

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

February 2019 ● Volume 46 Issue 2 ● The newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro ● owensborodiocese.org



You have a voice

Pastoral Assistance Coordinators, Nuria Elizondo (left) and Louanne Payne (right), chat in Bowling Green on Jan. 14, 2019. **Page 7**



SEEK 2019

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Español

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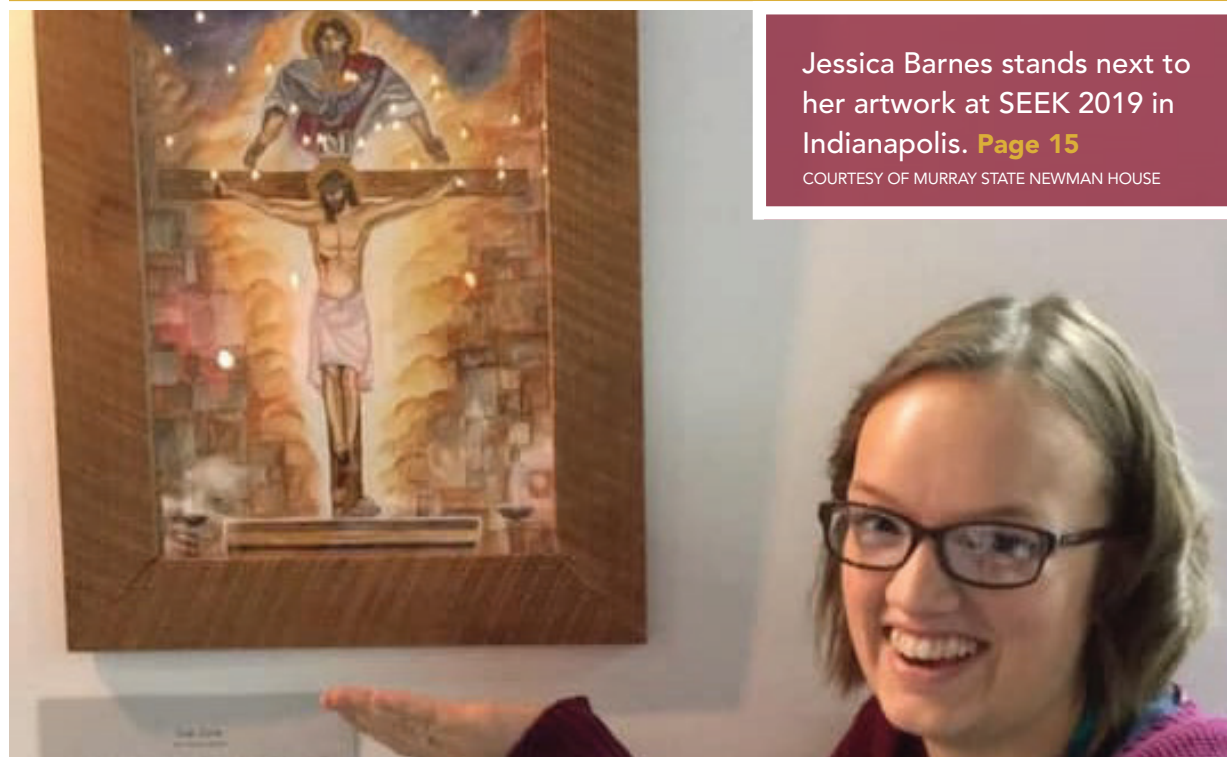
100 years old

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Jessica Barnes stands next to her artwork at SEEK 2019 in Indianapolis. [Page 15](#)

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Front page photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

Submissions

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

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

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

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY  **Catholic**

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

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

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

To report suspected abuse, call the Kentucky Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331 (Toll Free) or contact your local Commonwealth Attorney. To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church, call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) at 270-852-8380, or Nuria Elizondo, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (Spanish) at 270-880-8360. You may also visit the Office of Safe Environment (owensborodiocese.org/safe) for more information.

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A Word From Bishop Medley

St. Blaise lived during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life, but according to customary accounts he was a physician before becoming a bishop. He was the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. At least since the eighth century he has been identified with the Catholic Church's healing ministry because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a small boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat.

His feast day is February 3 and it is customary on this day for the faithful to have their throats blessed according to ritual. Two candles are tied together in the form of cross. The unlit candles are touched to the throat and the following prayer is said: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The blessing of throats is but one blessing ritual of the Catholic Church. Such blessings are counted among the Church's rich tradition of sacramentals. So, what are sacramentals?

To define sacramentals we should define the far more commonly-referenced sacraments. The Seven Sacraments typically celebrate peak moments of human life,

such as birth (baptism), marriage (matrimony), and extraordinary calls to service (Holy Orders). Some Sacraments are intended to sanctify us regularly, such as Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Sacramentals are objects or experiences that are important ways to sanctify the daily moments of our lives. Among well-known sacramentals are crucifixes, holy water, rosaries, blessed medals, scapulars, and more. Among these are simple blessings such the blessing of throats, the reception of

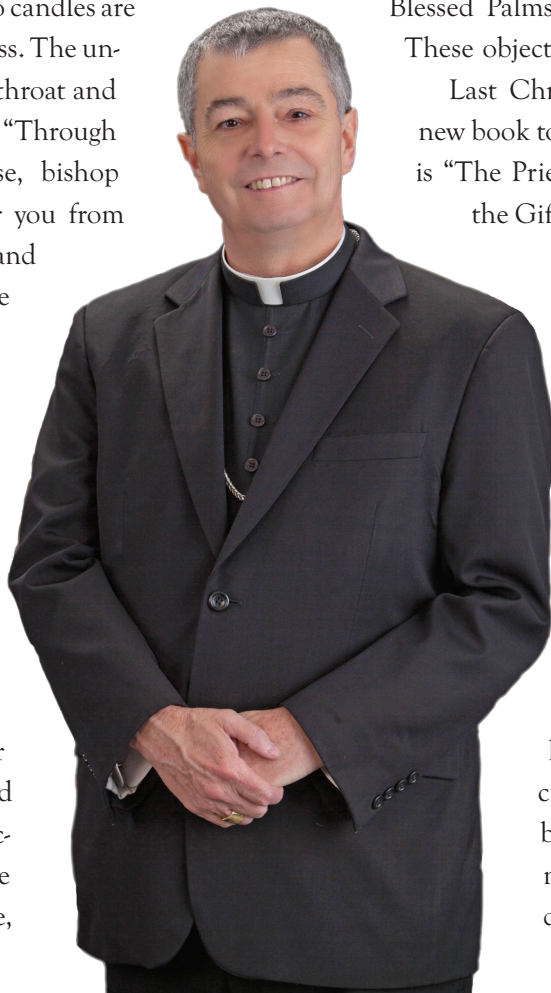
Blessed Ashes on Ash Wednesday, and the Blessed Palms received on Palm Sunday.

