

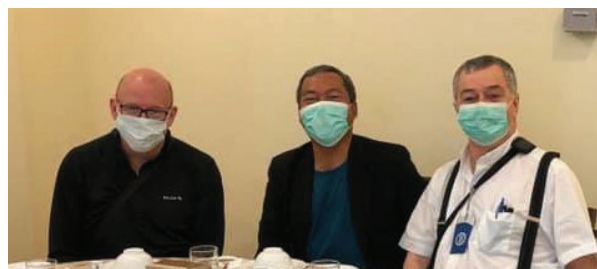


Ash Wednesday

Bishop William F. Medley sprinkles ashes on a woman's head during the noon Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral on Feb. 17, 2021. As a precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments issued an instruction that this year, ashes should be sprinkled on top of peoples' heads, instead of tracing a cross. **Page 5**



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Front page photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

Submissions

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

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A Word From Bishop Medley

We've come this far by faith

History shows that humanity is fascinated by predicting the future. Literature and fairy tales have created images such as crystal balls and reading tea leaves to portray this fascination.

Of course even our Sacred Scriptures are read through the lenses of prophecy. The scriptural prophets are best read not as foretelling future events, but as bold voices speaking God's truth to people too often distracted from God's ways and God's messages. But every year, in particular during the seasons of Advent and Lent, we read the prophets and trust that God was indeed speaking to generations to come of promise.

In our year-to-year and day-to-day lives we might well be relieved that we cannot foresee with certainty future events. How different our lives might be if crystal balls could show us dates and certain details of our lives. We may become so obsessed that the spontaneity and joy of living would be compromised. Imagine our lives dictated by the countdown of years, days, hours and minutes we have left to live. Yes, we all know we will die – but such specific certainty would not serve

us well.

I think of these reflections in relation to all that unfolded over the past year in regards to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. One might say that virtually every reflection we have shared over the past year has been impacted by the pandemic.



COURTESY OF FR. JOHN THOMAS

In February 2020, during Bishop William F. Medley's pastoral pilgrimage to India and Myanmar (also known as Burma), there were murmurings of a respiratory virus – which made some people choose to start wearing facial coverings. This photo shows Fr. John Thomas, Fr. Timothy Khui Shing Ling and Bishop Medley wearing masks while attending a dinner in Myanmar. They little suspected that in a few months this suggested precaution would become one of the symbols of a global pandemic.

we entered the massive airport in Qatar on the first change of planes on the 26-hour of flights back to the U.S., almost everyone was wearing a mask. And indeed every service personnel was doing so – which told me that they clearly may have known something that I did not know. When we arrived in Houston to

I for one am pleased and relieved that I could not know, from the first emergence of the COVID-19 virus, just how drastically this would affect our society, our Church, and each of our lives. Naively, I suppose, I took comfort in thinking that some of those early dire predictions were surely overstated.

My first exposure to what was unfolding in the world came in mid-February when I was traveling home from my pilgrimage to India and Myanmar. When

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR MARCH 2021

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

MARCH 2	4 p.m. Catholic Foundation Board Meeting – via Zoom
MARCH 7	10:15 a.m. Confirmation – St. Benedict Parish, Wax
MARCH 14	2 p.m. Scouting Religious Emblems Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MARCH 15	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – TBD 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center (MCC)
MARCH 17	8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – MCC
MARCH 18	3 p.m. Zoom Meeting with Priests
MARCH 20	10 a.m. Martin Ma Na Ling Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate – Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
MARCH 23	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Paducah Office Hours
MARCH 24	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mark Parish, Eddyville
MARCH 25	8:30 a.m. School Mass – Owensboro Catholic Schools 4-6 Campus, Owensboro
MARCH 25-26	Brescia University Board Meeting
MARCH 30	2 p.m. Chrism Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

change planes to come home to Nashville, there was just a smattering of mask-wearing people. Foolishly, I felt relieved.

It was March 4 in the Diocese of Owensboro that we first began to communicate some cautions to pastors and parishes about our liturgies. In the coming days of March we would seemingly be updating those cautions every few days, each time hoping and

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believing that these actions would suffice to keep everyone safe and secure.

It was March 13 that I announced that the traditional obligation for all Catholics to participate at Mass on Sundays would be suspended. To me, and I think most bishops, this was a very extreme move – surely justified, but on that day I would not have envisioned even more extreme actions.

It was a good thing that we could not foretell the future. Only days later, Governor Andy Beshear called upon churches across the Commonwealth to suspend public worship. My first directive on this matter expressed the hope and belief that we might resume public worship by Holy Week. In fact, that suspension carried until May 20. As totally unsettling as all that was, somehow, for most of us, it was a little easier to absorb in smaller, uncertain increments.

When we could come back to public Masses it was with a raft of restrictions about assembly size, wearing facial coverings, and maintaining distances between one another. Again, I thought these restrictions might be required for

a few weeks.

Here it is March and those restrictions remain in place with frankly the end date yet to be named. Though I am pleased that healthcare scientists could anticipate the severity of the pandemic, it is good that I did not know that more than 500,000 Americans – and more than 2,000,000 people worldwide – would perish due the virus by March 1. It was best to take it one day at a time.

I am reminded of one of my favorite hymns from the African American church, “We’ve Come This Far By Faith.” I will take faith over foretelling future any day. It puts us all where we belong: in the hands of God.



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Fr. Delma Thomas Clemons: Jan. 9, 1939 - Feb. 16, 2021



COURTESY OF THE CARMEL HOME
 Fr. Delma Clemons in this undated photo taken at the Carmel Home where he spent the last few years of his life.

Reverend Delma Thomas Clemons, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., passed away on Feb. 16, 2021 at the Heartford House in Owensboro at the age of 82.

Fr. Clemons was born in Pearman, Ky. on Jan. 9, 1939 to Clarence L. and Nora Sims Clemons. He attended grade school at St. Benedict Grade School in Wax and completed high school at St. Thomas Seminary in Louisville. He attended college seminary at St. Thomas Seminary, St. Mary's College and St. Maur's Seminary where he graduated in 1966.

Fr. Clemons was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro by the Most Reverend Henry J. Sonnenker at St. Benedict Parish in Wax on May 1, 1966. His first assignment was as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green. He then served as associate pastor of Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish in Owensboro; pastored at St. Paul Parish in Princeton;

Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs; Christ the King Parish in Madisonville; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro; St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm; St. Charles Parish in Bardwell; and St. Denis Parish in Fancy Farm. He also was a chaplain at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville. Fr. Clemons retired from ministry in 2008.

Fr. Clemons was passionately committed to the Cursillo movement, serving as spiritual director for numerous weekends for both men and women over the years.

He is survived by his brother, Paul Vincent (Brenda) Clemons; sister-in-law, Odaline (Carmel) Clemons; and numerous nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

Fr. Clemons' Mass of Christian Burial took place at St. Benedict Parish in Wax on Feb. 23, 2021 with burial in the St. Benedict Cemetery.

Fasting ‘wakes us up’ says bishop at Ash Wednesday liturgy



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley sprinkles ashes on the head of a young girl during the noon Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral on Feb. 17, 2021.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Even in a time of pandemic, the Church “recognizes that we do need some ‘routine,’” said Bishop William F. Medley in his homily during the Feb. 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday Mass at noon at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

“That’s the purpose of the liturgical year – that we exercise within us all those emotions and spiritual longings,” said Bishop Medley.

Per state and diocesan COVID-19 guidelines for public worship, all attending the Mass were required to wear facial coverings and sit socially-distant. So many people attended the liturgy that the basement of the cathedral was opened for additional distanced seating.

The bishop referred to Lent’s traditions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as a “spiritual remedy” to root out inner selfishness and a lack of care for others.

“Discipline’ and ‘disciple’ come from the same



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

While Deacon Richard Murphy looks on, Bishop William F. Medley blesses the ashes during the noon Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral on Feb. 17, 2021.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

People sit masked and spaced apart for social distancing during the noon Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral on Feb. 17, 2021. So many people attended the liturgy that the basement of the cathedral was opened for additional socially-distant seating.

word,” said Bishop Medley, explaining that denying oneself of comforts during Lent can be a reminder of the needs of destitute persons, who never have these comforts, “and they have no choice.”

“Fasting wakes us up,” he said. “It makes us more attentive to God and neighbor.”

The bishop observed that the March 2020 COVID-19 shutdown in western Kentucky lined up closely with the start of Lent 2020.

“And yet here we are: it seems like a Lent that

never ended,” he said. “So much for 40 days.”

But it will end eventually, said the bishop.

However, in the meantime, “the routine of our lives still needs to slow down and step back, and perhaps even those things in our lives that have become problematic during the pandemic – this gives us a chance to reset, to see what good can come out of that evil.”

“The pandemic is evil, no question about it,” he added. “But how do people of faith respond to

that... not just our own needs but also the needs of others?”

Bishop Medley encouraged the faithful to “observe Lent with as much enthusiasm and grace as we would hope to do, so that it may give us a clearer perspective on this pandemic.”

Ashes were distributed after the homily, as is customary at Ash Wednesday liturgies, but the manner was different this year.

As a precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments had issued an instruction in January that this year, ashes should be sprinkled on top of peoples’ heads instead of traced in crosses on the forehead.

In The Western Kentucky Catholic’s February 2021 issue, Lauren Johnson, the Diocese of Owensboro’s co-coordinator of the Office of Worship, provided some background to this temporary change.

“While the Roman Missal (the large red book that contains the prayers and rubrics for the priest) never indicates that ashes are to be signed on the forehead with the Sign of the Cross (but rather that the priest ‘places ashes on the head,’) this has become a popular custom in English-speaking countries because of the visible sign that is left,” said Johnson in a page 6 article.

“However, sprinkling of ashes on the crown of the head is still used in Italy and other countries around the world,” she said, adding that the regular practice is expected to resume next year. “Until then, may the differences in Ash Wednesday 2021 serve to remind us that it is not what is seen on the outside that counts (like ashes on the forehead), but that we are to humble ourselves and allow Christ to conform.

A firm foundation

Family's witness, hospitality, led newfound friends to enter the Catholic Church

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When the Carrico brothers built a house for Joey and Lisa Adams 10 years ago, they provided a foundation that was not only physical, but also spiritual.

“That family introduced us to things we didn’t know we were missing,” said Lisa, who will enter into full communion with the Catholic Church on Easter 2021, joining Joey and their daughter, Kelsey, who both entered the Church a few years earlier.

Lisa, who is currently undergoing the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) process at St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm, explained that their family had contracted with Mike and Paul Carrico – members of a large, local Catholic family – to build their house.

Joey, Lisa and Kelsey developed a deep friendship with the Carrico family, who welcomed them into their own home for a weekly Wednesday night meal and fellowship.

And over the period of time it took to build the Adams’ house, the Carricos provided an example of Catholic joy and hospitality, which made an impression on their new friends.

