be at the center of our lives. Once we have this encounter, which is necessary for discipleship, then we grow by being accompanied by people that have walked the road of discipleship before us. We invest in community and create the kind of parish where people want to come because they feel welcomed, loved and appreciated. Then, by virtue of our baptism into the family of God, we are sent, as missionaries to all the places our lives may take us. For most of us that is centralized right here in western Kentucky.

The diocese is in year three of our four-year effort. Our four themes are Encounter, Accompaniment, Community and Send. As we gather with parish staffs from around the diocese on March 12 to discuss Community, we ask for your prayers. Pray that as we begin to understand the mission of living as Missionary Disciples, every parish in our diocese would be equipped to move from maintenance to mission! ■

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

Save the Date
A *Night* AT
THE RACES
April 24, 2020

Race Sponsorships: \$250

Race sponsorships are currently available! Sponsorship includes 8 event tickets, advertisement in the program, advertisement on the tables and the opportunity to name the horses for the race you sponsor. Contact the school office to sponsor a race today!

Tickets: \$20 per Person

Ticket includes a Kentucky Dinner, Beer, Wine, and Mint Juleps!
Tickets will be available in February! This is a 21+ and over event.



Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School
628 2nd Street
Henderson, KY 42420
Phone: 270-827-3425

21+ Event

License #0265

Women’s Retreat

March 20-22

Women in Prayer:



What the Bible Teaches Us About Deepening Our Relationship with God

From Friday evening, March 20, until Sunday afternoon, March 22, you can experience prayer from a biblical perspective, including silent, meditative, liturgical, sung and traditional prayer. Recorded prayers of women such as Hannah, Esther, Judith and Mary will be explored, as well as some of the Psalms.

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons

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

March 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

R. C. & Margaret Keith, 63
Michael & Maria Overton, 52

Christ the King, Madisonville

William & Bonnie Burns, 50

Christ the King, Scottsville

Terri & Druex Day, 25

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Noel & Lei Canlas II, 10
Paul & Nina Drury, 61
William & Charlotte Faulkner, 64
Cleve & Norma Foster, 40
Lonnie & Dee Kennedy, 51
Charles & Karen Nunley, 56
Robert & Liz Shea, 66
Phillip & Ladonna Shreve, 40
Paul & Mary Wilder, 51
Jerry & Jewel Marie Williams, 61

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Harold & Joan Neighbors, 51
Larry & Marie Wilson, 50
Eric & Bridget Hoffmeyer, 40

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Josh & Nicole Ballard, 5

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Hal & Rita Johnston, 40
William Jr. & Sarah Kemper, 58
Dennis & Gloria Ramage, 58
James & Marilyn Young, 52
Andrew & Anne Glenn, 40

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Paul & Doris Westerfield, 63
Trino & Frieda Martinez, 10

Sacred Heart, Russellville

James & Ruth Dauley, 51

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Kevin & Becca Thompson, 10

St. Ann, Morganfield

Dana & Judy O'Nan, 40

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Gary & Elaine Strain, 51
Charles & Ann Hamilton, 55

St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel

Bobbie & Mary Moore, 68

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Dan & Gail Dailey, 51

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Dustin & Ashley Burnett, 10

St. Benedict, Wax

Danon & Reva Stasel, 53

St. Columba, Lewisport

Jimmie & Carol Harper, 58

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Jack & Rose Riggs, 63
Jerry & Barbara Hayden, 54

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Raymond & Carol Hill, 58

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Tony & Lita Pfingston, 53

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Charles & Marie Riggs, 72
Pat & Betty Robinson, 55
John D. & Lynda Oldham, 55
William & Donna Roberts, 40

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Jerry & JoAnna Hines, 50
Jim & Mary Jane Nelson, 55

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Thomas & Helen Ellington, 67
George & Doreen Gates, 50

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Hector Escobar & Lidia Guillèn, 5
Kirk & Keycia Collard, 5

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Juan & Karla Valencia, 10

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Leonard & Barbara Webb, 58
Jason & Valerie Sullivan, 10

St. Mark, Eddyville

Terence & Susan Carlin, 52

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Jim & Barbara Pinkston, 58

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Paul & Barbara Brown, 58

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Thomas & Karen Gossett, 5

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Walter & Wanda Hart, 51

St. Pius X, Calvert City

David & Donna Carr, 50

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Jerome & Gail Hoesli, 63

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Roger & Ashley Adams, 5

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Sam & Bethany Hayden, 10

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Gerald & Maxine Corbey, 61

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Greg & Ryann Blandford, 5
Stephen & Dian Wathen, 25

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Richard & Cheryl Grana, 50
Justin & Elizabeth Mason, 10

St. William, Knottsville

Clint & Susan Ann Howard, 10

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Richard & Betti Block, 58
William & Jennifer Chaudoin, Sr., 51
Richard & Patricia Abell, 5
Rodrigo & Martha Onate, 5

WKU Newman Center: A home away from home



COURTESY OF MICHAELA GUICE
St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center students at a Sept. 5, 2019 football tailgate with Big Red, the mascot of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.