These objects or experiences sanctify us.

Last Christmas I gave the gift of a new book to all of our priests. The book is "The Priestly Blessing: Rediscovering the Gift" by Fr. Stephen Rosetti. Fr.

Rosetti challenges priests and the faithful to rediscover a renewed theology of priestly blessing and to embrace the habit of blessing people, objects and events.

In our ever-so-sophisticated life in the 21st century we may have grown lax about blessings. Perhaps we have feared that our rich custom of blessings might be confused with notions of magic. That could be a real danger but at the same time



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BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2019

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| FEB 2 | 9 a.m. Institution into Ministry of Lector for Permanent Deacon Candidates – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
5 p.m. Mass at Conclusion of Catholic Men's Conference – Cathedral |
| FEB 3 | 10 a.m. Confirmation – Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro |
| FEB 5 | 6 p.m. Prayer of Lament and Reparation – Cathedral |
| FEB 6 | Noon Catholic Foundation Board Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center (MCC) |
| FEB 9 | 9 a.m. Institution into Ministry of Acolyte for Corey Bruns, Chris Kight and Martin Ma Na Ling – Cathedral |
| FEB 11 | 6:30 p.m. Confirmation – Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro |
| FEB 16 | 5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah |
| FEB 18 | 10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – MCC
1:30 p.m. Priest Council Meeting – MCC |
| FEB 19 | Catholic Conference of Kentucky Meeting – Louisville |
| FEB 20 | Bishops of the Province Meeting – Louisville |
| FEB 24 | 9:30 a.m. Confirmation – St. John the Evangelist Parish, Paducah |
| FEB 25 | 8 a.m. School Mass – St. Paul School, Leitchfield |
| FEB 26 | Paducah Office |
| FEB 27 | 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Anthony Parish, Browns Valley |

A Word From Bishop Medley continued from page 3

we may acknowledge that the hopes and fears of people in our age are not so different from those of hundreds and even thousands of years ago. In fact, blessings date back to the Old Testament. In reality such rituals and invocations are to be found in many ancient cultures, signifying an innate understanding among human persons that there is a source of life and goodness and that source is divine.

The Catholic Church has scores of prescribed blessings for people, for buildings and human activities, objects and religious articles. Perhaps the most well-known blessing is a universal one. When a person sneezes we almost instinctively say, "God bless you." This may be just a habit and it may be invoked by those of no particular faith or practice. At the same time can it not be a subtle but real acknowledgement of God as the source of blessing? We see a person in need and might say, "Oh bless your heart." While these may not always be conscious acts of faith or prayer, perhaps we can all strive to assure that they are genuine and often enough a real act of faith, hope and love.

In the Rite of Infant Baptism the priest or deacon invites the parents and godparents to trace a cross on the forehead of the baby. No words are required. I have always told parents that they should repeat this symbol and action every single day until children learn to make the Sign of the Cross for themselves. If they have quietly spoken the words "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," they will never have to intentionally teach those words.

I recall a mother who told me that when her children were in bed each night she would go to them to sign them with the cross. Sometimes they were awake, sometimes asleep. At some point, perhaps when the teenagers were always awake after Mom,

The Diocese of Owensboro Pilgrimage to

ITALY

Rome, Assisi, Florence, Pisa, Lucca,
Brescia, Venice & Padua

OCTOBER 6-16, 2019

\$4,599 from Louisville, KY & Cincinnati, OH
* Price per person in a double room

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:
Bishop William F. Medley



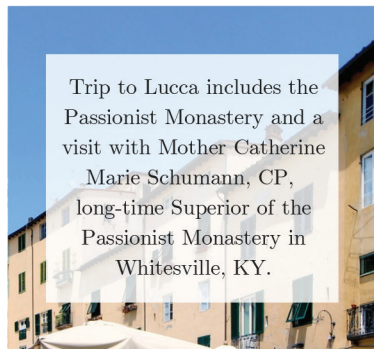
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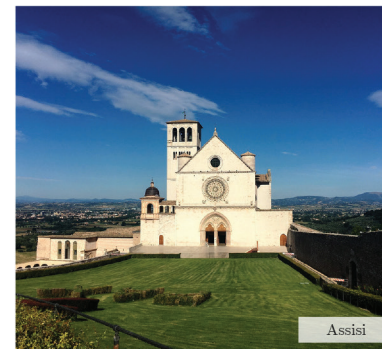
Padua



Rome



Trip to Lucca includes the Passionist Monastery and a visit with Mother Catherine Marie Schumann, CP, long-time Superior of the Passionist Monastery in Whitesville, KY.



Assisi

the practice slipped away. One day her 14-year-old son asked, "Mom, why don't you bless me anymore?"

We never outgrow needing God's blessings. ■

William F. Medley

Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

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Stay up-to-date with happenings around the diocese in between issues of The Western Kentucky Catholic.

To subscribe, visit

owensborodiocese.org/subscribe



LOVE:
The Heart of Family
Featuring
Kimberly Hahn

Sunday, February 23 | 9 AM-2 PM

Immaculate Parish Family Center
2516 Christie Pl, Owensboro

Mrs. Hahn is an "authority" on families having been married to her husband, Scott, for 39 years, having 6 children and 15 grandchildren. Her talks will speak to everyone, no matter what stage of life you are in.

This event is FREE but we ask that you register. For more information please contact the parish office at (270) 683-0689.

Sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro Office of Marriage & Family Life and Immaculate Parish through the Disciples Response Fund Grant

‘You are not alone’

New support group for sexual abuse survivors hopes to foster healing

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“You are not alone,” and yes, “other people have experienced this” is the message a clinical therapist wishes to share with survivors of sexual assault.

Sexual abuse by someone acting in the name of the Church “can call into question many things – including (a person’s) faith,” said Jennifer Francis-Gehring, who works as a clinical therapist at New Beginnings Sexual Assault Support Services, located in Owensboro.