“They were not pushing Catholicism: they were pushing family, fellowship and love of one another,” said Lisa.

A new beginning

Lisa was raised Baptist, and at “age 13 or 14” she accepted Jesus and was baptized.

“I just thought it was the best thing in the whole



COURTESY OF LISA ADAMS

The Adams family's house, which was built by the Carrico brothers and completed in 2011.

wide world,” said Lisa in a Feb. 4, 2021 phone conversation with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

She still becomes teary-eyed when remembering the experience, and retains vivid memories from the day, including what dress she was wearing, who the preacher was, and that she was baptized with several close girlfriends.

Teenage Lisa wrote about her baptism for an assignment in a high school English class, which she titled “New Beginnings.” She remembers even her teacher being impressed and moved by what she wrote.

“I was a teenager, but I knew that God was speaking to me and I have never regretted it since,” said Lisa.



COURTESY OF LISA ADAMS

Lisa Adams (left) with her daughter, Kelsey, and husband, Joey.

Mother Carrico

Years later, as a wife and mother, Lisa wanted her daughter to be raised in a church. Joey, who had been baptized in the same Baptist church as Lisa, had nothing against the church but was still “searching” for something.

Being welcomed into the Carrico family’s home began to piece together some of the puzzle for Joey.

Over time, as Lisa, Joey and Kelsey came to know the large Catholic family, they also grew to love the Carricos’ beloved matriarch, Mary Wilmuth Carrico – whom the Adams family came to know as “Mother Carrico.”

“She wanted to know who you were and where you came from, and to listen to you,” said Adams.

The family matriarch made a big impact on Joey

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COURTESY OF THE CARRICO FAMILY

Joey Adams with Mary Wilmuth Carrico, who was influential in Joey's decision to enter the Catholic Church. This photo is now framed in the Adams family's living room.

as he searched for answers about faith. Thanks to Mother Carrico's genuine love and witness, Joey realized he was being called to become Catholic.

Joey entered the Catholic Church in 2017. Sadly, Mother Carrico had passed away one year prior, so she was unable to see her "adopted" child join the Church she loved so deeply.

Today, a photo of Joey and Mother Carrico is framed in the Adams family's living room as a permanent reminder of the woman who made such an impact on their faith journey.

After Joey became Catholic, Kelsey - who had also been "searching" for something more - started attending Mass with him.

"I was perfectly accepting and comfortable with that," said Lisa, adding that this gave Kelsey the opportunity to see the "spiritual side" of her father.

It wasn't too long before Kelsey decided to join



COURTESY OF LISA ADAMS

Lisa Adams with her daughter, Kelsey, at a St. Jerome Picnic in Fancy Farm several years ago. Mother and daughter will be confirmed together at St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm during the Easter Vigil 2021.

the Catholic Church. She made her First Holy Communion at St. Jerome Parish in 2019.

Time to reflect

Lisa was always comfortable among Catholics. She grew up with Catholic friends, which she said is typical when being raised in the small, very Catholic community of Fancy Farm. She has been in Catholic weddings and would sometimes attend Mass with friends.

She also helps at the annual St. Jerome Parish Picnic, which, though sponsored by the parish, is an event that draws people from all over the county, the state and the United States.

"None of that was foreign to me," she said. "Over the past couple of years I have come to know it all as a 'guest.'"

After her husband and daughter entered the

Church, and especially after the COVID-19 shutdown, Lisa said this was "a good time to evaluate what I want."

"The biggest thing for me has been for our family to worship together," she said.

As a young adult, Lisa had spent some time attending a First Christian church, which offered the communion bread at every service. This was different from Lisa's Baptist church, which only provided communion a few times a year on special days, like Christmas and Easter. This had always intrigued her, and made her ask a lot of questions.

In fall 2020, she found herself sitting in on the parish RCIA sessions with St. Jerome's pastoral associate, Sr. Martha Keller, OSU. Lisa told her, "I want to listen and observe."

"But the more I thought about it, prayed about it..." Lisa said she started to realize she knew what she wanted to do: she desired to join her family in worshipping together.

"I think that COVID has given me time to reflect and see where I'm at," said Lisa.

At the Easter Vigil, Lisa will receive her First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Kelsey will be confirmed along with her.

Lisa said she looks forward to receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Right now at Communion time, she receives a blessing from St. Jerome's pastor, Fr. Darrell Venters.

"I can't wait to finally do that," she said of receiving Holy Communion, admiring "the unity of seeing that entire congregation get in line. They're all there for the same reason."

Her sponsor, appropriately, is one of the Carricos: Kaye Carrico Atkins.

"I'm excited for what's to come and what God has in store for our family," said Lisa.

Living, personal, whole

'*Spiritus Domini*' validates women's 'self-giving love'

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Jan. 11, 2021, Pope Francis published an apostolic letter which modified canon law to allow women to be officially instituted in the lay ministries of lector and acolyte.

The pope's apostolic letter, titled "*Spiritus Domini*" and issued "*motu proprio*" (Latin for "on his own impulse"), modified canon 230 §1 of the Code of Canon Law.

This *motu proprio* states that the roles of lector and acolyte "are now seen as ministries open to all the baptized," said Fr. Patrick Cooney, OSB, the diocese's judicial vicar.

This does not mean dioceses will necessarily begin to formally institute women into these roles – which many have held for some time now – but it is a "symbolic gesture in recognizing and validating the role that women have been serving in the liturgy for decades now," said Lauren Johnson, co-coordinator of the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Worship.

"From the Church's inception at Pentecost, women have been integral in its ministry," said Johnson, who works with worship office co-coordinator Fr. Brandon Williams to plan liturgies and advise the Office of the Bishop on liturgical matters.

"St. Luke tells us in the Acts of the Apostles, before the coming of the Holy Spirit, 'All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus,'" she added, citing Acts 1:14. "In fact, throughout all of Acts, women are named

as assisting in the ministry of the Church."

'All suitable faithful'

Women have been assisting as lector and acolyte (the latter meaning a role which not only serves at the altar but serves as Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion) for many years following the Second Vatican Council.

Johnson explained that in response to post-council changes implemented in the liturgy, some of which have led to a greater involvement of the laity, "women have been serving as lectors and servers with the permission of their diocesan bishops," said Johnson.

"This role for both lay women and lay men was not considered a permanent ministry, but they could be deputed for this role on a temporary, as-needed basis," she said.

This became such a commonplace practice in parishes around the United States that many people have not been aware of the history, or the technicalities.

Even though the *motu proprio* is unlikely to change day-to-day parish life, the reasons for this revision are explained in the text of *Spiritus Domini*. The letter states that "lay ministries, since they are based on the Sacrament of Baptism, may be entrusted to all suitable faithful, whether male or female."

"What the law changed is that these two stable ministries have now been opened to both men and women," said Fr. Cooney.

He said this revision to canon law is not a path



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

During a Jan. 8, 2017 Mass in honor of the Epiphany, three young girls carry the crucifix and process out at the end of the liturgy at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.

toward women's ordination.

"Pope Francis continues to reaffirm Pope John Paul II's ban on women's ordination to the priesthood," he said.

Ministry of service

Johnson explained that there is a difference between ministry of service (now available to all the lay faithful) and ministry at the altar (available to the ordained).

Holy Orders confers a ministry to the altar of the Eucharist – which is not simply a spiritual offering, "but a real offering of the Body and Blood of Christ

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Female lay ministers continued from page 9



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Donna Murphy of St. Stephen Cathedral serves as a lector during the Diocese of Owensboro's March 27, 2018 Chrism Mass held at the Owensboro Sportscenter.

in the person of Christ for the entire Church," said Johnson. "Christ had not only a divine nature, but a human nature, which was male."

Johnson said the Church teaches male and female are "both equal in dignity and made in the image of God, but are distinct in purpose in order to best show the uncontainable glory of God."

"By virtue of our baptism, both man and woman are given the common priesthood of the faithful," she said.

And to stand in the person of Christ is "to offer up his sacrifice, both fully divine and fully human, in the person of Christ," said Johnson. "Therefore, a male must be ordained to the ministry of the altar to effect the real, human and divine sacrifice of Christ in the Eucharist, in the person of Christ, because only Christ can offer Himself to the Father."

"There are some roles that are natural to women (motherhood, giving life through conception and birth), and others to men (fatherhood), but which cannot be done without the help of the other," she added. "Man and woman working together points to the fruitful reality of God as Trinity."

Supernatural role

Johnson said the Catholic Church "cannot be fruitful without women."

She said that if the world woke up tomorrow with no men, the Church could not continue its mission, most easily seen by the absence of priests – without which the Church would have no Eucharist.

"The same can be said of women: without women, the Church could not fulfill its mission as it would be rendered infertile without the contribution of the unique gifts bestowed on woman's nature by God," said Johnson.

Johnson said that the WWII-era saint, Edith Stein – also known as St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross – wrote extensively on the role and nature of women.

"Stein explains that 'Woman naturally seeks to embrace that which is living, personal, and whole,'" said Johnson, citing Stein's essay "The Ethos of Women's Professions."

And Pope St. John Paul II, who canonized Stein in 1988, stated in a 1995 letter to the Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women of the United Nations that women possess a unique ability to "humanize" institutions.

Still, Johnson said women's absence in the Church's hierarchy means their influence "remains largely invisible," except perhaps in cases of significant female saints like St. Joan of Arc, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Teresa of Avila.

But this hiddenness does not take away from the

"supernatural role" to which all women are called, said Johnson, referencing the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Gospels.

"Rarely is she spoken of, yet she is the most highly venerated of all the saints," said Johnson. "The Church could not exist were it not for the Blessed Virgin Mary; the same is true of the role of women in the Church today, although usually not always visibly seen by all."

Johnson referenced Paul VI's Dec. 8, 1965 address to women at the closing of Vatican II, in which he said the hour is coming – in fact, had already come – when the "vocation of woman is being achieved in its fullness, the hour in which woman acquires in the world an influence, an effect and a power never hitherto achieved."

The pope concluded that address with: "Women of the entire universe, whether Christian or non-believing, you to whom life is entrusted at this grave moment in history, it is for you to save the peace of the world."

Johnson said that women can learn much about their value in the Church not only from female saints of the past, but also by "the living female 'saints' in our everyday lives."

"These are those women that, following in the footsteps of the Blessed Virgin Mary, lead a life of self-giving love tending to even the most ordinary of lives tasks with extraordinary love," she said.

Did you know?

In the Acts of the Apostles, women are frequently referenced in assisting in the ministry of the Church. Examples include Acts 9:36-45, 12:6-19, 16:11-40, 17:16-34, 18:1-28.

A 'Safe Environment' for all

Parish, school coordinators oversee safety training for adults and kids alike

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Safe Environment: a familiar term to anyone who has worked or volunteered in parishes, schools or other entities within the Diocese of Owensboro.