COURTESY OF MICHAELA GUICE
FOCUS missionaries and students oversee the St. Thomas Aquinas table during a campus ministries lawn party.

BY THE WKU NEWMAN CENTER LEADERSHIP TEAM, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The fall semester at the Western Kentucky University Newman Center in Bowling Green got off to a great start with the help of FOCUS Missionaries, Fr. Mike Williams, new campus minister Michaela Guice, and a leadership team focused on serving the St. Thomas Aquinas community. The first event to kick everything off was a cookout where students could meet each other. There was food and fellowship which helped bring all the students together. Other events which took place during the semester included a Theology of the Body crash course, a Halloween party, a men's retreat, and a women's vocation panel. The efforts of the Newman Center programs have fostered a "home away from home" community for Catholic students, and continue to lead students closer to Christ and the truth of the Catholic Church.

We want to keep alumni and families in the loop of what is going on over here on the Hill! If you are an alum of the Newman Center or are a family member of a student and would like to receive a newsletter about the Newman Center, please email mew_62@hotmail.com with your name and family member at Newman, or your year of graduation. We look forward to keeping everyone up to date. ■

To learn more about Catholic campus ministry at WKU, visit owensborodiocese.org/listing/st-thomas-aquinas.

23rd Annual
YOUTH 2000
A Eucharistic-Centered Retreat
BRESCIA UNIVERSITY
CAMPUS CENTER
March 6-8, 2020
Ages 13-30
(270) 683-1545
owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000

John 6:51
**"I am the living bread
that has come down
from heaven."**



Why I love our Catholic schools: A mom's perspective

Editor's note: Sue Howe spoke at St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville during the weekend of Catholic Schools Week 2020 (Jan. 26-Feb. 1). St. Mary's campus is home to St. Mary of the Woods Grade School and Trinity High School. Below is an excerpt from her presentation.

BY SUE HOWE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

My name is Sue Howe, I have been married to my husband, Keith Howe, for 25 years, and together we have raised one son, Allen.

My passion... our Catholic schools in our community. I do not know where this Southern Baptist mom needs to start. My husband and I dated a long time, like 10 years. One of our frequent 'discussions' was where our kids would go to school. I was adamant that my children would go to a public school where there are more options. I remember my exact words very well: "My kids are not going to that rinky dink school." True story. After some discussions I had decided that it was a bigger deal to my husband that our kids be in Catholic schools than to me on which school they would attend. After all, our kids were going to be raised Catholic so it made sense that it is where they would go.

God blessed us with one son of whom we are most grateful for every day. Fast-forward my story until our son starts preschool in 2001. We walked into the school and I kid you not, I felt a complete calmness and at ease with our decision to send him to St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School. I followed him to his classroom; older students were in the hall, high five-ing him walking down the hall, welcoming him. He probably never felt so big and I never felt so relieved and welcomed by staff myself. I had tears when I left him of course. Some partly because I just left my only son in this school that I was a stranger

to. But I honestly have to say that, that was the best decision we have ever made. The best foundation for his educational and faith formation years. I told someone as I walking out of school that this IS where my son belongs. This is where WE belonged.

We have always loved St. Mary's School. He was a very involved kid. He loved his school; he felt each classmate was a true friend. Even though he was a somewhat quiet child, he flourished at St. Mary's and at Trinity High School. My son was able to travel to Italy, France and England as a sophomore; talk about a good world experience for a young student. Senior year he was fortunate to go to Ireland, Assisi and England.

I am the front office secretary at Trinity High School. I am honored to work with Trinity High School staff. They work very, very hard; they pray for their students; they really want nothing but the best for each and every student that attends our school. Because I work at Trinity I am a witness of what happens within the walls of our schools. I wish our parents could hear the kids beginning their day with prayer, saying the Pledge of Allegiance, prayers at each meal or snack, the encouragement daily of serving others in this world especially in our community, encourage them to work at the church picnics - after all, they are the future of the Church.

Are our schools perfect? No, of course not. Not any school is perfect. But we continue to make strides every year and I would rank us up there with any school. Our students earn so much in scholar-



COURTESY OF SUE HOWE

Sue Howe writes that her son, Allen, who graduated from Trinity High School in 2016, received a full academic scholarship from Kentucky Wesleyan College. She credits Trinity for helping her son acquire the scholarships to graduate from college debt-free and to play college baseball.

ship money if they just do the paperwork. We have even had parents at other schools to call and ask us where to begin on applying for scholarships because they got no help from their school. With our staff's help, our son was prepared and earned a full academic scholarship from Kentucky Wesleyan College and other local scholarships that he will graduate

Continues on page 23



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY
Several young women participate in the youth retreat of Encuentro on Jan. 25, 2020, led by the diocese's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Diocesan youth, Hispanic ministry offices partner to offer retreat experience

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

During the Jan. 25, 2020 Encuentro event in Hopkinsville, the Office of Youth Ministry was excited to gather again this year with around 75 Hispanic youth for a retreat experience. For the past three years, the Office of Youth Ministry, in partnership with the Office of Hispanic Ministry, has worked to offer a special retreat experience for the middle and high school youth attending the event with their families.