In February, New Beginnings will collaborate with the Diocese of Owensboro to offer a six-week support group for adult primary and secondary survivors of sexual abuse.

The idea for the support group grew out of a conversation following one of Bishop William F. Medley’s fall 2018 listening sessions in response to the Catholic Church’s ongoing clergy abuse crisis.

Francis-Gehring had attended the Oct. 24, 2018 listening session held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro. During the session, Francis-Gehring raised a question about offering a support group for the survivors of sexual abuse.

This caught the ear of Louanne Payne, the diocese’s pastoral assistance coordinator, whose role is to answer the hotline for callers to make a report of abuse by someone working for the Catholic Church.

Payne approached Francis-Gehring after the listening session and asked if she would be willing to collaborate on the idea she had suggested.

Over the following months, Francis-Gehring and Payne worked on the project – at one point, Bishop Medley even visited New Beginnings and toured the facility – and the support group was scheduled to hold its first session on Feb. 28. Francis-Gehring, with 20 years of social work behind her, will be the facilitator.

Francis-Gehring said the support group plans to address six topics: coping skills, trust, shame and guilt, PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), trauma responses, and healing and self-care.

“Trust is huge for survivors because once your body has been violated, your ability to trust has been violated,” said Francis-Gehring. “If we were supposed to trust that person – who was put on a pedestal – how can I trust anyone?”

PTSD is also a significant of the conversation, she said.

“A lot of people used to think only war veterans could develop PTSD,” said Francis-Gehring. She explained that thanks to modern science, researchers have now seen that PTSD can develop from so many more experiences, such as a traumatic car accident – or sexual abuse.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
New Beginnings Sexual Assault Support Services is located in Owensboro and will host the six-week support group.

Francis-Gehring was more than willing to make this a reality.

“We love to collaborate and work with community partners,” she told the WKC in a Jan. 9, 2019 interview.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Jennifer Francis-Gehring (left), of New Beginnings Sexual Assault Support Services, and Louanne Payne (right), of the Diocese of Owensboro, coordinated to establish a support group for sexual abuse survivors, which begins in February.

New Beginnings, in collaboration with the Diocese of Owensboro, will offer a 6-week support group for adult primary and secondary survivors of sexual abuse, based upon the overwhelming response from the Listening Sessions hosted by Bishop Medley throughout the Diocese.

WHO: Adults, age 18 and older

WHEN: Thursday February 28, 2019 6:30 – 7:30pm – Coping Skills
 Thursday March 7, 2019 6:30 – 7:30pm - Trust
 Thursday March 14, 2019 6:30 – 7:30pm – Shame and Guilt
 Thursday March 21, 2019 6:30 – 7:30pm – PTSD
 Thursday March 28, 2019 6:30 – 7:30pm – Trauma Responses
 Thursday April 4, 2019 6:30 – 7:30pm - Healing and Self Care

WHERE: New Beginnings – 1716 Scherm Rd, Owensboro KY
 Phone: 270-926-7273 – please call with any questions

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

The purpose of the support group is to provide support to those affected by sexual abuse, offer education on using positive coping skills and other various topics to promote healing. The topics listed above are open to change. Childcare is not available. Please call Jennifer at New Beginnings (270) 926-7273 with any questions.



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

Support group continued from page 5

She said the final session, “healing and self-care” is crucial for survivors.

But ultimately, Francis-Gehring added, the topics are subject to change based on the needs of those who attend the support group.

She emphasized that the support group is not group therapy, and will be education-based, with “people asking questions and sharing what they feel comfortable sharing.”

If someone attends “and they never speak,” said Francis-Gehring, “that’s okay too.”

She said the support group is not only open to direct survivors of sexual abuse, but also “secondary survivors” –parents, guardians, friends and family members of those who experienced the abuse.

Payne said she hopes the support group will be “a step toward healing.”

She told the WKC that when she receives a call on the pastoral assistance coordinator line, one of the first things the caller often asks is “am I the only one” who has reported abuse at the hands of their abuser.

And hearing that “there are others,” has helped other survivors come forward, said Payne.

Francis-Gehring agreed. Rather than fighting feelings of “why was I singled out?” hearing reports from others makes a survivor “feel not alone,” she said.

Francis-Gehring offered encouragement to people who are hesitating to attend the support group for fear of being recognized. She said a hallmark of the group will be that “who you see here, stays here; what you say here, stays here. This is sacred.”

“You are not alone,” she repeated. ■

Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/support-group and nbowensboro.org.

Here to listen

New Spanish-speaking coordinator offers 'channel' for abuse allegations



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Nuria Elizondo was appointed the Spanish-speaking Pastoral Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Owensboro in December 2018.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Nuria Elizondo, the new Spanish-speaking Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (PAC) for the Diocese of Owensboro, has a message for anyone who may call her to report abuse by someone acting in the name of the Catholic Church.

“The Church is always going to support you no matter what,” she said in a Jan. 14 interview with

The Western Kentucky Catholic.

The PAC is the person on the other end of the confidential phone line – available 24/7 – who receives reports of sexual abuse at the hands of anyone serving the Church.

Anyone may call the phone number, no matter who they are, when the abuse occurred, or whether the alleged perpetrator is living or deceased.

Every diocese in the United States is required to have someone to fill this role, following the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which was created after the U.S. Catholic Church’s clergy abuse scandal broke in 2002.

Elizondo, who speaks both Spanish and English, received her appointment in December 2018 to serve the needs of western Kentucky’s growing Spanish-speaking population.

Elizondo’s English-speaking counterpart, Louanne Payne is also available via a 24/7, confidential phone line for English-speaking callers.

Payne explained that she and Elizondo are not counselors, but volunteers serving on behalf of the Church. Elizondo’s day job is as an industrial engineer; Payne works as the director of the Diocese of Owensboro’s tribunal.

Payne and Elizondo told the WKC that different protocols follow a report of abuse, “depending on the people who are involved,” said Payne. But some aspects remain consistent across the board.

She said the PAC makes time to meet with the caller in-person, whether at the Diocese of Owensboro’s pastoral center, or at an offsite location if that

is preferable. The PAC assists the person in finding counseling and/or spiritual direction.

Additionally, “this is kept private,” said Elizondo, explaining that the name of anyone who makes an allegation is never released to the public.

The allegation reported to Elizondo or Payne is communicated to the bishop and/or the Diocesan Review Board (a committee that reviews all abuse allegations against persons acting in the name of the Diocese of Owensboro).