It refers to the training required of anyone in the diocese working or volunteering with young and/or vulnerable people and includes a background check. Safe Environment's purpose is so that anyone who interacts with vulnerable persons can recognize potential signs of abuse, and know how to report it.

A separate program called Circle of Grace - which helps youth in diocesan schools, youth groups and religious education classes recognize possible signs of abuse and know how to report it to responsible adults - is presented annually.

But behind everyone parish or school Safe Environment training is a dedicated coordinator who works with the diocese's Office of Safe Environment to make sure all employees and volunteers are within compliance.

Dave Kaminski, the IT administrator at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, is his parish's Safe Environment coordinator.

"We are called by Christ to acknowledge the life and dignity of every person, as children of God," said Kaminski in a Feb. 3, 2021 interview with The

Western Kentucky Catholic. "By participating in education, training, and background checks, we live out the Gospel message of respect and care for others. We protect the dignity of all people by adhering to our safe environment policies."

In addition to ensuring that everyone has done their training and stays up-to-date, Kaminski said coordinators are also required to submit this information to the diocesan Office of Safe Environment.

This role is not without its challenges.

"One of the challenges I face is getting some of our volunteers to understand the importance of completing (the trainings)," he said. "I explain that it is a requirement that benefits all through education, training, and support with the goal of providing a safe environment for all."

As someone who has gone through the training process several times over the years, Kaminski said he personally finds it helpful to be reminded of "the valuable information provided by the training."

"It is important to train as many people as possible to look for the warning signs of potential abuse, and provide them with uniform instructions to report it, if necessary," he said. "I think it is important to recognize that 'safe environment' is for all."

Terra Hurtte, the administrative office manager

at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson, has served as her school's Safe Environment coordinator for nearly 11 years.

Within this role, "I make sure I know who is in my building at all times and make sure that they have the proper documentation in place," said Hurtte, who spoke on the phone with the WKC on Feb. 1, 2021.

Hurtte, who on a quarterly basis checks in with Holy Name faculty, staff and volunteers to make sure their Safe Environment documentation is up-

"We are called by Christ to acknowledge the life and dignity of every person, as children of God."

- Dave Kaminski



COURTESY OF TERRA HURTTE

Terra Hurtte, the administrative office manager at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School, is also the school's Safe Environment coordinator.

Continues on page 12

A safe environment continued from page 11



COURTESY OF CYNDI VAUGHAN

Cyndi Vaughan, the office assistant at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro, is the parish's Safe Environment coordinator.

to-date, said the process is "a team effort."

"We want families to be assured that there's a process to be here," said Hurtte, adding that their goal is to provide parents with "peace of mind" that their children are in a safe place with adults who care for their wellbeing.

Hurtte explained that even volunteering in a school setting "is a big responsibility" from the perspective of Safe Environment: "You're the eyes and ears for these kids who are in the building."

"You're there as a safety net," she said, pointing out that Safe Environment training is to educate on how to recognize "if things aren't what they should be - if there are signs of abuse."

Cyndi Vaughan, the office assistant at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro and the parish's Safe Environment coordinator, explained that Safe Environment training expires after five years.

Part of her position involves contacting parish volunteers before their training expires, so they can renew it ahead of time and remain within compliance.

"I keep an eye on when it will expire, and then send them a letter or email" reminding them, said Vaughan.

Granted, COVID-19 has slowed the number of new volunteers at Blessed Mother; Vaughan explained that there are not many events happening on campus right now, including the children's liturgy.

Despite that, Vaughan has still kept up with everyone's Safe Environment status: "We can't let them help if their Safe Environment isn't up-to-date," said

Vaughan, adding that the online training only takes about an hour.

"Church and school are the two places where children should always feel safe," she said.

Alyssa Maty is the pastoral associate at St. Michael Parish in Sebree, a multicultural parish whose members' native languages include Spanish, English and the indigenous Guatemalan language Akateko.

Maty said that before the pandemic, she would present the training in-person to Spanish-speaking adults and/or children - a helpful method for parishioners whose first language is not English.

"It helped me get to know (the volunteers)," said Maty, who has approximately 30-40 volunteers in her parish system.

Maty said that presenting the Safe Environment training in this individualized way helps check on volunteer morale. When volunteers reach their five-year renewal time, Maty said it is a good opportunity

Continues on page 13

A message from the Office of Safe Environment

Volunteers play an integral role at the parish level. They are relied on and appreciated much by pastors and parish staff! Our hope and prayer is that as more vaccines are administered, both catechetical and social activities for youth and families will return as we eventually are able to meet in person. In order to prepare for life to return to "normal," our volunteers are encouraged to complete their Safe Environment training and background checks and sign their policy acknowledgements. Let's be prepared for our in-person meetings resuming by staying one step ahead! For any questions or concerns, please contact Janice Hendricks in the Office of Safe Environment, at 270-683-1545. Thank you!

A safe environment continued from page 12

to see if anyone needs a break or change from their volunteer role.

She uses the training process to talk about safety in general, such as the dangers of children walking home alone after dark, and being aware of “stranger danger” beyond the walls of a parish setting.

Right now, the Safe Environment training must be done virtually – which lacks the human interaction that helped Maty’s method thrive – and she

looks forward to the day when training can be done safely in person again.

Keeping up with the “safety” theme, Maty has also in the past brought Susan Montalvo-Gesser, the director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, to give a “Know Your Rights” presentation for members of the immigrant community.

“It’s interesting how the safety of all ties into all these topics,” said Maty.

The Charter

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops created the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in June 2002, which addresses allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. This Charter led to the creation of the Office of Safe Environment at the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/charter-mission.

Bridge builders

New virtual study invites parish leaders to unite the diverse Body of Christ

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Parishes with multiple cultures can easily encounter obstacles if these cultural differences are not addressed properly, say the organizers of an upcoming book study series on ecclesial integration.

For example, in a parish council meeting with representatives of different cultures, parishioners of minority groups may end up “going mute” if they do not feel that their voices are being heard or that their “input is being respected,” said Patti Gutiérrez, the host of Gente Puente Café and Podcast, which provides support and a virtual gathering space for pastoral ministers in Hispanic ministry.

Patti is coordinating this program with her husband, Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, who is the Diocese of Owensboro’s director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

The main title of the series is “Becoming Bridge Builders in Our Parishes: Supporting ministers in uniting the diverse Body of Christ.” It is divided into two separate studies, with the first having the backdrop of the Lenten season and



TINA KASEY | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley helps people light candles during an immigrant and refugee prayer service at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on Jan. 3, 2017.

the second having the backdrop of the Easter season.

The second study, called “Best Practices for Shared Parishes,” will take place via Zoom videoconferencing software on Thursday afternoons April 15-May 20. It will follow the first virtual series, “Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers,” which is taking place from Feb. 18-March 25.

As with the Lenten book study, (which used as a framework the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ book “Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers”), this Easter series will utilize the USCCB’s book “Best Practices for Shared

Continues on page 14

Building bridges continued from page 13

Parishes: So That They May All Be One.”

The first series was “foundational,” and discussed “how does culture work,” said Patti, explaining that that series explored “what is my natural way of responding when someone of a different culture is introduced to me?”

She said the “Best Practices” study will delve deeper and help pastoral ministers in “building our skills to communicate more effectively.”

Deacon Chris said that even though this initiative is being offered by his office and Gente Puente, it will go beyond “Hispanic and Anglo” topics.

“This is for all ethnic groups integrating together,” he said, noting that the diocese currently has 14 parishes with a significant Latino population, as well as two parishes with a significant Burmese population. People of many other cultures continue to find homes in parishes across western Kentucky as well.

“Prior to COVID-19, we were starting to make better progress on integrating,” said Deacon Chris. But when activities, liturgies and other events were shut down in spring 2020, everything came to a halt.

He acknowledged that some parishioners continue to meet and pray together virtually, but they’re

typically limited to one language – without a chance at integration among cultures, which is easier to do in-person.

He hopes that these virtual series will help parishes “pick up in a stronger way than we left off” in ecclesial integration.

Patti agreed: “Right now, because we’re on pause with ministries, it’s a good time to see where there are things to possibly modify (in the parish) to make it better for newcomers or different cultural groups.”

Deacon Chris said this is a lot to reflect on during this time of “pause.”

For instance, he said, if someone is bringing in a keynote speaker for an event, will the keynote be someone who can speak to the various cultural experiences of the audience?

He and Patti recommended parishes having multiple staff and parish leaders attend the series, so that they can participate together and foster better discussion about integration in their individual communities.

But Patti added that this series will be beneficial for “anybody in a leadership position wanting to help people become more welcome to the newcomer.”

Learn more

Those who missed the first series during Lent and who would like to learn more can access these resources:

- Blog posts about the five modules of Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers: <http://patticc.com/bicm-series/>
- Ebook: “5 Cultural Differences You Need to Know to Succeed in Hispanic

Ministry”: <http://gentepuente.com/culture-ebook/>

- The text of “Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers” can be accessed in English at www.usccb.org/committees/cultural-diversity-church/intercultural-competencies and in Spanish at www.usccb.org/es/node/25714/intercultural-competencies.

Easter Series: Best Practices for Shared Parishes

Join us for a six-week journey exploring how a shared parish can become more united through a process of ecclesial integration.

Week 1 – April 15: Introduction and Q&A

Week 2 – April 22: Shared parishes and intercultural sensitivity

Week 3 – April 29: The Catholic understanding of the parish life and mission

Week 4 – May 6: Part 1 of the developmental process of ecclesial integration/inclusion and stewardship in shared parishes

Week 5 – May 13: Part 2 of the developmental process of ecclesial integration

Week 6 – May 20: Putting it all together in our parishes

Patti Gutiérrez, host of the Gente Puente Café and Podcast, will guide the discussions which will be held each Thursday via Zoom from 2-3:30 p.m. Register at owensborodiocese.org/bridge-builders. Registration per parish team is \$25; registration per individual is \$10. Required text to purchase for this Easter series is “Best Practices for Shared Parishes: So That They All May Be One” (Bilingual). This may be purchased at <http://store.usccb.org>. Financial assistance available if needed. For more information contact Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, director of Hispanic/Latino Ministry, at chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org or (270) 880-8018.

St. Francis Borgia receives award-winning artist's painting

BY CAROL FRENCH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Parishioners and visitors to St. Francis Borgia Parish in Sturgis may have noticed this 4'x6' picture in the parish hall. It came to us from Sacred Heart Parish in Lebanon, New Hampshire. On my recent trip to visit my brother Eddie in Grantham, N.H., we took a tour of Sacred Heart Parish to see their renovations. This picture was in the basement of the church and was not going to be displayed any longer, so we approached the pastor, Fr. Charles Pawlowski, about bringing it to our parish. With some negotiating and logistics to be worked out, Fr. Pawlowski happily agreed. When Eddie came home to Kentucky in October, he brought us the picture. The plan is to hang it in our parish hall after the parish hall has been repainted. The painting was done by Rob Surette at a performance at Sacred Heart in 1999, when he was 28. According to Surette's website, (amazingheroart.com) the 43-year-old speed painter comes from a devout Catholic family and has been featured on "The Today Show," "The Tonight Show," "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and "Good Morning America"; holds several Guinness World Records; and has attained master fine artist status for Disney, Star Wars, Pixar and Muppets.