This year, we brought in Brittany and Pedro Garcia from the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn., to share with the young people about “Who Jesus says we are” and then “Who do we say Jesus is.” There were great opportunities for fun, fellowship, talks, faith sharing, personal prayer, and witness. We are very thankful for

Brittany and Pedro Garcia, as well as Ben Warrell, Olivia Romero, Josh and Estefania Wirey, Bayo Solorza, and Aynde Bennett for serving as small group leaders for the retreat day. We look forward to hosting this retreat experience next year during the Encuentro event again. ■

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

A mom's perspective continued from page 22

debt-free with a bachelor's of science – value of over \$97,000. (Now, as he goes onto to a doctorate program for Physical Therapy this year, that will be a different story!)

Also, just because our school is small doesn't mean you can't play sports at the collegiate level. We have many students over the years that were able to play at that level. We were often told that our son needed to change schools so he would have a chance to play at the college level. He is playing at the college level and loving every minute of it. But so are

many other Trinity graduates.

I hope you prayerfully consider choosing St. Mary of the Woods or Trinity High School as your children's schools. Yes, it is a sacrifice. No good thing comes without sacrifice. Pray about it. Sit down and look at your budget; we all have places where we can make sacrifices. I didn't need a vacation every year or have to drive a new car. Those things were not important in the big picture for us. I don't believe I have ever heard anyone say they regretted sending their kids to our schools. I know my in-laws were

very proud of the fact that all 11 of their children graduated from Trinity High School. I would like to give thanks to all the parents, grandparents and alumni that continue to support us whether you bought a raffle ticket or made a donation. Our forefathers gave so much and it is our responsibility to continue what they have started for this community.

I pray daily that our school will continue to grow and God is answering my prayers, because our schools are thriving. Thank you for allowing me to talk of my love for our schools. God bless. ■

Seminarian thankful to spend pastoral year at Holy Spirit *Ling says experience forming him for future ministry as priest*



COURTESY OF MARTIN MA NA LING

Martin Ma Na Ling at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in September 2019.

BY MARTIN MA NA LING, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

My name is Martin Ma Na Ling and I am a seminarian of the Diocese of Owensboro, originally from Myanmar (Burma). I arrived in the United States on Jan. 20, 2017.

Right now I am doing my pastoral year at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, which I began in August 2019 and will conclude in May 2020. At first,

I was not so happy to do my pastoral year because I missed all my classmates and friends back at St. Meinrad Seminary. But, I believed that whatever the diocese decided was the best for me. In fact, when I started my pastoral year, I felt happy because this would help me a lot socially, physically and spiritually as well. Being with my pastor, Fr. John Thomas; associate pastor Fr. John Paul Mang Sein Yaw from Myanmar; and parochial vicar Fr. Jude Okeoma from Nigeria gives me different kinds of pastoral experiences.

During my pastoral year, I have been helping the Myanmar community (of Burmese people) by visiting their homes or apartments and by listening to their life situations and their feelings. I teach Burmese youth the songs and psalms for the Mass. While playing the guitar or the piano I lead the youth in Mass too. Fr. John Paul and I visit and offer home services for Burmese people in their dialects. I enjoy having the dinner they offer after the services, talking and communicating with each other. I share my knowledge on the catechism of the Church during the services, and I listen to their questions on the Church's teachings. I also play soccer every Sunday evening with the Burmese people in order to communicate with them more. It is good physical exercise for me as well.

Fr. John and the parish staff members teach and work with me generously. Apart from Burmese ministry, I help them in basic things around the office. I talk with them and learn about their experiences from work. They are so kind and helpful too.

Continues on page 25



COURTESY OF LARENA LAWSON

(Left to right) Seminarians Corey Bruns, Martin Ma Na Ling, and Chris Kight at their Feb. 9, 2019 Institution into Ministry of Acolyte ceremony at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.



COURTESY OF MARTIN MA NA LING

Martin Ma Na Ling plays soccer with the Burmese community at "The Loops" soccer complex in Bowling Green in July 2019.

Pastoral year continued from page 24

I go to the hospital with the priests for anointing and blessings. I myself visit the elderly in the nursing homes to bring them Holy Communion. (I try to speak slowly so they can understand me.) I welcome the parishioners into the church during every weekend Mass, through greetings and conversation. It has also been good to participate in funeral Masses and to go to the funeral home for prayer services with Fr. John.