Payne said that if the alleged perpetrator is in active ministry – such as if they are the pastor of a parish – they are immediately removed from that position to make sure no one else is potentially harmed.

And within the first 48 hours of receiving a report, the Diocesan Review Board must contact the civil authorities.

Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, the director of Hispanic/Latino Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro, addressed some concerns that may be felt by immigrants and/or undocumented persons who hesitate to make a report, for fear of drawing attention to their status.

“What I want to help immigrants understand is that they should be heard; they have a voice,” he told the WKC. He said that for Latinos, Elizondo serves as a “channel where their voices can be heard.”

Deacon Gutiérrez said that some immigrants who now reside in western Kentucky may have experienced abuse in their home countries. If that is the case, Elizondo is also available to listen to them and offer support.

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“As a diocese we are committed to respond by assisting them in finding the support they need as well as helping inform whichever diocese is involved,” he said. “The undocumented population in general is very vulnerable.”

Deacon Gutiérrez said Elizondo will be someone “who will listen to them in their pain, with no judgment.”

Deacon Gutiérrez acknowledged the aversion in Latin American cultures toward saying anything negative about a priest, religious, or anyone perceived to be “on a pedestal” in the Church. He said this

should not prevent someone from reporting abuse.

“We are people too,” said Deacon Gutiérrez, speaking as someone who is also a member of the clergy, and emphasized that in God’s eyes, no one is greater than another person.

The appointment of Elizondo “is not saying or insinuating that we know or suspect any kind of abuse” among immigrant communities in the diocese, the deacon added.

“But when I see what’s happening in the English-speaking world, I wanted to have a channel for our Spanish-speakers, too,” he said. ■

To report suspected abuse, call the Kentucky Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597- 2331 (Toll Free) or contact your local Commonwealth Attorney. To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church, call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) at 270-852-8380, or Nuria Elizondo, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (Spanish) at 270-880-8360. You may also visit the Office of Safe Environment (owensborodiocese.org/safe) for more information.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Susan Montalvo-Gesser stands outside the McRaith Catholic Center, the central office of the Diocese of Owensboro, on Jan. 17, 2019.

New Catholic Charities director looks forward to working with parishes to ‘improve lives’

Editor’s note: Read Susan Montalvo-Gesser’s personal introduction to the people and parishes of western Kentucky on page 16.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

As the new director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Owensboro, Susan Montalvo-Gesser hopes the organization will help western Kentuckians live out the Corporal Works of Mercy.

“I want people to get involved,” said Montalvo-Gesser, who joined Catholic Charities in January 2019.

Montalvo-Gesser has been a practicing attorney for more than 10 years. Her previous role was with Kentucky Legal Aid as a managing attorney and represented clients in issues of family law, housing, estate planning and immigration cases involving

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Give food to the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
 - Clothe the naked
 - Visit the imprisoned
- Shelter the homeless
 - Visit the sick
 - Bury the dead

Continues on page 11

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Women's Retreat...

Lord, Teach Us To Pray: The Bible and Prayer

March 15-17, 2019

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

In the gospels, Jesus' disciples ask that he teach them how to pray. Jesus responds by giving them—and us—the Our Father. Various biblical stories teach us many other things about prayer. During this weekend, you will reflect on elements of prayer and seek guidance from Scripture and one another. You will be invited into varied experiences of prayer and have opportunities for Reconciliation and Eucharist. The weekend is an invitation to "Come apart and rest awhile" (Mark 6:31) ... all with the goal of improving our communication with God.

Retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch Sunday.

Fee: \$180 for residents or \$130 for commuters.


Get a 10% discount if paid in full by Feb. 15.

A limited number of scholarships are available.

Contact Sister Mary Matthias Ward: 270-229-0200

To register, call 270-229-0206 • retreatcenter@maplemount.org

Or sign up online at ursulinesmsj.org

 Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



Sister Cheryl



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center


8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

 Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Upcoming Events Open to All

- Feb. 8-10 **Contemplative Weekend: Open to all who need a getaway with God** - includes meals and accommodations
- Feb. 13 **Twilight Retreat with Deacon Victor Fromm.** Dinner begins at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 14 **Focus on Faith: DVD The Mass** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. includes lunch

- Mar. 10-15 **Conference for Women Religious**
- Mar. 13 **Twilight Retreat with Father Brian Johnson.** Dinner begins at 6 p.m.
- Mar. 14 **Focus on Faith: DVD The Mass** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. includes lunch
- Mar. 15-17 **Women's Retreat with Sister Cheryl Clemons: Lord, Teach Us to Pray**
- Mar. 22-24 **Yarn Spinners Retreat Weekend**
- Mar. 23 **Confirmation Retreat Day**
- Mar. 29 **Lenten Day of Quiet, includes lunch**

- April 4 **Focus on Faith: DVD The Mass** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. includes lunch
- April 10 **Twilight Retreat with Father Tony Shonis.** Dinner begins at 6 p.m.
- April 12 **Lenten Day of Quiet, includes lunch**
- April 24 **Administrative Professionals Day** 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. includes lunch

Only Center-sponsored (not hosted) programs are listed.

Please call to register or to schedule an event for your group or organization. 270-229-0206
retreatcenter@maplemount.org
Or register online: ursulinesmsj.org

Abundant Life Conference

INTRODUCTION TO HEALING MINISTRY
FEBRUARY 16 | 9-3 PM



Conference led by Deacon Keith Strohm, Executive Director of *M3 Ministries*.

STS. JOSEPH & PAUL PARISH HALL

514 E 4th St
Owensboro, KY 42303

\$20 (covers materials/meal)

Register online by visiting
owensborodiocese.org/abundant



Co-sponsored by the
Diocese of Owensboro and
Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish.

THE MESSAGE AND PROMISES OF JESUS, THE DIVINE MERCY SPECIAL MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS

St. Stephen Cathedral
Owensboro, KY

Wednesday, March 27 6 pm

The Spark from Poland Ignites the World
Take a leap into the mystical life of St. Faustina Kowalska and her encounters with Jesus, the Divine Mercy. A Holy Hour with confessions will follow the presentation.

Thursday, March 28 6 pm

Tell All Souls About My Mercy
Dive deep into the fascinating experiences of the young St. Faustina. This beautiful dramatic presentation brings viewers into the very center of the mission of Divine Mercy.