Carol French belongs to St. Francis Borgia Parish in Sturgis.

COURTESY OF CAROL FRENCH

(Right) This 1999 painting of Jesus by speed-painter Rob Surette will be displayed in the parish hall of St. Francis Borgia Parish in Sturgis after the hall is repainted.



New book published on some earliest members of Catholic churches in Owensboro area

BY WKC STAFF

Louisville resident Larry Dean, along with his Chicago-based cousin and co-author, Amelia Kelly, recently published a genealogy book titled "The Bittel Family from Vinningen, Rhineland, Pfalz, 1672-2020."

The book focuses on the Bittel and allied families - Ebelhar, Bell, Wink, Weaver, Hurm, Snyder, Reisz, and many others - who settled in Owensboro and the vicinity in the 1880s. Dean says they were some of the earliest members of the Catholic churches in the Owensboro area.

"The book includes 985 descendants, 272 pages and 100 illustrations and is more than just a listing of names and dates, but includes a lot of local color and history about Owensboro and environs," Dean told The Western

Kentucky Catholic.

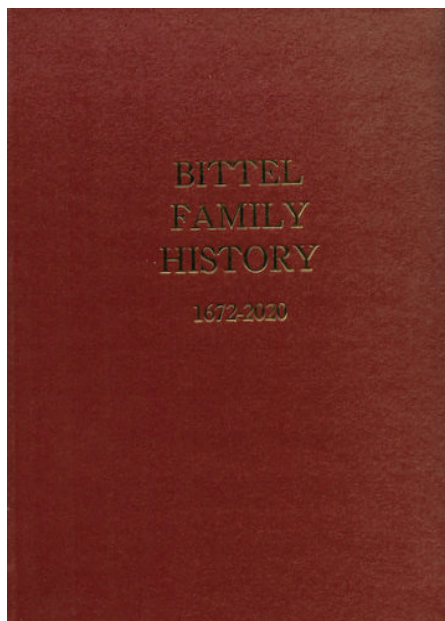
He said his grandparents were Robert and Marie Bittel who lived near Rome and attended St. Martin Parish.

"I visited them often during the summer, occasionally helping out with the farm chores, and have many fond memories of the church picnics at St. Martin," said Dean.

Kelly's grandfather, a Weaver, was Dean's great-grandmother's brother.

"We worked on the book off and on for 30 years, but only got serious about having it published in the last few years," said Dean.

Dean said the book can be ordered by writing to: Larry Dean, 3019 Kaye Lawn Dr., Louisville, KY, 40220; by emailing legacybooks@iglou.com; or calling (502)491-0690.



COURTESY OF LARRY DEAN
The front cover of "The Bittel Family from Vinningen, Rhineland, Pfalz, 1672-2020."

MARCH 2021 BULLETIN BOARD

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

FDLC announces the Miguel Arias Scholarship

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

"Belonging to Love: Conversations on Living Prayer in the Spirit of Saint Angela" online March 11

In a time of disconnection and division, many of us are experiencing a sense of separation from one another and even from our God. We turn to the prophetic wisdom of Saint Angela Merici whose foundational invitation to her community was to lead a life of contemplative presence. What is this way of abiding in God? How do we see and love God in all things? How are the Ursuline Sisters living this out? Come join us for a deep and lively conversation including prayer and story each month that will help you explore how to always abide in an awareness of God's presence. These are free online Zoom presentations, but donations are appreciated. Our next program is on Thursday, March 11, from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CST, and will be led by Sister Lorraine Lauter, director of Water With Blessings, and Maryann Joyce, director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount, Ky. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/> Note: Save these dates for future programs: April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9.

A Scout is Reverent

A reminder to Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts, Trail Life and

other youth program participants: The Annual Religious Emblems Mass is scheduled for Sunday, March 14, 2021. Please see owensborodiocese.org/scouting for details.

The Permanent Diaconate Class of 2026

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

Ursuline Sisters' new Quilt Club drawings begin April 5

Now is the time to purchase your annual Quilt Club tickets from the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, Ky. For one \$25 ticket, you get 12 chances to win a new handmade quilt! A new name is drawn on the first Friday of each month beginning April 2021 through March 2022 (Note: our first drawing will take place on Monday, April 5, because the first Friday is Good Friday). Get your tickets before the first drawing in order to get the most chances to win. Only 2,000 tickets will be sold. We sold out last year, so don't delay! Call 270-229-2008, email carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org or order online at ursulinesmsj.org (Click on Get Involved, then Quilt Club).

Register now for Gasper River

Registration for summer camps are now open at our website, www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org. Space will be limited this summer so please do not hesitate and get signed up early to reserve your spot! Summer staff applications are open on our website. If you are or know a college aged young adult please apply or encourage them to apply for the chance to allow God to use them to make a difference in the life of a child! It's the greatest job in the world!

Diocesan Cursillo updates

Dear Cursillistas and all those wondering about Cursillo weekends, thank you so much for all the donations to our Catholic Cursillo Movement. It is so heartwarming for us to see the continued help from our current Cursillistas for our Movement. You may donate at any time to: Catholic Cursillo, P.O. Box 222, Owensboro, KY, 42302. Each donation may help someone who cannot afford the expense of the Weekend to come to the joy and hope of God loving them more. It is with a heavy heart that we inform you, due to COVID-19, that our English Men's and Women's Weekends in March 2021 must be postponed to March 2022. It is with great hope that we are proposing to have the Spanish Weekends: Men's - Oct. 14-17, 2021; Women's - Nov. 4-7, 2021. If you know someone who may be interested in coming to a

Spanish-speaking Weekend, please invite them and let us know so we can share our applications with them and help them with a sponsor. Please contact: Denis and Martha Wheatley (Pre-Cursillo), 1585 St. Rt. 2181, Hawesville, KY, 42348. Home: (270) 927-6540. Denis cell: (270) 316-2579. May God bless you and keep you, Mary Hagan (Cursillo #42-1990)

Free Natural Family Planning opportunity

Thanks to a partnership with the St. Augustine Institute, the Diocese of Owensboro is now offering FREE instruction in the Billings Method of NFP throughout 2021! This offer includes 5 sessions with one of our trained instructors and any Catholic married or engaged couple in our Diocese (where at least one spouse is a practicing Catholic) is eligible. Contact Martha Winn to begin today! 270-796-2972 or 270-791-9434.

Marital satisfaction survey seeking participants

We are seeking individuals who are married to participate in a study that will investigate the relationship among marital satisfaction, political ideology, and life meaning. This study will involve answering questions posted on-line and should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Your participation in this study will help guide future research, the development of effective couples counseling interventions, as well as add to the public discourse related to political preferences. Additionally, the research will help guide the education of counselor trainees enrolled in the Department of Counseling and Student Affairs at Western Kentucky University. Participants may enter a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card. To begin the online survey, please go to the link: https://wku.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5dxqmIFFOd67nD

Spiritual companionship offered in difficult times

Do you desire a kind of friendship that welcomes you to share and discern how God is present in your life these days? Would you benefit from deep listening surrounded by compassion instead of judgement? If so, a spiritual mentor/companion may be right for you at this time. The Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center offers spiritual direction with Ursuline Sisters or staff. Currently, outreach is expanding to meet needs during this difficult time. Spiritual direction is being offered online via Zoom until it is safe to meet in person. Please feel free to reach out and contact Maryann Joyce at 270-229-0200 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org. You can also find out more online at www.ursulinesmsj.org/spiritual-life-office/

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. LAWRENCE LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

AT ST. LAWRENCE CEMETERY
6119 ST. LAWRENCE RD.
PHILPOT, KY



MARCH 28 AT 4PM
ALL ARE INVITED!

RAIN DATE MARCH 29 AT 5PM

Honoring Earth



Celebrating the Sacred Outside and Within

CONFERENCE & RETREAT

Saturday, June 19

Join us for a day (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) full of inspiration and practical information as we contemplate the sacredness of our common home – the Earth.

- Conference keynote by Kyle Kramer, Executive Director of the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center: **"Our New Sacred Story: Finding our Place in an Unfolding Universe"**
- Workshops (choose one): **Gardening and Your Health, Backyard Wildflowers, or Solar Energy**
- Join Dr. Emily DeMoor from Brescia University: **"Sacred Spaces and Moments of Grace"**

Morning Conference only: \$30
Conference, Lunch, Afternoon Retreat: \$55
(A parish online hybrid option is available at a special rate. Please contact us.)

To register or for more information: 270-229-0206
retreatcenter@maplemount.org
ursulinesmsj.org/retreat-center



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

*Event may be subject to change due to Covid protocols.



Spring Women's Retreat...

Renewing Our Hearts: Hope and Healing with Julian of Norwich

Saturday, May 22 at Retreat Center

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU, Ph.D.

9 a.m.–4 p.m. • \$40 includes lunch



The 14th-century English mystic known as Julian of Norwich chose a life of voluntary "lockdown." She lived in an enclosed cell attached to her local church during a time of medieval plague that resembles the current Covid-19 pandemic. She experienced visions she committed to writing. Her visions and insights offer contemporary seekers reason for hope even in our troubled times. She teaches us that the world is created and cherished by God who holds it in loving hands: "All shall be well."

During this day of prayer and reflection, retreatants will explore similarities between their own lives and that of Julian and Jesus. You can also stay for a Sunday vigil Mass at the Center at 4 p.m.

To register: 270-229-0206 • retreatcenter@maplemount.org
Online: ursulinesmsj.org/retreat-center/

We will follow safety guidelines. Event may be subject to change due to Covid protocols.

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

March and April 2021 fish fries in the diocese

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 2021 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.

Please note: The following information is subject to change or cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Address: 602 Sycamore St, Owensboro
Format: Drive-thru only, off of 7th Street by St.

Benedict's Shelter

Dates: March 26

Serving time: 5-7 p.m.

Contact: Sr. Jeannette Fennewald, SSND, at (270) 926-4741

Christ the King, Knights of Columbus Fr. Gerald Glahn Council #11132

Address: 1600 Kingsway Dr, Madisonville

Format: Carryout-only

Dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26

Serving time: 5-7 p.m.

Contact: Erin Clark at (270) 821-8271

Christ the King Parish

Address: 298 Bluegrass Dr, Scottsville

Format: Drive-thru only; also doing delivery to local businesses that pre-order

Dates: March 26

Serving time: 5-6:30 p.m.

Contact: (270) 776-6422

Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Address: 628 2nd St, Henderson

Format: Drive-thru only, unless guidelines have changed by these dates

Dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26

Serving time: 5:30-7 p.m.