By observing the situations of the parishioners and by working and praying together for this year, I have come to know their faith in the Church and their love for Christ. I appreciate them a lot. Their generosity and love for me is also incredible. I love serving people - both the Americans and the Burmese. I believe that the experiences with the parishioners and the priests during my pastoral year will help me to minister to the people of God kindly and patiently when I become a priest for the Diocese of Owensboro.

I thank God for his countless blessings given throughout discerning my vocation in life. I pray that God may continue to help me. I am weak and need God's graces always. St. Paul's word is encouraging to me in 2 Corinthians 12:10: "For which cause I please myself in my infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ. For when I am weak, then am I powerful (Douay-Rheims Bible)." If God was not with me, I would not be here in the United States today. Thanks be to God! Amen. ■

To learn more about the diocesan priesthood in the Diocese of Owensboro, visit owensborovocations.com.

Discover the Joy of Being Loved by God!

"Come and Be" weekend March 13-15

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite **single Catholic women ages 18-40** to a "Come and Be" Weekend. Be our guest and step aside from the noise of life to spend time in prayer and silence while exploring our beautiful Motherhouse grounds and chapel. You are also invited to join the Ursuline Sisters at Mass, prayer and meals.

Retreat begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday and ends at 1:00 p.m. Sunday.
Meals and accommodations will be provided at no charge.



To register,
call Sister Monica Seaton
270-229-0601, or email
monica.seaton@maplemount.org



8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY



Photo Courtesy of Lolek Productions

Wonder what it's like being a Nun?
Interested in *Religious Life*?

Passionist Vocation Retreats

Open to Single, Catholic women ages 17-30

March 27-29, 2020
June 26-28, 2020

Interested? Contact us:

Vocation Director
Passionist Nuns
8564 Crisp Road
Whitesville, KY 42378-9782
(270) 233-4571
vocations@passionistnuns.org

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

¿Puede ser que Dios habite sobre la tierra?

Nota de la Editora: El 17 de febrero de 2020, la Diócesis de Owensboro se reunió en la Catedral de San Esteban para un servicio de vísperas en celebración del décimo aniversario de la ordenación episcopal del Obispo Medley. La homilía del obispo, que dio durante las vísperas, se reproduce a continuación.

“Señor, Dios de Israel, no hay Dios como tu ni en el cielo ni en la tierra. Tú guardas fielmente la alianza hecha con tus siervos si caminan en tu presencia de todo corazón. ¿Puede ser que Dios habite sobre la tierra? Si los cielos y lo más alto de los cielos no pueden contenerte, cuanto menos este templo que he construido!” Salomón habla estas palabras de alabanza y acción de gracias en la ocasión de la dedicación del gran templo. Un sueño se hizo realidad. Por décadas habían soñado de un templo- y su rey más importante de todos David, no pudo hacerlo realidad. Por décadas más trabajaron y planearon. Su construcción y dedicación fue la cima del glorioso reinado de Salomón.

Diez mil trabajaron por años para crear lo que se convertiría en el edificio de más relevancia a todo el mundo conocido por los israelitas. Y fue esplendido el verlo. Y no fue sin decepción y desilusión que Salomón reconoce que este grandioso templo no puede contener el misterio ni el poder de la magnificencia de Dios.

De hecho, después de estas décadas de trabajo y talento, uno puede incluso deducir que Salomón se siente tranquilo que este esfuerzo de inteligencia humana ha sido solo un destello de la grandeza de Dios. El aclama lo obvio: “No hay Dios como tu ni en los cielos, ni en la tierra” y aun así “tu mantienes tu alianza de misericordia con tus siervos...”

Por lo tanto, incluso en medio de los logros humanos más grandes, todo se trata de Dios. Aquí estamos todos en nuestra Catedral, nuestro templo del Siglo XXI, y nos reunimos el pueblo de Dios de a través de 32 condados, 78 parroquias y más de 60,000 fieles católicos, escuelas y universidades, conventos y casas de religiosos, centros de retiro y campamentos de jóvenes, albergues y bancos de dispensa, y todo lo que representamos no puede ser contenido ni en el cielo ni en la tierra.

Y así Salomón pregunta, ¿Puede ser que Dios habite en la tierra? Y de generación en generación, de siglo a siglo personas llenas de fe han respondido, “SI”. Dios si puede habitar sobre la tierra.

Este pasaje del segundo libro de Reyes fue proclamado en esta Catedral en la víspera de mi ordenación como obispo hace ya diez años. Quizás esta noche puedo hablar de cómo la lectura me tocó en el 2010. Aquellos de ustedes que me conocen personalmente, saben que por más que yo amo ritos y celebraciones, aun así no me siento agusto sintiéndome que la celebración es sobre mí. Y es un reto estar en medio de la Iglesia, habiendo sido llamado a ser obispo por el Papa Benedicto XVI y no sentir la tentación de pensar que se trata de mí.