Jesus I Trust in You



Presented by:
Dave & Joan Maroney
Founders and Directors of
Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM)
an apostolate of the Marian Fathers
National Shrine of Divine Mercy
Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Free Will Offering Divine Mercy Materials Available
Contact: St. Maximilian Kolbe Bookstore (270) 689-9485

"There is nothing mankind needs more than Divine Mercy." St. John Paul II

Learn more at DivineMercyforAmerica.org

FEBRUARY 2019 BULLETIN BOARD

To have your events listed in our Bulletin Board, email information of no more than 200 words to wkc.editor@pastoral.org by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month.

Saint Meinrad will host Black History Lecture on Feb. 12

Dr. Shannen Dee Williams, assistant professor of history at Villanova University, will deliver the annual Black History Lecture at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, St. Meinrad, IN. Her lecture, "The Real Sister Act: Black Catholic Sisters in the United States," will be held on Tuesday, February 12, at 7 p.m. Central Time in St. Bede Theater. She is currently revising the manuscript for her first book, "Subversive Habits: The Untold Stories of Black Catholic Sisters in the United States," to be published by Duke University Press. The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking is available at St. Bede Hall and in the Guest House and student parking lots. For more information, call Mary Jeanne Schumacher at (812) 357-6501 during business hours.

Disabilities Awareness Committee announces start of Sister Audrey Mary Gold Award nominations

The Disabilities Awareness Committee is happy to announce the start of NOMINATIONS FOR The Sister Audrey Mary Gold Award. This award recognizes achievement for a person who works to ensure that ALL are included in parish life regardless of disability. The committee is looking for nominees and will be awarding the Sister Audrey Mary Gold Award on 3-1-19. If you know of someone who fits the criteria, please send an email to nominate the person, or group, on or before, 2-14-19 to Deacon Richard Murphy, director for the Office of Social Concerns for the Diocese of Owensboro at richard.murphy@pastoral.org. Full criteria may be found at owensborodiocese.org/gold-award.

Right to Life Annual Chili Supper

Right to Life Annual Chili Supper will be held Feb. 23, 2019 at Blessed Mother Catholic Church in Owensboro. Serving starts at 5 p.m. This year TRIVIA NIGHT will be added. Come join us at this annual

fundraiser that is fun for the whole family.

Alzheimer's Association February 2019 Education Programs

Registration required for all classes; please call 1.800.272.3900 or go to communityresourcefinder.org to register. Donations welcome.

Legal and Financial Planning: Designed for family caregivers; please no professionals.

Programs presented by an Elder Law Attorney.

Feb. 6, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Paducah Lourdes Hospital Marshall Neimer Pavilion Borders Room

Feb. 26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Owensboro Healthpark Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips From the Latest Research: Feb. 7, 10-11:30 a.m., Henderson County Extension Office

Light refreshments will be provided. Brought to you by an OMHS grant.

Feb. 21, 12-1 p.m., St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro

SCN/OCHS Memorial Project

Alumni of Owensboro Catholic High School have begun an effort to establish a permanent memorial honoring the service of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth at OC. The Sisters were the first educators and administrators when OC opened in 1951. The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, founded in 1812 in Bardstown, KY, were among the first orders of American Sisters. They came to the Owensboro area in 1820, and to Owensboro in 1849. Our proximate goal of \$9K is moving along with donations of \$1500 at present. Steering Committee: Elizabeth Field (Corr), Chair, Sisters Marie Becker, Mary Margaret Cooper, and Mary Eula Johnson, Mrs. Nola Mullen Courtney, Mrs. Mary Lee Pruden Fitzsimmons, and Joan Perry, OSU Associate. If questions, contact Elizabeth Field (1963) Steering Committee chair, jimliz@oh.rr.com /440-510-8690. Please send your tax deductible donation to Owensboro Catholic, Attn: Tracy Miller, 1524 W. Parish Ave., Owensboro, KY, 42301.

Save the dates: Divine Mercy mission

Parish Mission at St. John's in Paducah on Sunday-Tuesday, March 24-26, 2019, at 7 p.m. "How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!" - St. John Paul II. The theme of the three-night Mission will be: The Message and

Promises of Jesus, the Divine Mercy.

Sunday, March 24, 7 p.m. The Spark from Poland Ignites the World - The Life and Mission of St.

Faustina Kowalska & Eucharistic HOLY HOUR

Monday, March 24, 7 p.m. Divine Mercy for America

Tuesday, March 25, 7 p.m. Tell All Souls About My Mercy

Presenters: Mother of Mercy Messengers is an apostolate of the Marian Fathers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Since 1999, Dave and Joan have taken the message of Jesus, the Divine Mercy, to more than 800 parishes, schools, and conferences across the country and beyond, sparking spiritual growth and parish renewal all along the way. Make plans to bring your family and friends to be touched by the Message of Divine Mercy. Call the Parish Office for more information 270-554-3810.

Black Catholic Conference

Save the Date: Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, & Ohio [TIKO] African American Catholic Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 12-14, 2019. The theme of the Conference is "My God Is Awesome!"

Save the date for two Holy Name School events

At Holy Name School there are always activities and opportunities for involvement. Here are two things you can look forward to: a St. Patrick's Party and a 5K color/run walk. On March 16, 2019, we'll have a St. Patrick's Day Party for those 21 and older. Call all your friends and come ready to have a good time. On April 13, 2019, the HNS PTO will be hosting a 5k color run/walk. This event is open to everyone. Proceeds will go to renovate the school playground. Watch our social media pages for details, news, and events. We welcome and encourage you to become more involved.

Twilight Retreat Feb. 13: God, Life and Spiritual Direction

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center is offering a new monthly dinner program that will be presented by a priest or deacon. Deacon Victor Fromm will present, "God, Life and Spiritual Direction" on Feb. 13. How do we know God? How

Continues on page 11

UPCOMING EVENTS

Continued from page 10

is life conforming to God's will for me? How does spiritual direction fit? The \$20 fee includes dinner. The event time is 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. These Twilight retreats take place on the second Wednesday of each month at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). To register: 270-229-0206, retreatcenter@maplemount.org, or online at ursulinesmsj.org/conference-retreat-center/registration-sponsored programs. Also, mark your calendar for March 13 when Father Brian Johnson will present: "Holy Desperation: The Life and Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins."