Contact: (270) 748-0325

Knights of Columbus Father Carroll White Council #6743

Address: 1219 St. Anthony Rd, Clarkson

Format: Drive-thru and carryout only

Dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26

Serving time: 4:30-7 p.m.

Contact: To order ahead (270)242-7955

Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council #1055

Address: 3028 Jefferson St, Paducah

Format: Drive-thru only

Dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26

Serving time: 4-7 p.m.

Contact: Jeff Warren at (270) 443-3480

Knights of Columbus Monsignor Hugh O'Sullivan Council #2046

Address: St. Mary of the Woods Parish, 10534

Main Cross St, Whitesville

Format: Drive-thru only

Dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2

Serving time: 4:30-7 p.m.

Contact: Jason Simon at (270) 686-4616

Our Lady of Lourdes, Knights of Columbus Council #14290

Address: 4029 Frederica St, Owensboro

Format: Drive-thru only

Dates: March 5, 12, 19, 26

Serving time: Begins at 5 p.m.

Menu: Fish, hushpuppies, French fries, coleslaw, and beans

Contact: Phil Haire at (270) 685-4923 or (270) 314-6616

St. Alphonsus Parish

Address: 7925 State Route 500, Owensboro

Format: TBD

Date: March 26

Serving time: TBD

Contact: Parish office at (270) 229-4164

St. Peter of Alcantara Parish

Address: 81 Church St, Stanley, KY

Format: Carryout and dine-in

Dates: March 12

Serving time: Begins at 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Parish office at (270) 764-1983

St. Pius X Parish, Knights of Columbus Council #10988

Address: St. Pius X parish hall doors, 777 E. 5th Ave, Calvert City

Format: Carryout or pick-up

Dates: March 5, 12, 19

Serving time: Orders and pick-up start at 4 p.m.

Contact: For phone-in (270) 395-5747 or (270) 395-4727



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200 East 18th Street
Owensboro Kentucky 42303
(270) 683-1747 svdpwesternky.org
Store Hours Tues.- Sat. 9:00am - 5:00pm

Diocesan newspaper enters digital age with website

The Western Kentucky Catholic now has its own website: WesternKyCatholic.com.

It features all of the same content found in the print edition, but provides the additional ability to spread the Good News through digital outlets.

WesternKyCatholic.com includes a News section (dedicated to happenings around our diocese), the Bulletin Board (which lists upcoming events and programs all over western Kentucky), and a Spanish-language section available at westernkycatholic.com/espanol.

WesternKyCatholic.com provides access to online versions of all of our regular columns including articles from Bishop William F. Medley; Dr. Jeff Andrini, director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship; and Edward Wilson, diocesan archivist.

WesternKyCatholic.com features a section for reader-submitted articles and photos; we invite you to utilize the new “Submit Your News” form on the homepage to share what’s happening in your corner of the diocese. The homepage also includes a link to the full PDF version of the current print issue. PDF versions of the WKC’s archived issues are available via a link at the bottom of the homepage.

Let me be the first to state that WesternKyCatholic.com will not replace our monthly print edition. It will serve to widen our reach to audiences (and generations) beyond the scope of a physical newspaper. As someone who has always embraced the tactile nature of reading physical books – especially in this digital-heavy season we’re all experiencing during the pandemic – I cannot understate the importance and necessity of our physical WKC.

I am proud of the hard work and commitment of



SCREENSHOT

This image shows the home page of the new website for The Western Kentucky Catholic, westernkycatholic.com.

our communications director, Tina Kasey, and digital media specialist, Laura Rigsby, on this project. I’m also incredibly appreciative of Red Pixel Studios, a local Owensboro-based design group, which is hosting our website and has provided excellent support every step of the way.

Once you’ve had a chance to peruse the new WesternKyCatholic.com, I invite you to email me at

wkc.editor@pastoral.org with any comments, questions or critiques. The Western Kentucky Catholic is your diocesan newspaper, and we strive to help you grow closer to God and provide the news you need to know about the Catholic Church in western Kentucky.

Elizabeth Wong Barnstead is the editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic.

God's plan was 'vividly apparent' in family through foster fatherhood of St. Joseph



COURTESY OF BETH CRAFTON

Wedding of Beth and Bob Crafton at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, presided by Fr. John Thomas and Deacon Tom Buckman, with Patrick Beaven as acolyte on June 7, 1997.



COURTESY OF BETH CRAFTON

The Beaven family – Patrick, far right; his children, Hudson and Cate; and Patrick's wife, Jessica – celebrating Christmas Eve 2020 with Patrick's parents, Beth and Bob Crafton, far left.

Editor's note: In last month's February 2021 issue, in honor of the Year of St. Joseph, we ran an article from diocesan digital media specialist Laura Rigsby about St. Joseph's impact on her faith journey. We also asked for readers' own stories of St. Joseph's intercession in their lives. Below, Holy Name of Jesus parishioner Beth Crafton shares her story.

BY BETH CRAFTON, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In 1984, a frightening future faced me; I found myself responsible for an unforeseen reality squarely staring me in the face and just waiting for my response. This reality, life with a 3-month-old little baby boy depending on this heartbroken mother who had just a taste of college under her belt and an

uncertain financial perspective, created an anxiety within me and a loving concern for me among family and close friends. Determined to pick myself up and deal with this bed I had made could only have been possible with my strong faith which had been laid by the "village" of family, school, church, and community which shaped my being to this point in life. I must provide this same opportunity for my baby boy.

It would take a series of novels to fill in the gaps, but, fast-forward to 2021, and the connection of this personal narrative to St. Joseph inspires this honor to toot this saint's horn and to encourage all to meet this saint who just sits longing for us to call on him for intercession. St. Joseph protected and guided me

in my single parent role from the moment I pled for his personal guardianship in my home. At that moment I felt secure that St. Joseph would be the foster father to my son to fill his presence in absence of a physical dad day-in-and-day-out in the home and beyond. St. Joseph did just that.

When this baby boy turned 12 years old, a physical dad entered our home and became a step-father who has proven true that a title or prefix attached to the word "father" can never be positively emphasized enough to express the grace that was instilled in the roles of both foster-father and step-father.

God's plan became vividly apparent to me as no coincidence in that my own dad's name includes Joseph, along with my brother, his junior, and the name my baby boy at age 14 chose as his Confirmation name: yes, Joseph.

(Another "no coincidence" moment came to me after reflecting on my St. Joseph story I had written above. Evidently St. Joseph is beside me right now and wants me to stress to readers that he is waiting with earnest love and care to help you. Why else would I be typing this additional significant influence in my recognition of how I have experienced St. Joseph actively at work? Of course, this simply emphasizes my belief that St. Joseph yearns to help us and takes our requests through his route very seriously. I bet you will agree that this saint has been attentive.)

My parents chose each of their children's names in honor of a saint. Like many Catholic parents, this practice of adopting a saint in namesake provides a

Continues on page 21

The Eucharist: the Source and Summit of Evangelization

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Dear Friends,

You and I have all we need to be the most joy-filled people on earth. As I shared last month, Pope Francis has challenged us to see that it is by “attraction” that the Church will grow. This happens through our ability to reflect Divine love in all the circumstances and realities of our daily lives. Where do you and I encounter the Divine?

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting “Lumen gentium” from the Second Vatican Council, we are reminded that “The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian Life” (CCC 1324). Bishop Medley reminded us in his recent pastoral letter, “I Will Go to the Altar of God,” that Jesus expressed his desire “that his followers continue the sacred meal as a place of encounter with the Divine!”

We encounter Jesus at Mass in four ways as taught through the documents of Vatican II: in the gathered

assembly; the Priest; the Word; and in the Bread and Wine that is the Body of Christ. Through these, we participate in the greatest prayer in our Church and the fruit is communion with God. Hopefully, we walk out of Mass with a powerful experience of an encounter that fills us full of light and love and it is reflected through us all week.

During the pandemic, our experience of the Mass has been greatly changed. Watching Mass is certainly not the ideal, but we can still have regular encounters with God. We practice this in the prayer of Spiritual Communion while watching Mass and throughout the week when we turn to classic spiritual disciplines of silence, solitude, study, and prayer. How we live our lives seeking to be in union with God daily really matters.

I recently went on retreat to the White House, a Jesuit retreat center in St. Louis and the theme was “Finding God in All Things.” This is a core belief for the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, and Pope Francis is the first Jesuit pope in history. This central theme

captures an important aspect of our faith that can help us realize more deeply the absolute gift of the Mass.

This Lent, be especially aware of how you are encountering God in your daily life. Look for the movement of the Holy Spirit, spend time each day in quiet prayer with the Father, just as Jesus regularly did, and talk to Jesus as you would a best friend. As you cultivate this relationship daily, your disposition to encounter the Lord at Mass will be much more prepared and open to be filled with awe and the love of your Creator.

God longs to be in communion with you and I daily and as we receive this love, especially in the Eucharist, we are sent forth as evangelists to share this amazing news with a desperate world.

Peace in Christ,

Jeff

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

St. Joseph story continued from page 20

heavenly companion to lean on and ensures positive virtues that could deem valuable in one’s faith journey.

My parents chose St. Joseph to call their firstborn. As my eldest sibling progressed in the journey of life, years passed to lead this college graduate to discern beyond a promising career. The contemplative turn led him to missionary work with the Salesians, to seminary, and then ultimately to the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

My dad lived his last year on this earth to witness

his namesake receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders and to celebrate his very first Mass as a priest just five months prior to his namesake presiding over his own funeral and burial. Thomas JOSEPH Buckman Jr. is the current pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro.

Could all of this be coincidental? Sure, it could be. But as my sister’s favorite saying goes, “There are no Coincidences with God.”

Amen.

Beth Buckman Crafton belongs to Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson.

Do you have a St. Joseph story?

Your story could be featured in a future issue of The Western Kentucky Catholic! In honor of the Year of St. Joseph, the WKC is sharing stories of St. Joseph’s impact and intercession on the lives of people all over western Kentucky. If you’re interested in sharing your story, please contact the editor, Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, at wkc.editor@pastoral.org.