Sin embargo, seguido de mi nombramiento comencé a estudiar los ritos antiguos de la Iglesia sobre la ordenación de un obispo y pude ver con claridad

Obispo Medley continúa en página 27

EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA MARZO DE 2020:

1 DE MARZO	2 p.m. Rito de Elección - Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro 6 p.m. Rito de Elección - Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
3 DE MARZO	8 a.m. Misa Escolar - Escuela Católica Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville
5 DE MARZO	8 a.m. Misa Escolar y Conversaciones con los "Seniors" - Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad, Whitesville
8 DE MARZO	10:30 a.m. Misa de Clausura de Youth 2000 - Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro
9 DE MARZO	2 p.m. Misa de Emblemas Religiosas con los Scouts - Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro 6 p.m. Hora Santa de Adultos Jóvenes - Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
10 DE MARZO	9 a.m. Conversaciones con los "Seniors" - Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro
11 DE MARZO	5:30 p.m. Encuentro con Educación Religiosa del Decanato Owensboro Occidental - Parroquia Santa María Magdalena, Sorgho
12 DE MARZO	Día Diocesano "Viviendo como Discípulos Misioneros" - Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro
14 DE MARZO	5:30 p.m. Confirmación - Parroquia San Ambrosio, Henshaw (Incluye candidatos de la Parroquia San Guillermo, Marion y la Parroquia San Francisco Borgia, Sturgis)
16 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal - Centro Católico McRaith (MCC), Owensboro
17 DE MARZO	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal - MCC, Owensboro
17 DE MARZO	Día Legislativo en Frankfort
18 DE MARZO	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas - MCC, Owensboro
18 DE MARZO	5:30 p.m. Confirmación - Parroquia Santos Ángeles de la Guarda, Irvington
19 DE MARZO	1:30 p.m. Misa Escolar - Escuela Católica Mary Carrico, Knottsville

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21 DE MARZO	4 p.m. Confirmación - Parroquia Santa Ana, Morganfield
22 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Confirmación - Parroquia Santa Inés, Uniontown
24 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Misa Escolar - Escuela Secundaria Santa María, Paducah 1-2 p.m. Horas de Oficina en Paducah
26 DE MARZO	11:15 a.m. Misa Escolar - Academia Montessori Maximiliano, Owensboro
29 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Confirmación - Parroquia San Carlos, Bardwell
31 DE MARZO	8 a.m. Misa Escolar - Escuela Católica San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville

que cuando la Iglesia ora, se trata de Dios y la comunidad que siempre está llegando al conocimiento de Dios.

“Señor, Dios de Israel, no hay Dios como tu ni en el cielo ni en la tierra. Tú guardas fielmente la alianza hecha con tus siervos si caminan en tu presencia de todo corazón. ¿Puede ser que Dios habite sobre la tierra?

Entonces es que necesitamos recordatorios de que el esplendor y la gloria de la creación, que los más grandes logros humanos son pero solo manifestaciones de un Dios que habita sobre la tierra.

Hace diez años me pare en este lugar ante ustedes para prometer que entiendo que había sido enviado, que había sido llamado a servir. En efecto es un momento de humildad en mi vida y sacerdocio el venir a este templo, a esta catedral, construido de manos humanas y representando los templos construidos de vidas humanas y el saber que fui llamado a servirles como su obispo. Y esta noche es con profunda gratitud que me paro ante Dios y ustedes, que me han permitido la bendición de diez años.

Naturalmente que hubo mucho que aprender. Tantas cosas que yo pensaba que sabía de la diócesis de Owensboro, aun así eso siendo cierto entonces y ahora-, había tantas partes de la historia para mí que

descubrir. La historia del catolicismo en el Oeste de Kentucky es una historia de exploradores católicos, regados por toda esta vasta región trayendo consigo poco más que su fe y esforzándose por construir escuelas e iglesias. Y por todo lo construido, nada de ello puede contener la gloria de Dios. Nada puede alojar al Dios todopoderoso.

Las vastas partes de nuestra historia se han develado frente a mí. Muy pronto me di cuenta de las extraordinarias bendiciones siendo visitadas en nuestra diócesis, en efecto para nuestra nación, por el continuo flujo de nuevas personas. Peregrinos, exploradores como la mayoría de nuestros ancestros. Personas hoy, quienes con frecuencia no se parecen a los descendientes de europeos quienes vinieron a los Estados Unidos como tierra de promesa, esperanza y oportunidad. Es un signo de que Dios, con seguridad habita en esta tierra al darse que todavía personas vengan por esa misma razón.

Los primeros católicos que arribaron a Kentucky estaban aquí en lo que podríamos decir una -genuina selva- porque nadie los quería. Más de 200 años después podemos apreciar esa bendición. Pero no fue fácil la vida de los primeros católicos.

A través de todo el mundo personas oprimidas y sufriendo están buscando nuevos hogares debido a la violencia, desesperación y necesidad. El Papa Francisco casi a diario implora y reta a las naciones de la tierra donde somos libres, reconocer y proclamar el lugar donde Dios habita que demo la bienvenida a refugiados e inmigrantes.