Yarn Spinners Retreat Weekend March 22-24

If you enjoy yarn spinning, weaving, rug hooking, knitting or crocheting, you are welcome to attend the March 22-24 spinners weekend at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). All skill levels are welcome. Experience the fun and fellowship of working on your projects with other yarn enthusiasts. The fee is \$180 for two nights; \$90 for one night, or \$25 for commuters. Meals are included

during your stay. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online at ursulinesmsj.org/conference-retreat-center/registration-sponsored programs. Future weekends are planned for May 31-June 2, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, and Nov. 15-17.

Confirmation Retreat Day March 23

This Confirmation Retreat Day is a great opportunity to add inspiration and energy to your youth's preparation for this important sacrament. Plan your Confirmation Retreat at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). Together with others, attendees will be led to share about prayer, their relationship with God, and the sacrament of Confirmation. Candidates will explore values such as trust, cooperation, and service, as well as celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. The retreat leader is Sister Michael Marie Friedman, OSU. The \$25 fee includes lunch. Groups of 10 or more receive a substantial discount. Please register by March 3. Call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or register online at ursulinesmsj.org/

conference-retreat-center/registration-sponsored programs.

Cathedral Preschool accepting registrations

Cathedral Preschool will begin accepting registration from families who currently have children enrolled as well as families who are members of St. Stephen Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 4, 2019. The following week registration will be open for the public. Children who are 3, 4 or 5 years old must celebrate their birthday on or before August 1, 2019 and have a current Kentucky immunization certificate to be eligible to register. The staff is eager to continue their mission in Christ, Creativity, and Curriculum to help children succeed in preparation for kindergarten. Please call the preschool office at (270) 926-1652 for more information or stop by for a visit at 600 Locust Street. Our website is: www.cathedralpreschool.com.

Save the date for St. Pius X Spring Bazaar

St. Pius X Parish in Calvert City will hold A Spring Bazaar on Saturday, April 27 at the Calvert City Civic Hall on 5th Ave. For more information, contact the parish office at (270) 395-4727.

Catholic Charities continued from page 8

domestic violence. Prior to Kentucky Legal Aid, Montalvo-Gesser was an associate at the law firm of Sullivan, Mountjoy, Stainback & Miller practicing exclusively in immigration law.

Montalvo-Gesser organized Owensboro's first Immigration Law Clinic, which is held monthly at SS. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.

Montalvo-Gesser said one goal is for Catholic Charities provide immigration and refugee services.

She also anticipates working with the parishes' social concerns committees to empower parishioners and share resources "to improve lives all over western Kentucky."

"You do have a skill and can share that skill with someone who needs it," she said. "Everybody can do something." ■



Finish Faithfully

For more information about how to include the Catholic church in your will or estate plan, contact Kevin Kauffeld at (270) 683-1545 or kevin.kauffeld@owensborodiocese.org.



Catholic Foundation
of Western Kentucky

We are Proud to Welcome

The Musical Talents of "His Own"



To Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church

Located at 902 E. 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240

Wednesday, February 20th –

Youth of our Parish and Diocese of Owensboro

Mass offered at 5:30 p.m. - Church

Simple Dinner at 6:30 p.m. – Gym

Concert and Faith Sharing at 7:00 p.m. - Church

Thursday, February 21st –

Women of our Parish and
Diocese of Owensboro

Beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Church
snacks served after the concert.

Cost \$5.00 per person.

Reserve your spot by calling 270-885-8522 or
www.stsppchurch.org and "Donate Now." If you
have questions or need further information email
Libby Downs at event@stsppchurch.org



Maria Spears, Christine Simpson,
Kara Klun (maternity leave)

Marriage enrichment helps prevent couples from reaching a ‘crisis point’ in relationship

BY DANNY MAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

One of the first things Bishop Medley asked me to do when I started in the Office of Marriage and Family Life was read Pope Francis’ “Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love; On Love in the Family,” which was Pope Francis’ response to the Synod on the Family in 2014 and 2015. It’s so good! And I think everyone would enjoy reading it. As my wife says, “it’s like he sat in your living room and had a conversation.”

One thing that stood out to me during that first read was Pope Francis’ suggestion that the Catholic Church increase our efforts in marriage enrichment. To paraphrase the point he was making, we do a good job as a Church preparing couples for marriage, and we have programs in place for struggling marriages, but we would be wise to support marriages that are “good” to keep them healthy and happy so they don’t reach a crisis point.

Now that I’ve been in the office for over a year and had a chance to see a full calendar programs cycle through the diocese and parishes, I agree with Pope Francis’ assessment even more. For that reason, the Office of Marriage and Family Life will make marriage enrichment a major priority in the next several years. It’s my dream that in a few more years, every couple in the diocese would be involved in some form of marriage enrichment in their parishes. Especially as the Living as Missionary Disciples initiative transitions into “Community” during Year Three (learn more about that at [\[cesse.org/evangelization\]\(http://cesse.org/evangelization\)\).](http://owensborodio-</p>
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Thankfully, there are parishes across the diocese doing great work in marriage enrichment. Examples include parish marriage retreats, “Great Dates” programs, hosting “Beloved” DVD discussion series, dances, and other events in the parish. In my opinion, anything that helps a good marriage grow even stronger can be considered marriage enrichment.

Here are a few marriage enrichment opportunities in the next few months:

- Catholic Men’s Conference of Western Kentucky | RiverPark Center, Owensboro | Saturday, Feb. 2
The 8th annual men’s conference brings Catholic evangelists to help men become better fathers, husbands, sons and brothers through life-changing presentations.
- Love: The Heart of Family | Featuring Kimberly Hahn | Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro | Saturday, Feb. 23
The Parish of the Immaculate and the Office of Marriage and Family Life co-host Mrs. Kimberly Hahn for a special day geared towards families.
- Greg and Julie Alexander | St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville | Saturday, May 4
St. Mary of the Woods will be presenting a day with Greg and Julie Alexander, founders of the Alexander House Apostolate. Be

watching The Western Kentucky Catholic, social media, and parish bulletins for more details.

The Office of Marriage and Family Life will do our best to keep parishes informed as other opportunities arise.

In the meantime, here’s another idea: have you ever tried an online retreat? In 2007, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops launched an entire website devoted to marriage enrichment called “For Your Marriage” to help couples at all stages of life understand and live God’s plan for happy, holy marriages by providing educational and spiritual resources. Every year they promote an online, seven-day retreat for married couples. Email me at danny.may@pastoral.org to receive this year’s retreat resources. ■

Danny May is the director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life in the Diocese of Owensboro. To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life.