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, 64
Stephen & Bev Payne, 40
Michael & Maria Overton, 51

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Paul & Nina Drury, 62
Steve & Anita Hagan, 40
Lonnie & Dee Kennedy, 52
Charles & Karen Nunley, 57
Paul & Mary Wilder, 52
Jerry & Jewel Marie Williams, 62

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

William & Janis Newman, 10
Brian & Carol Genet, 40
Larry & Marie Wilson, 51
Harold & Joan Neighbors, 52

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Jamie & Amy Conway, 5

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

William & Sarah Kemper, Jr., 59
Dennis & Gloria Ramage, 59
James & Marilyn Young, 53

Sacred Heart, Russellville

James & Ruth Dauley, 52

St. Ann, Morganfield

Alvin & Mary Austin, 50

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Gary & Elaine Strain, 52
Charles & Ann Hamilton, 56

St. Anthony the Abbot, Hardinsburg

Bobbie & Mary Moore, 64

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Dan & Gail Dailey, 52

St. Benedict, Wax

Damon & Reva Stasel, 54

St. Charles, Bardwell

Bob & Lorry Beth Wilson, 25

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Jack & Rose Riggs, 64
Jerry & Barbara Hayden, 55

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson

Raymond & Carol Hill, 59

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Tony & Lita Pfingston, 54

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Charles & Marie Riggs, 73
Pat & Betty Robinson, 56
John & Lynda Oldham, 56

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Allen & Gwen Hobbs, 10
Patrick & Madison Cole, 5

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Jerry & JoAnna Hines, 51
Jim & Mary Jane Nelson, 56

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Aubrey & Monselle Willett, 50
Thomas & Helen Ellington, 68
Tim & Phyllis Ball, 40
George & Doreen Gates, 51

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Roger & Stella McClure, 50

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Leonard & Barbara Webb, 59
Ralph & Amy Pickard, 25

St. Joseph, Eddyville

Terence & Susan Carlin, 53

St. Martin, Rome

Mike & Doris Marsh, 40

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Jim & Barbara Pinkston, 58

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Paul & Barbara Brown, 59
Wayne & Janet Mills, 40
Logan & Kenya Boarman, 10
David & Sammy Jo Mills, 5
Kenneth & Mary Howell, 5

St. Michael the Archangel, Oakgrove

Anthony & Lora Simning, 40

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Walter & Wanda Hart, 52

St. Paul, Princeton

Cesar & Misty Turmero, 5

St. Pius X, Calvert City

David & Donna Carr, 51

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Craig & Georgia Lee, 40
Shane & Alison Mattingly, 10

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Joe & Louise Doyle, 51

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Lloyd & Mary Helen Nash, 56

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Matt & Brenda Walters, 50

St. William, Knottsville

Harold & Lorri Edge, 5

St. William of Vercelli, Marion

Brad & Lisa Dossett, 25

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Dustin & Sarah Ewing, 10

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Thomas & Rosemarie Thompson, 40
William and Jennifer Chaudoin, 52
Richard & Betti Block, 59

A Day of Serenity and Solitude

– online via Zoom



Friday, April 16 • 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Experience the gift of connection to the sacred. We will begin the day together with prayer, inspiration and suggestions for quiet reflection. At the end of the day we will gather to share our experience and a closing blessing. An individual remote spiritual direction session is optional. Led by Maryann Joyce, Retreat Center Director.

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

retreatcenter@maplemount.org

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



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY

Hoping in the Lord in ‘good times and bad,’ seminarian anticipates diaconate ordination



COURTESY OF MARTIN MA NA LING
Martin Ma Na Ling at his home parish, Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, on Jan. 1, 2021.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling will be ordained a transitional deacon for the Diocese of Owensboro on March 20, 2021 – and while he does not feel “worthy to receive such a blessing from God,” he knows “it is Jesus Christ who chose me.”

In a Jan. 28, 2021 email interview with The West-

The Diocese of Owensboro is pleased to announce that seminarian Martin Ma Na Ling will be ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop William F. Medley on Saturday, March 20 at 10 a.m. at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this will be an invitation-only event. Prayers for Martin are encouraged!

ern Kentucky Catholic, Ling quoted John 15:16-17, in which Jesus says “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.”

“I believe that God will guide me and help me to serve him faithfully,” said Ling, explaining that it has been his “dream and hope” to become a priest since he was a child growing up in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

The second son of Christopher Ling Mana and Elizabeth Khai Thang’s eight children, Ling grew up seeing priests visit to celebrate Mass and eat meals with the people of his village in Myanmar. He was also inspired by the example of his father, who is a catechist.

The call to the priesthood was strong on his heart, so Ling entered the seminary out of high school. And in January 2017, he was sent by Bishop Lucius Hre Kung of the Diocese of Hakha in Myanmar, to study and become a priest in the Diocese of Owensboro.

He arrived with now-Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than (ordained in 2020) in order to minister to the diocese’s quickly-growing community of Burmese Catholics. But Ling looks forward to serving all people of the diocese, not just the Burmese.

“As a transitional deacon, I will be ready to serve my bishop and the Diocese of Owensboro,” said Ling.

Ling said the COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges, as social distancing rules became the norm in the seminary (he is studying at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in southern Indiana), and he was unable to do pastoral ministry among the people.

But he has never felt alone: “I hope in the Lord in both bad and good times,” said Ling.

“One thing I learned because of COVID-19 is that we human beings are just guests in this world,” he said, reflecting that it is better to live one’s life for God by helping others. “Our life absolutely depends on God.”

Especially in these difficult times, Ling emphasized that “it is very important to help and love each

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other and to pray for one another,” and that he has observed how much parishioners need their church ministers for spiritual support and encouragement right now.

Looking back at the support he’s personally received, Ling expressed his gratitude to Bishop William F. Medley, vocations director Fr. Jason McClure, and Fr. John Thomas, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green – Ling’s home parish in the United States.

He is also thankful to “my parents, my family members and my friends who have always encouraged and prayed for me in my vocation.”

“Finally, I thank my former Bishop Lucius Hre Kung for sending me to the United States and his prayers and encouragement,” said Ling.



Correction: On page 24 of the December 2020 issue of *The Western Kentucky Catholic*, an incorrect photo was used with the cutline “Christopher French (altar server’s alb) with his friends Annemarie Knutson and Nick Malmquist at Holy Spirit Parish’s 2019 Christmas Eve Mass.” The photo incorrectly used was that of Christopher French with Fr. Timothy Khui Shing Ling – which incidentally ran, correctly, with its own cutline on page 25. The photo that was supposed to be used on page 24 is printed to the left.

SEEK21 transforms students searching for community and encounter with Christ

Editor’s note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SEEK21 – the Fellowship of Catholic University Students’ (FOCUS) annual event – was held differently this year. Campus ministries around the globe were encouraged to safely congregate at specific locations, where they watched and virtually participated in the livestreamed Feb. 4-7 conference. More than 27,000 people from 20 countries and six continents participated this year. Below are perspectives from FOCUS Team Directors at the two universities within the Diocese of Owensboro where FOCUS missionaries serve. Both directors have shared that multiple students already signed up for SEEK22, taking place Dec. 20-Jan. 3, 2022, in Salt Lake City.

Natalie Larkins, FOCUS Team Director at Western Kentucky University:

Our team of FOCUS missionaries worked closely with Fr. Mike Williams and the campus minister Courtney McGinnis to coordinate campus activities during the interactive, live SEEK21 event. The experience brought students closer in community, excited to learn more about the Catholic faith and more

confident to share the Gospel with others. More than 60 WKU students and recent graduates participated in 10 small groups led by students at the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center, following local and state COVID-19 regulations.

The sacraments are a vital part of the SEEK experience, and we were blessed to be able to attend Mass every day. On Saturday evening in conjunction with the Worldwide Prayer Vigil, the Blessed

Sacrament was exposed during Adoration and three priests heard confessions. About half of the students went to confession – more than we expected – so we had to extend the time. We are grateful to the Holy Spirit for opening the hearts of so many to desire His mercy and forgiveness. We also had Adoration available for the students each day of the conference.

The small group discussions after the keynotes and impact sessions gave students the opportunity

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to talk about today's hot topics and challenges they encounter pursuing virtuous lives. Sr. Miriam Heiland's talk about understanding the Father's love for us really hit home for many students, as did Fr. Mike Schmitz's keynote about the Prodigal Son and our loving and forgiving Father. Many of the women in the groups were profoundly touched by Leah Darrow's talk about hope, which helped them understand the virtue more deeply and find a way to live in hope going forward.

Local Catholic therapist Ethan Bennett hosted a session just for our group about the Transfiguration and power of God's love. Afterward, we had a healing meditation, which was powerful for the students and gave them hope for freedom from wounds and addictions.

An amazing fruit of SEEK21 we've seen is how the event empowered students to lead their peers to Christ. We have about 60 students in Bible studies on campus. In one Bible study group after the event, one young woman offered to help lead the study, since the regular leader had to participate virtually.

I'm excited to continue to see the fruit of the Holy Spirit from SEEK21 throughout the year!

Dr. Felipe Anaya, FOCUS Team Director at Murray State University:

SEEK21 was a powerful weekend for the students who participated from Murray State University, and the Lord guided our effects to create an incredible experience. The campus ministry team, led by Fr. Brandon Williams and director of campus ministry Alex Kaufmann, worked together with our FOCUS missionaries to host more than 60 students in 11 small groups in an old bank building in downtown

Murray. We had plenty of space to spread out to ensure we followed COVID-19 guidelines.

We were blessed to have several special guests, including Fr. Antonio Maria Diez de Medina, CFR; Brother Faustino Lemmon, CFR; and Fr. Ricardo Pineda of the Fathers of Mercy. Three Nashville Dominicans from the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia joined us as well: Sr. Maura Sheen, Sr. Joanna McCormack and Sr. Jane Michael.

The priests celebrated Mass every day and heard confessions throughout the weekend. On Saturday night during the Worldwide Prayer Vigil, Fr. Ricardo processed with the Blessed Sacrament for a special night of Adoration. We also had a tabernacle in a room at the host site, so people could visit and pray with Jesus anytime they wanted to.

All the speakers challenged students in different ways. One keynote that really resonated with students was Dr. Edward Sri's talk, in which he shared how the cross is not just for forgiveness, but also heals us.

We hosted a variety show, which was a blast! The students are really talented and performed songs, comedy skits and more. Even our guests got involved, as Brother Faustino sang an original song and Fr. Riccardo thrilled the students by rapping a song. The Nashville Dominican Sisters shared some of the jokes their elementary students have told them, which made everyone laugh.

Some of the guys got out of their comfort zones during SEEK21 and afterward said they want to start a Bible study, which is fantastic. The Lord provided everything for SEEK21 - the special guests, a perfect location and everything went smoothly. The hearts of students were challenged with truth and charity - drawing them deeper into faith and closer to Jesus Christ.



COURTESY OF DR. FELIPE ANAYA
Students at Murray State University participate in Adoration during SEEK21, held virtually around the world from Feb. 4-7, 2021.



COURTESY OF NATALIE LARKINS
Students at Western Kentucky University attend a talk by one of the emcees, Kelsey Skoch, during SEEK21, held virtually around the world from Feb. 4-7, 2021.

Bishop John A. Floersh and the ‘Nun Problem’

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

In early September 1925, the newly-appointed Bishop of Louisville, Bishop John A. Floersh, received some distressing news. The relatively young, 38-year-old bishop received word that parishioners in one of the counties in his expansive diocese had become entrenched in a bitter legal battle. The dispute centered on the presence of religious attire in public schools. The county that the letter was referring to was Daviess County. Being that this was prior



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES
Bishop John A. Floersh of Louisville, in 1923.

to the creation of the Diocese of Owensboro, this was his concern.