En años recientes, incluso semanas recientes he viajado para representarlos a ustedes frente a católicos sosteniendo la Iglesia desde lejos. Tenemos sacerdotes sirviendo en nuestra diócesis de México, Guatemala, Nigeria, el Congo, Kenya, India y Birmania. Sin el regalo del sacerdocio que estas iglesias

antiguas nos envían hoy, no podríamos estar celebrando la Misa hoy y los sacramentos a través de la diócesis. Muchas iglesias tendrían que ser cerradas sin ellos. Muy a menudo cuando vemos refugiados e inmigrantes, nuestra nación calcula el costo para nosotros. Aquellos que tienen ojos para ver, deberán de ver que la deuda es nuestra. Y ciertamente no solo estoy hablando de sacerdotes- pero sobre el testimonio de fe y confianza en Dios que estos miles de nuevos hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes traen a nuestra Iglesia.

¿Puede ser que Dios habite sobre la tierra? Si, si y podemos ver y tener esta experiencia a diario.

En el 2017 visite México y me encontré con la Iglesia allí- de más notoriedad la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe donde todos los días decenas de miles de fieles llegan a orar y maravillarse de que San Juan Diego y nuestra Madre Santísima encontraran la manera de recordar al pueblo sufriente de que Dios habita en la tierra.

Nada más la semana pasada regrese de una visita pastoral a la India y Birmania. El propósito de mi viaje fue de expresar gratitud por lo que estas culturas han compartido con la iglesia Católica en nuestra diócesis. Fui recibido en los hogares y en las mesas de las familias de nuestros sacerdotes y seminaristas como una celebridad. De nuevo, no me gusta ser el centro de atención. Pero en oración, y con humildad, he llegado a saber que para ellos un obispo de otro lugar del mundo era para ellos el rostro de Cristo. Esa es mi vocación con ellos y con ustedes. No merecedor de tales distinciones, esa es la experiencia de Iglesia. El 9 de Febrero fui recibido en una parroquia por más de 1000 personas cantando, bailando y trayendo regalos. El templo de ellos, sin bancas ni sillas probablemente podía sentar 800- sentados en el suelo viejos como jóvenes. Pero tanto hombres,

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mujeres y niños se paraban de seis, ocho afuera alrededor de las ventanas para escuchar la Palabra de Dios. No hay ninguna duda, Dios en efecto, habita en esta tierra.

Una de las mayores tristezas de nuestra Iglesia en nuestros días, son las conocidas estadísticas de la baja en la vida de fe y participación en los sacramentos. Dificilmente pasa una semana en que no un padre de familia o abuelo me hable sobre su consternación de que sus hijos o nietos no están ni son de la iglesia. Podríamos analizar esta hasta la muerte. Vivimos bien en los Estados Unidos. Cuando se vive bien, una vieja tentación es de creer que hemos logrado todo solos por nuestra parte, resultando en el empujar a Dios lejos y más lejos. De seguro que Dios habita en la tierra- pero si no tenemos ojos para ver.

Cuando observo las Iglesias rebosantes de fieles en las iglesias de India y Myanmar encuentro gran esperanza. El encargo más grande de Jesús fue de ir a todas las naciones a proclamar su palabra y a bautizar. Por más de 2000 años la Iglesia ha estado haciendo esto. La población cristiana de ambos tanto India como Myanmar es muy pequeña - quizás del 2-3 %. Aun así, lo que maravilla de Dios es que ha forjado que los fieles creyentes de estos países, donde no siempre es fácil ser cristiano como pequeña minoría- es de ir y evangelizar al mundo.

Así pues sobre la pregunta de Salomón: ¿Puede ser que Dios habite sobre la tierra? Y a través de los tiempos hemos contestado esa pregunta con un fuerte SI. Desde los primeros versículos del primer libro de la Biblia somos recordados de que hemos sido creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios, poco menos que un Dios dice el salmista. Y es esta maravilla lo que ha llevado a hombres y mujeres a construir altares, templos, iglesias y santuarios para la mayor gloria de Dios. Los pueblos más primitivos

identificaron espacios sagrados, marcaron esos lugares, peregrinaban a esos lugares y adornaban esos lugares como sagrados. Es más que un simple rito y tradición que nos mueve a prender una vela o lámpara del sagrario o tocar una campana donde nos encontramos con la persona de Dios. Es nuestra esencia de seres humanos.

Uno de mis recuerdos favoritos del rito de mi ordenación sucedió aquí la víspera de ordenación. El obispo Juan McRaith esa noche bendijo varios objetos que se convertirían en insignias de mi nuevo oficio y llamado. Mi anillo, la mitra y báculo. También esa noche sobre el altar firme mi profesión de fe y juramento de fidelidad. En mi oficina hasta el día de hoy esta una foto del obispo Juan, de la hermana Jose Ángela Boone testimoniando ese momento. Me recuerdan de aquellos que estaban a mi lado hace diez años pero no hoy. Mi madre y mi hermano David. El arzobispo Thomas Kelly. Todos aquí extrañan a alguien que estaba con ellos hace diez años. Pero, si Dios habita en la tierra, estos seres queridos amados no están tan lejos.