Did You Know?

National Marriage Week 2019

is Feb. 7-14. Learn more at

ForYourMarriage.org.

'Black Migration' - Theme for Black History Month 2019

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Black Migration: The National Official Theme of Black History Month 2019 - Emphasizing the movement of people of African descent to new destinations and subsequently to new social realities, focusing on 1900 to the present.

Isabel Wilkerson (Smithsonian Magazine, The Long Lasting Legacy of the Great Migration, Sept. 2016) wrote, "The history of African-Americans is often distilled into two epochs: the 246 years of enslavement ending after the close of the Civil War, and the dramatic era of protest during the civil rights movement. Yet the Civil War-to-civil rights axis tempts us to leap past a century of resistance against subjugation, and to miss the human story of ordinary people, their hopes lifted by Emancipation, dashed at the end of Reconstruction, crushed further by Jim Crow, only to be finally, at long last, revived when they found the courage within themselves to break free." This article examines the effects of

black migration from the South to the North over the course of the 20th century on the black population and on America.

This year's theme seems to be especially relevant at this time in history because like the refugees who are currently fleeing persecution and severe hardship to come to America, African Americans who were already Americans in America fled from their homes in the South where they were restricted to the most menial of jobs, underpaid if paid at all, frequently barred from voting and subject to all forms of physical and emotional torture/terrorism.

"Between 1880 and 1950, an African-American was lynched more than once a week" (Isabel Wilkerson).

"... They left as though they were fleeing some curse," wrote the scholar Emmett J. Scott, an observer of the early years of the migration. Willing to make almost any sacrifice to get out of the South despite the physical, legal and personal barriers erected to prevent their flight, they left in search of a better life.

It was in the 70s that a new self-awareness and search for justice, truth and yes our "roots" that the Migration turned Southward and many began to return home. Perhaps it was time, for it has always been the strong faith in God that has sustained us. As Christians we have faith and we must trust that we are doing God's will. "Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm" (Ephesians 6:13). ■

F. Veronica Wilhite is the director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/black-catholic-ministry.

Events for Black History Month 2019

This year, in celebration of Black History Month, the Office of Black Catholic Ministry will sponsor The Black History Series on WNIN.

Be sure to tune in on:

Monday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. Antiques Roadshow "Celebrating Black Americana"

Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. "Freedom Tales" with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Friday, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. "Pipeline" Live from Lincoln Center

Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. George Washington Carver: An Uncommon Life

Sunday, Feb. 10 at 10 p.m. Independent Lens Black Memorabilia"

Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. American Masters: Sammy Davis, Jr.

Friday, Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. American Masters: Charley Pride

Additionally, Blessed Sacrament Chapel will host the annual Black History Month Gospel Explosion on Feb. 17 at 2 p.m.

Contemplative Weekend

February 8-10

6:30 p.m. Friday - 1 p.m. Sunday



**Slow down...Catch your breath...
Find your calm.**

This quiet weekend away allows personal time with God and with self. Sister Mary Matthias Ward will meet with you. Spiritual direction is available for those who wish it.

All are welcome.

Cost: \$180 includes meals & accommodations

To register, call 270-229-0206

retreatcenter@maplemount.org

Or register online: ursulinesmsj.org



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Blessed Mother celebrates Epiphany ‘fit for a king’



COURTESY OF BLESSED MOTHER PARISH
Kori, Katie, and Kyler Wilkerson portray the Magi on Jan. 6 at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro.

BY NORM HAYDEN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro celebrated the Epiphany in a manner fit for a King! Saturday evening Mass (Jan. 5) was followed by the annual Epiphany Party Speaker Series in the parish hall. Parishioners and friends gathered together for a potluck meal. The parishioners brought their favorite covered dishes and the parish provided our award-winning cooking team’s BBQ. The dessert was a “King Cake.” The Baby Jesus was hidden in the cake for the lucky recipient to find and receive a prize. Donated gift cards were given as door prizes during the evening. Throughout the evening, mu-

sic was provided by the Mayfield Family and pianist Sharon Hudson. During their intermission, Norm Hayden, DRE, discussed the gifts of the Magi during this Christmas season alongside the gifts of our parishioners.

Every weekend Mass included children who represented the Star and Magi. During Mass on Sunday evening, Kori, Katie, and Kyler Wilkerson portrayed the Magi during the offertory as they processed in with gifts representing gold, frankincense, and myrrh and placed them before the Christ Child in the Nativity scene. ■

Norm Hayden is the director of religious education at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro.

National Migration Week 2019 closes with cathedral Mass



TINA KASEY | WKC
Bishop Medley lifts up the Eucharist during the closing Mass for National Migration Week at St. Stephen Cathedral on Jan. 11, 2019. He is assisted by Deacon Chris Gutiérrez (left) and Deacon Heriberto Rodriguez.

BY WKC STAFF

National Migration Week, which has been celebrated by the Catholic Church in the United States for nearly 50 years, was held this year from Jan. 6-12, 2019. Bishop William F. Medley presided at a National Migration Week closing Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro during the evening of Jan. 11. According to Justice for Immigrants, the immigration reform campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, this week serves to reflect on the circumstances facing migrants – including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. To learn more about immigration reform in light of Catholic Social Teaching, visit justiceforimmigrants.org. ■

‘The Word of God comes alive...’

SEEK participants ‘cannot wait’ to see God’s work in their lives post-conference



COURTESY OF MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY NEWMAN HOUSE
Three members of the group that traveled to SEEK 2019 from Murray State University’s Newman House (left to right) Alex Kaufmann, Eli Oltean and Chris Stahl.

BY WKC STAFF

A “greater appreciation of the Eucharist” is what Hunter LeBlanc took away from the Jan. 3-7, 2019 SEEK conference in Indianapolis, hosted by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

SEEK brought together approximately 17,000 college and university students and other young adults from around the U.S. and several international locations for an extended weekend of fellowship, prayer, talks, and the celebration of the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. This year’s theme was SEEK 2019: Encounter Something More.

An estimated 400 priests, including several bishops, attended and assisted with hearing the more than 6,500 confessions.

Two groups attended from the region of the Diocese of Owensboro, with approximately 65 people



COURTESY OF KATELYN NOLL
Kayla Austin, Katelyn Noll and Marti Frank – all who traveled to SEEK 2019 with a group from Western Kentucky University’s Newman Center – pose with cardboard cutouts of Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis.

traveling from the Newman House at Murray State University, and approximately 90 from the Newman Center at Western Kentucky University.