The conflict began with the closure of public schools in the historically Catholic settlements of Knottsville, St. Lawrence and St. Joseph. The public schools closed after Catholic schools opened and hundreds of children began to attend the Catholic institutions instead.

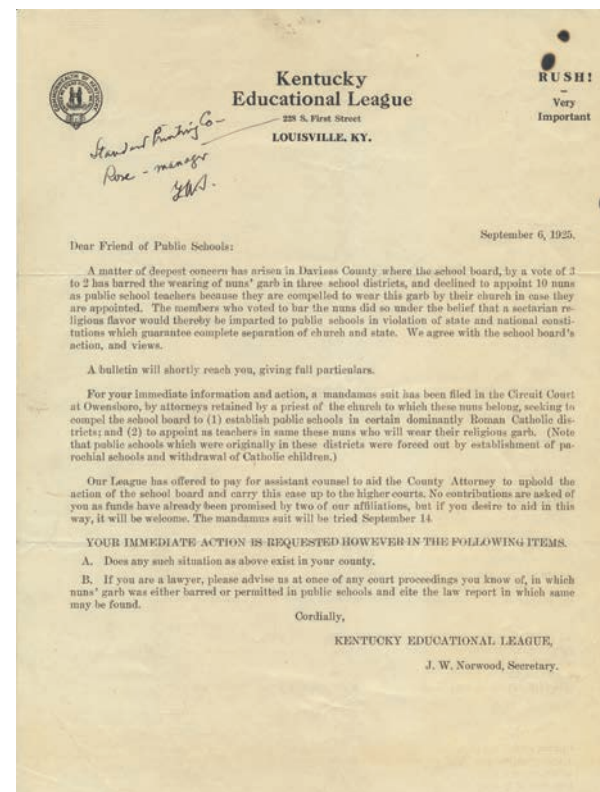
After time had passed, families in the area began to complain that they were paying school taxes when the public schools had long since closed. They believed that a perfect solution would be for the county to lease the Catholic school buildings from the parishes and pay the Ursuline Sisters public school

wages to continue instruction. Though this seemed agreeable to the families, the school board, by a slim margin, ruled that they would not allow the wearing of nuns' garments in a public school.

This frustrated several of the families and caused them to take the battle to a higher court. In turn, those opposed to a Catholic presence in public institutions initiated a campaign. A broadside was mailed out, and the dispute began to become visible to those outside of the small communities.

Though the plan had been approved by the state superintendent of public instruction, and the state attorney general, a letter dated Sept. 6, 1925 had begun circulating throughout the state and arousing opponents to the Catholic plan. Under the leadership of the Kentucky Educational League, the letter informed readers that the Daviess County “school board, by a vote of 3 to 2” had “barred the wearing of nuns' garb in three school districts.” The letter relayed that this led to the denial of hiring 10 nuns from leading instruction in local public schools. It specified that the decision had been accepted due to the principles of “separation of church and state.” The Kentucky Educational League affirmed that they agreed with the school board's decision. They concluded stating that the League was assisting in defending the decision in a higher court. It also assured that no donations were needed, as two organizations had volunteered to finance the case. According to sources, the dispute began to take on a tone of fierce religious animosity.

Though many anticipated a vicious legal battle, what they received was mercy. After a meeting between Bishop Floersh and renowned Catholic law-



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

A letter dated Sept. 6, 1925, seeking sympathizers to oppose the proposed introduction of nuns into public school education in Daviess County.

yer LaVega Clements, it was decided that for the sake of religious civility, the case would be dropped and the schools continued as Catholic schools, unaffiliated with the public educational system. Though he was young, and had only succeeded as bishop a year prior, Bishop Floersh proved himself a skillful and prudent leader, valuing peace over conflict.

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

Pandemic didn't stop Catholic school spirit during CSW 2021

BY WKC STAFF

From Jan. 31-Feb. 6, 2021, the Diocese of Owensboro's 17 Catholic schools celebrated annual Catholic Schools Week. While activities were significantly revised due to COVID-19 pandemic safety guidelines, the students, faculty, staff and families still managed to celebrate Catholic education. Below are photos submitted by several of the schools.

Owensboro Catholic Schools K-3 Campus

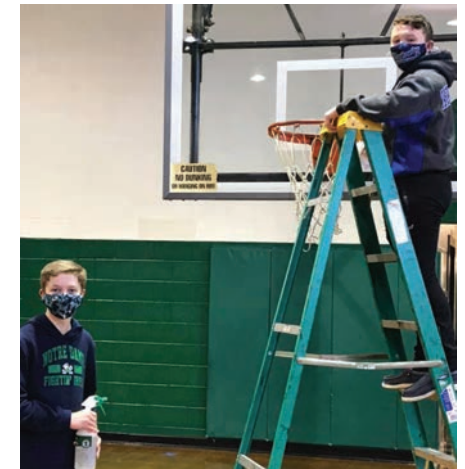
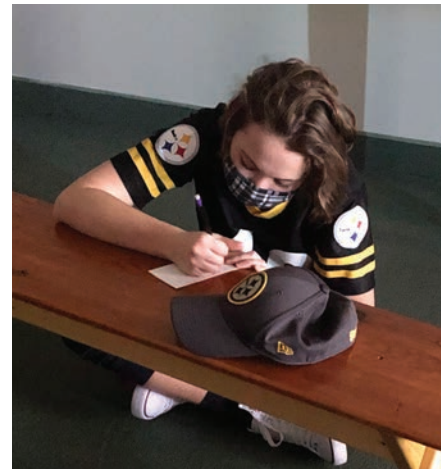


COURTESY OF NATALIE ANDERSON
Third-grader Brooklyn Anderson and her sister, first-grader Emma Anderson, display their school spirit one morning before heading to school at Owensboro Catholic Schools K-3 Campus during Catholic Schools Week 2021.

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School, Henderson



COURTESY OF JULIE EADENS
During Catholic Schools Week 2021 at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson, kindergartener Kira Collins (left) promotes School Choice; (center) seventh-grader Lilly Clark reflects during a special prayer service; (right) eighth-graders Patrick Hauke and Drew Hagan participate in service day on Feb. 3, 2021.



Owensboro Catholic Schools 4-6 Campus

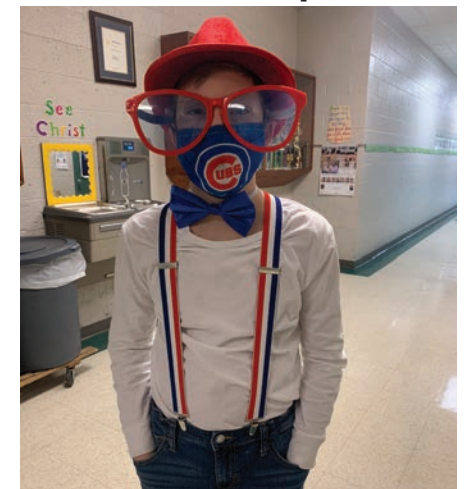
St. Mary School System, Paducah



COURTESY OF ASHLEY WRIGHT
Students at St. Mary School System in Paducah play a game during Catholic Schools Week 2021.



COURTESY OF NATALIE ANDERSON
(Left) Sixth-grader Payton Arnold depicts Rosie the Riveter; (right) fifth-grader Paul O'Herron as "Mr. America" during Catholic Schools Week 2021 at Owensboro Catholic Schools 4-6 Campus.



Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Hemos llegado hasta aquí por la fe

La historia muestra que a la humanidad le fascina predecir el futuro. La literatura y los cuentos de hadas han creado imágenes como las bolas de cristal y la lectura de los posos del té para retratar esta fascinación.

Por supuesto, incluso nuestras Sagradas Escrituras se leen a través de los lentes de la profecía. Es mejor leer los profetas de las Escrituras no como quienes predicen eventos futuros, sino como voces audaces que dicen la verdad de Dios a personas que a menudo se distraen de los caminos y mensajes de Dios. Sin embargo, todos los años, y en particular durante las temporadas de Adviento y Cuaresma, leemos a los profetas y confiamos en que Dios realmente estaba hablando de la promesa a las generaciones venideras.

En nuestra vida cotidiana y anual, es posible que nos sintamos aliviados de no poder prever con certeza los acontecimientos futuros. Cuán diferentes serían nuestras vidas si las bolas de cristal pudieran mostrarnos fechas y ciertos detalles de nuestras vidas. Puede que nos obsesionemos tanto que la espontaneidad y la alegría de vivir se vean comprometidas. Imagínense de nuestras vidas dictadas por la cuenta regresiva de años, días, horas y minutos que nos quedan por vivir. Sí claro, todos sabemos que moriremos, pero tal certeza específica no nos serviría de nada.

Pienso en estas reflexiones en relación con todo lo que se sucedió durante el año pasado con respecto a la pandemia mundial del COVID-19. Se podría

decir que prácticamente todas las reflexiones que hemos compartido durante el año pasado se han visto afectadas por la pandemia.

Por mi parte, estoy contento y aliviado de no poder saber, desde la primera aparición del virus COVID-19, cuán drásticamente afectaría esto a nuestra sociedad, nuestra Iglesia y cada una de nuestras vidas. Ingenuamente, supongo, me consoló pensar que algunas de esas primeras predicciones espantosas seguramente fueron exageradas.

Mi primera exposición a lo que se estaba desarrollando en el mundo llegó a mediados de febrero, cuando viajaba de regreso de mi peregrinación a la India y Myanmar. Cuando entramos en el enorme aeropuerto de Qatar en el primer cambio de avión en las 26 horas de vuelos de regreso a los EE. UU., casi todos llevaban una mascarilla. Y, de hecho, todos los miembros del personal de servicio estaban usando mascarillas, lo que me dijo que claramente podían haber sabido algo que yo no sabía. Cuando llegamos a Houston para cambiar de avión y regresar a Nashville, solo había un puñado de personas con mascarillas. Tontamente, me sentí aliviado.

Fue el 4 de marzo en la Diócesis de Owensboro que comenzamos a comunicar algunas advertencias a los párrocos y parroquias sobre nuestras liturgias. En los próximos días de marzo, aparentemente estaríamos actualizando esas advertencias cada dos o tres días, esperando y creyendo que estas acciones serían suficientes para mantener a todos a salvo y seguros.