Mientras que seres queridos han ya fallecido y partido de este mundo, todos nosotros cada año y cada día nos encontramos con nuevas personas que nos recuerdan de que Dios habita en esta tierra. Un obispo es llamado a ser padre, un hermano y amigo de sacerdotes. Todavía me esfuerzo en buscar cómo realizar esto, pero sé que las bendiciones que he recibido por mucho son más de las que he impartido. Las religiosas de nuestra diócesis han sido buenas y fieles servidoras y me enseñado mucho. Estoy bendecido por la fe y servicio del personal de la diócesis de Owensboro. Solo un par generaciones atrás todo ese servicio de ellos y ministerios eran casi siempre ejercidos por nuestros sacerdotes. Y es con humildad y gratitud que hemos descubierto que pueden

estos ser realizados aún mejor. Y los fieles católicos de a través de la diócesis me inspiran y dan esperanza. Estoy de manera especialmente orgulloso de los 4,000 jóvenes que he confirmado, tan satisfecho de Dios me ha usado para traerles a ellos el regalo del Espíritu Santo. Por lo menos 4,000 he impuesto las manos sobre las cabezas de jóvenes para invocar que el espíritu Santo les posea. Dios sí que habita en esta tierra.

Y si Dios habita en la tierra oramos y que no se nos olvide y reconozcamos a Maria, la Madre de Dios. Hace diez años y cuando me daba vuelta la cabeza por la atención y los aplausos, visitándome y encontrando mi más grande inspiración era en Maria. Escogida para ser la Madre de Dios viajo presurosa a su prima Isabel quien la recibió diciendo "Bendita tu entre las mujeres". ¿Pudiera eso subírsele a la cabeza? Pero y en su hermosa respuesta de oración Maria dice algo que pudiera sonar engreído. Dice ella: "El poderoso ha hecho obras grandes en mí" Ve me. Soy especial. Sin embargo, al instante su perspectiva es fluye: "El poderoso ha hecho obras grandes en mí. Santo es su Nombre"

Estas profundas palabras de Maria han sido mi lema como obispo. "Santo es el Nombre de Dios"... y que nunca yo olvide de que Dios es la fuente y dador de todos los buenos regalos. Oro que solo esos regalos derramados sobre mí y esta iglesia local siempre respondan a ese anhelo humano, ¿Puede ser que Dios habite en esta tierra? Si, Si, Si. ■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

El Encuentro recibe a 420 latinos en Hopkinsville



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

La gente canta y reza durante el Encuentro el 25 de enero de 2020, celebrado en la Parroquia San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE CHARLIE HARDESTY

Varias muchachas participan en la sesión juvenil del Encuentro el 25 de enero de 2020, dirigida por la Oficina del Ministerio con Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos de la diócesis.



El 25 de enero de 2020, las familias hispanas/latinas de alrededor de la Diócesis de Owensboro se reunieron para el Encuentro Diocesano Familiar anual en la Parroquia San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville. Aproximadamente 420 personas asistieron. El evento de todo el día incluyó una hora santa, confesiones y la oportunidad de rezar y conectarse con otras familias de todo el Kentucky occidental. El Encuentro fue nuevamente dirigido por el P. Julio César Palarino, quien viene a Kentucky cada año para el mes de enero. Una opción juvenil, dirigida por la Oficina del Ministerio con Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos de la diócesis, estaba disponible para los adolescentes. ■

FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

(A la izquierda) Durante la sesión juvenil, los adolescentes y los líderes juveniles se reúnen para una foto en grupo durante el Encuentro el 25 de enero de 2020.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE MARTIN MA NA LING

Martin Ma Na Ling juega fútbol con la comunidad birmana en el complejo de fútbol "The Loops" en Bowling Green en julio de 2019.

El año pastoral del seminarista en la Parroquia Espíritu Santo lo prepara para el sacerdocio

Martin Ma Na Ling, un seminarista que estudia para el sacerdocio en la Diócesis de Owensboro, actualmente está haciendo su año pastoral en la Parroquia Espíritu Santo en Bowling Green. Martin es de Myanmar (también conocido como Birmania) y está sirviendo a la comunidad birmana en Santo Espíritu, además de ayudar en otros ministerios, como llevar la Sagrada Comunión a los enfermos y ancianos. Martin dice: "Creo que las experiencias con los feligreses y los sacerdotes durante mi año pastoral me ayudarán a servir al pueblo de Dios con amabilidad y paciencia cuando me convierta en sacerdote de la Diócesis de Owensboro." ■

El Obispo y el P. John Thomas visitan India y Myanmar



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JOHN THOMAS

El 29 de enero de 2020, durante su visita pastoral a la India, el Obispo Medley y el P. John Thomas visitan con el P. Babu Kalathumkal (que estaba haciendo una visita a casa), su madre, dos hermanos y sus esposas e hijos.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JOHN THOMAS

En febrero de 2020, el Obispo Medley ofrece una bendición a los padres y la hermana del seminarista Diácono Stephen Van Lal Than de la Diócesis de Owensboro durante su visita pastoral a Myanmar.