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MARZO DE 2021:

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

	4 p.m. Reunión de la Mesa
2 DE MARZO	Directiva de la Fundación Católica - por Zoom
7 DE MARZO	10:15 a.m. Confirmación - Parroquia San Benito, Wax
14 DE MARZO	2 p.m. Misa de Emblemas Religiosas con los Scouts - Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
15 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal - Lugar por definirse
15 DE MARZO	1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal Centro Católico McRaith (MCC)
17 DE MARZO	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas - MCC
18 DE MARZO	3 p.m. Reunión por Zoom con sacerdotes de la Diócesis
20 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Ordenación al diaconado transitorio de Martin Ma Na Ling - Parroquia Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green
23 DE MARZO	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.. - Horas de Oficina en Paducah
24 DE MARZO	5 p.m. Confirmación - Parroquia San Marcos, Eddyville
25 DE MARZO	8:30 am Misa escolar - Escuela Católica de Owensboro, Campus 4-6, Owensboro
25-26 DE MARZO	Reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Universidad de Brescia
30 DE MARZO	2 p.m. Misa Crismal - Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro

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Continuado de la página 28

Fue el 13 de marzo cuando anuncié que se suspendería la obligación tradicional de todos los católicos de participar en la Misa los domingos. Para mí, y creo que para la mayoría de los obispos, este fue un paso muy extremo, seguramente justificado, pero ese día no podría haber imaginado acciones aún más extremas.

Fue bueno que no pudiéramos predecir el futuro. Solo unos días después, el Gobernador Andy Beshear pidió a las iglesias de todo el estado que suspendieran el culto público. Mi primera directiva sobre este asunto expresó la esperanza y la creencia de que podríamos reanudar el culto público para la Semana Santa. En realidad, esa suspensión se prolongó hasta el 20 de mayo. Aunque todo eso fue totalmente inquietante, de alguna manera, para la mayoría de nosotros, fue un poco más fácil de absorber en incrementos más pequeños e inciertos.

Cuando pudimos reiniciar las Misas públicas, fue con una serie de restricciones sobre el tamaño de la asamblea, el uso de mascarillas y el mantenimiento de distancia física entre nosotros. Nuevamente, pensé que estas restricciones podrían ser necesarias durante algunas semanas.

Y estamos en marzo y esas restricciones siguen vigentes y, francamente, la fecha final aún no se ha anunciado. Aunque me alegra que los científicos de la salud pudieran anticipar la gravedad de la pandemia, es bueno que yo no supiera que más de 500,000 estadounidenses, y más de 2,000,000 de personas en todo el mundo, morirían debido al virus antes del 1 de marzo. Era mejor tomarlo un día a la vez.

Recuerdo uno de mis himnos favoritos de la iglesia afroamericana, “We’ve Come This Far By Faith” [Hemos llegado hasta aquí por la fe]. Yo prefiero la fe más que poder predecir el futuro cualquier día. Nos pone a todos donde pertenecemos: en las manos de Dios.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JOHN THOMAS

En febrero de 2020, durante la peregrinación pastoral del Obispo William F. Medley a India y Myanmar (también conocida como Birmania), hubo murmullos de un virus respiratorio, lo que hizo que algunas personas optaran por comenzar a usar mascarillas. Esta foto muestra al P. John Thomas, el P. Timothy Khui Shing Ling y el Obispo Medley con mascarillas mientras asistían a una cena en Myanmar. Poco sospechaban que en unos meses esta precaución sugerida se convertiría en uno de los símbolos de una pandemia mundial.

+ William F. Medley

Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro



El Obispo William F. Medley rocía cenizas sobre la cabeza de una niña durante la Misa del Miércoles de Ceniza al mediodía en la Catedral de San Esteban el 17 de febrero de 2021. Como precaución durante la pandemia del COVID-19, la Congregación para el Culto Divino y los Sacramentos del Vaticano emitió una instrucción de que este año, los sacerdotes deben esparcir cenizas sobre cabezas individuales.

ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Una historia de San José

POR BETH CRAFTON, ESPECIAL PARA EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

En 1984, me esperaba un futuro aterrador; me encontré responsable de una realidad imprevista que me miraba fijamente a la cara y esperaba mi respuesta. Esta realidad, la vida con un bebé de 3 meses dependiendo de esta madre desconsolada que solo tenía unos pocos estudios en la universidad y una perspectiva económica incierta, creó una ansiedad dentro de mí y una preocupación amorosa por mí entre la familia y los amigos cercanos. Decidida a ponerme de pie y ocuparme de esta situación que yo había creado, solo podría haber sido posible con mi fe fuerte que había sido puesta por la comunidad de mi familia, escuela, iglesia y el pueblo que moldearon mi ser hasta este punto de la vida. Tenía que brindar esta misma oportunidad a mi bebé.

Se necesitarían una serie de novelas para llenar los vacíos, pero, avanzando rápidamente hasta 2021, y la conexión de esta narrativa personal con San José inspira este honor para tocar el cuerno de este santo y alentar a todos a conocer a este santo que simplemente se espera anhelando que le pidamos su intercesión. San José me protegió y me guio en mi papel de madre soltera desde el momento en que pedí su protección personal en mi hogar. En ese momento me sentí segura de que San José sería el padre adoptivo de mi hijo en ausencia de un padre físico día

tras día en el hogar y más allá. San José hizo precisamente eso.

Cuando este bebé cumplió 12 años, un padre físico ingresó a nuestra casa y se convirtió en un padrastro que ha demostrado ser cierto que un título o sufijo adjunto a la palabra "padre" nunca puede enfatizarse lo suficiente como para expresar la gracia que se le infundió en los roles de padre adoptivo y padrastro.

El plan de Dios se volvió vívidamente evidente para mí y me di cuenta que no era una coincidencia que el nombre de mi propio padre incluye a José, junto con mi hermano y el nombre que mi bebé a los 14 años eligió como su nombre de confirmación: sí, José.

Mis padres eligieron el nombre de cada uno de sus hijos en honor a un santo. Como muchos padres católicos, esta práctica de adoptar a un santo en el mismo nombre proporciona un compañero celestial en el que apoyarse y asegura virtudes positivas que podrían considerarse valiosas en el camino de la fe.

Mis padres eligieron a San José para el nombre de su primogénito. A medida que mi hermano mayor progresaba en el camino de la vida, pasaron años para llevar a este graduado universitario a discernir más allá de una carrera prometedor. El giro contemplativo lo llevó al trabajo misionero con los salesianos, al seminario y finalmente al Sacramento de



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE BETH CRAFTON

La boda de Beth y Bob Crafton en la parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús, presidida por el P. John Thomas y el Diácono Tom Buckman, con Patrick Beaven como acólito el 7 de junio de 1997.

Órdenes Sagradas.

En su último año de vida en esta tierra mi padre pudo presenciar a su hijo tocayo recibir el Sacramento de Órdenes Sagradas y celebrar su primera Misa como sacerdote solo cinco meses antes de que su tocayo presidiera su propio funeral y entierro. Thomas JOSEPH Buckman Jr. es el párroco actual de la Parroquia San Pío X en Owensboro.

¿Podría todo esto ser una coincidencia? Podría ser. Pero como dice el dicho favorito de mi hermana, "No hay coincidencias con Dios".

Amén.

Beth Buckman Crafton pertenece a la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson.

Nuevo sitio web para El Católico de Kentucky Occidental

El Católico de Kentucky Occidental ha lanzado su primer sitio web: <https://westernkycatholic.com>. Contará con los mismos artículos que se encuentran en la edición impresa, pero brinda la posibilidad de difundir la Buena Nueva a través de medios digitales. El sitio web contará con una sección en español, que puede visitar en westernkycatholic.com/espanol.

Parroquias con ministerio hispano/latino

Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

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

Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green

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

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Guthrie

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

Parroquia de Santa María, Franklin

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

Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson

511 2nd Street, Henderson, KY 42420

Contacto: Abraham Brown (270) 724-2172 o Padre Gary Clark (270) 826-2096

Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville

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

Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville

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

Parroquia de San José, Mayfield

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

Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown

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

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray

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

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

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

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

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

Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Russellville

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

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree

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

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Para denunciar una sospecha de abuso, llame a la Línea Directa de Protección Infantil de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su Fiscal Local del Commonwealth. Para reportar abuso, actual o pasado, a la diócesis por parte de cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a Louanne Payne, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinadoras de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270-880-8360. También puede visitar la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro (owensborodiocese.org/safe) para obtener más información. Para hacer un informe de abuso sexual de un menor y mala conducta relacionada por parte de los obispos, vaya a ReportBishopAbuse.org o llame al 1-800-276-1562.

Seminarista será ordenado al diaconado el 20 de marzo



FOTOS POR CORTESÍA DE MARTIN MA NA LING
Martin Ma Na Ling en el Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad en el sur de Indiana el 29 de enero de 2021.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El seminarista Martin Ma Na Ling será ordenado diácono transitorio para la Diócesis de Owensboro el 20 de marzo de 2021, y aunque no se siente “digno de recibir tal bendición de Dios”, sabe que “es Jesucristo quien me eligió”.

En una entrevista por correo electrónico del 28

de enero de 2021 con El Católico de Kentucky Occidental, Ling citó Juan 15, 16-17, en el que Jesús dice: “No son ustedes los que me eligieron a mí, sino yo el que los elegí a ustedes, y los destiné para que vayan y den fruto, y ese fruto sea duradero. Así todo lo que pidan al Padre en mi Nombre, él se lo concederá. Lo que yo les mando es que se amen los unos a los otros”.

“Creo que Dios me guiará y me ayudará a servirle fielmente”, dijo Ling, explicando que ha sido su “sueño y esperanza” convertirse en sacerdote desde que era un niño que crecía en Myanmar, también conocido como Birmania.

Ling ingresó al seminario después de la escuela preparatoria. Y en enero de 2017, fue enviado por el Obispo Lucius Hre Kung de la Diócesis de Hakha en Myanmar, para estudiar y convertirse en sacerdote en la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Llegó con el ahora-Padre Stephen Van Lal Than (ordenado en 2020) para atender a la comunidad de católicos birmanos en rápido crecimiento en la diócesis. Pero Ling espera poder servir a todas las personas de la diócesis, no solo a los birmanos.

“Como diácono transitorio, estaré listo para servir a mi obispo y a la Diócesis de Owensboro”, dijo Ling.

Debido a la pandemia del COVID-19, la Misa de ordenación al diaconado transitorio es solo por invitación.

Voluntarios parroquiales

Los voluntarios juegan un papel integral a nivel parroquial. Los párrocos y el personal parroquial confían en ellos y los aprecian mucho. Nuestra esperanza y oración es que a medida que se administren más vacunas, las actividades catequéticas y divertidas para los jóvenes y las familias regresen, ya que eventualmente podremos reunirnos en persona. Con el fin de prepararnos para que la vida vuelva a la “normalidad”, se anima a nuestros voluntarios a que completen su capacitación de Ambiente Seguro y verificación de antecedentes, y firmen las declaraciones de estas políticas. ¡Estemos preparados para reiniciar nuestras reuniones en persona manteniéndonos un paso por delante! Si tienen alguna pregunta o inquietud, comuníquense con Janice Hendricks en la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro al 270-683-1545. ¡Gracias!