Del 24 de enero al 13 de febrero de 2020, el Obispo Medley y el P. John Thomas realizaron una visita pastoral a India y Myanmar (también conocida como Birmania). Dijeron que era poderoso ver a la Iglesia Católica "tan vibrante" en estos países. Mientras estuvieron en India, visitaron a las familias de los sacerdotes de los Heralds of Good News [Heraldos de la Buena Nueva] que actualmente sirven a la Diócesis de Owensboro. Mientras estuvieron en Myanmar, visitaron a los padres de los dos seminaristas birmanos de la diócesis, Martin Ma Na Ling y el Diácono Stephen Van Lal Than. Cuando los padres de los seminaristas agradecieron al Obispo Medley por aceptar a sus hijos, él respondió: "¡Ustedes les dieron, por medio de Dios, una vocación al sacerdocio!"

"Un llamado al sacerdocio llega a través de la familia, y ustedes les han dado ese llamado", dijo el obispo. ■

El retiro de matrimonios 'Banquete de Bodas' en Sebree

El 8 de febrero de 2020, 23 parejas se reunieron en la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree para "Banquete de Bodas", un retiro para matrimonios. El retiro fue dirigido por el P. Lustein Blanco Grajales, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia San Miguel. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Los participantes del retiro de matrimonios Banquete de Bodas el 8 de febrero de 2020.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Las parejas rezan juntas durante el retiro de matrimonios Banquete de Bodas el 8 de febrero de 2020.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Las parejas comparten una comida durante el retiro de matrimonios Banquete de Bodas el 8 de febrero de 2020.



Diócesis de
OWENSBORO

RETIRO PARA MATRIMONIOS
“BANQUETE DE BODAS”
MISIÓN DE AMOR AL SERVICIO DE LA FAMILIA

Sábado 14 de Marzo
9:00-6:00 | Misa y Confesiones

Parroquia de San Jerónimo

20 State Route 339 N., Fancy Farm, KY 42039

Mayfield: 15 minutos | Paducah: 30 minutos | Murray: 40 minutos



CON EL P. LUSTEIN BLANCO GRAJALES

\$15.00 POR PAREJA.

INSCRIPCIONES:

MÍNIMO DE FAVOR UNA SEMANA ANTES
WHATSAPP/TEXTO/LLAMADA

P. LUSTEIN BLANCO GRAJALES (270) 889-7038
DCN. CRISTÓBAL GUTIERREZ (270) 880-8018

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

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

Parroquias con 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 Mikulcic (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

La diócesis celebra el décimo aniversario del obispo con un servicio de oración vespertina



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

La gente sostiene velas encendidas durante las vísperas del 17 de febrero de 2020 que celebran el décimo aniversario del Obispo Medley.

El 17 de febrero de 2020, la gente de la Diócesis de Owensboro se unió para celebrar el décimo aniversario del Obispo William F. Medley como obispo de la diócesis.

La liturgia multilingüe incluyó cantos y oraciones no solo en inglés, sino también en español, birmano y swahili, un punto que el Obispo Medley enfatizó en su homilía, traducido al español por el Diácono Chris Gutiérrez.

"Lo que maravilla de Dios es que ha forjado que los fieles creyentes de estos países, donde no siempre es fácil ser cristiano como pequeña minoría- es hoy en día de ir y evangelizar al mundo", dijo el obispo.

El obispo dijo que después de ser llamado desde su arquidiócesis de origen de Louisville para servir a Kentucky occidental en 2010, "Naturalmente que hubo mucho que aprender".

El Obispo Medley declaró que el catolicismo en Kentucky occidental es una "historia de exploradores católicos, regados por toda esta vasta región trayendo consigo poco más que su fe y esforzándose por construir escuelas e iglesias".

"Muy pronto me di cuenta de las extraordinarias



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez le presenta al Obispo Medley una placa conmemorativa, un ramillete espiritual, con las oraciones y sacrificios de la comunidad latina de la diócesis por el obispo con motivo de su décimo aniversario.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Un padre y un bebé saludan al Obispo Medley después de las vísperas del 17 de febrero de 2020 que celebraban el décimo aniversario del obispo.

bendiciones siendo visitadas en nuestra diócesis, en efecto para nuestra nación, por el continuo flujo de nuevas personas", dijo el obispo. "Personas hoy, quienes con frecuencia no se parecen a los descendientes de europeos quienes vinieron a los Estados Unidos como tierra de promesa, esperanza y oportunidad".

El obispo dijo que "es un signo de que Dios, con seguridad habita en esta tierra". ■