LeBlanc, a freshman at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, said he was moved by the experience of attending Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in such a massive crowd – “looking behind you and seeing the sea of people all around you.”

LeBlanc told The Western Kentucky Catholic this was his first time attending SEEK. He said that after SEEK, it is “definitely on my heart” to take a more active role in evangelizing “on my campus.”

“I feel that SEEK has inspired me to want to reach out to people outside the Church,” he said.

WKU sophomore Emma Cox posted on Facebook after SEEK: “Where are you going? What are

you looking for? I found it this week. I am truly privileged to have gotten to know all of these people better. I have gotten to know and see Christ in them, and Christ work in their lives. God is SO good, and is working in every life, and I cannot wait to see Him work in my life and allow me to have Him work through me. It’s all yours Lord. Thy will be done. Amen.”

Among the participants who traveled with the Murray group was former MSU student Eli Oltean, who is not of the Catholic faith tradition.

“The Word of God comes alive with every talk and every person you encounter... and especially, not being Catholic, it changes your life in ways that you never expect,” said Oltean.

One of Murray’s Newman House participants, Jessica Barnes, was honored at SEEK by having her artwork displayed as part of a FOCUS initiative called “Awaken: To the Mystery of Christ.” The initiative showed how to use art as a form to engage an encounter with God.

Barnes is not a college student but is an active member of Murray’s Newman House, which is part of the organization’s goals of welcoming anyone who desires an encounter with God, whether or not the person attends MSU, is a student or recent graduate, or even Catholic.

Reilly Cordell, a junior at WKU, posted on Facebook about the experience, summarizing SEEK as “amazing.”

“My relationship with the Lord was definitely strengthened at this conference!” Cordell wrote. ■

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, CSsR, the director of Murray State University’s Newman House, and Kara Bekebrede, director of WKU’s FOCUS team, contributed to this report.

Youth collaborate in Paducah to help local St. Vincent de Paul store



COURTESY OF RONA CHUA

Students pictured on Dec. 15, 2018 in no particular order are Robert Pacheco, Therese Smith, Nadia Pacheco, Andrea Alvarez, Thomas Humm, Joseph Humm, Catherine Beckner, Charlie Beckner, Dale Bautista, Gavin Belford, Callie Belford, Erin Gillituk, Brandon Trevathan, Ryan Chua, Renee Chua, Samantha Becker, Brenda Jimenez, Estrella Machaen, Gaudalupe Molina, Maria Aguirre, Miriam Jiminez, Miriam Jimenez, Christina Machean, Gregory Pastor, Arisdelsy Garcia, Emilio Bautista and Melany Gonzalez. Catechists attending are Paul Humm, Mike Vessels, Richard Vieitez, Karen Kelley and Norma Molina.

BY GLYNN SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In the reflective and giving mood of Advent the students of Paducah Faith Formation and the St. Thomas More Hispanic Confirmation students joined together at the St. Vincent de Paul budget store in Paducah to offer their assistance to Pa-

ducah's needy through a Catholic community service. Twenty-six students and five catechists participated in the cleanup of the store, sorting, bagging and straightening of the goods that are affordably priced for those trying to make ends meet in these difficult times.

The store receives donations which have to be



COURTESY OF GING SMITH

Fourth-graders Gavin Belford, Charlie Beckner, Dale Bautista, and Gregory Pastor dust the floor in the St. Vincent de Paul budget store in Paducah on Dec. 15, 2018.

sorted, priced, tagged and put on display; a true labor of love for the volunteers who work there. Hundreds of items are received daily, ranging from clothes to furniture, china to bedframes, books to computers, and the students are always happy to help, enjoying their time with the regular volunteers and the public which they assist.

Continues on page 17

Confirmation students continued from page 16

Blessed Frederic Ozanam founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Paris, France in 1834, basing the works of the Society on the spirituality of St. Vincent; “[B]efore all else, this saint of the poor conceived of spirituality as practical and active. Interior spirituality, even the love of God, however good and desirable, was suspect to St. Vincent if it did not lead to the practice of effective love.... Serving the poor of the earth, St. Vincent insisted that Christians must be joyful... [and] while prayer was essential to spiritual life, St. Vincent stressed its practical consequences. Prayer should help us in our occupations and vocations; it should keep us from sin and permit us to live in charity.” (Source: U.S. Manual of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 1999.)

In the grace of God, hopefully the students will continue to reflect on their time at the budget store as a gift from God, as a gift to God, and as a prayer and work of love for others. ■

Glynn Smith is the office assistant for Paducah Faith Formation.

Celebrating life in Washington, D.C.



COURTESY OF CARRIE HOWARD



COURTESY OF AMANDA VAN BUSSUM

Editor’s note: On Jan. 18, 2019, approximately 100,000 people gathered for the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. to remember the Supreme Court’s Jan. 22, 1973 decision to legalize abortion through all nine months of pregnancy, and to work for an end to abortion. Participants included several groups from the Diocese of Owensboro, who shared their pictures with the WKC.

Top photo: Participants in the group from St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville - Stacey Rhodes, Paul Rhodes, Tommy Rhodes, Allanson Rhodes, Clayton Rhodes, and Larena Lawson - smile for a picture at the 2019 March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Bottom photo: During their trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life, a parent-sponsored group including students from Owensboro Catholic Middle School visited the nearby Saint John Paul II National Shrine. ■

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MARCH 8-10, 2019
BRESCIA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS CENTER

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**“I AM THE
LIVING
BREAD
THAT HAS
COME
DOWN
FROM
HEAVEN.”
JOHN 6:51**



Middle-schoolers begin ‘Family’ structure at St. Joseph



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
The Family of Elijah, dressed in red, at St. Joseph School in Bowling Green.

BY RODNEY SCHWARTZ, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

At St. Joseph’s Interparochial School in Bowling Green, the middle school students recently transformed their former “house” system into a new “Family” structure, whereby students can mingle on occasion, foster leadership, engage in friendly and fun academic and athletic competitions, and create a warm learning culture at the school.

The students and staff got together on Friday, Jan. 4 to “sort” the students and introduce the

new structure. The discussion began with the school’s mission statement: “The mission of St. Joseph School is to teach as Jesus did, challenging students to embrace the gospel message, to achieve their academic best, and to make a positive difference in the world.”

Leading from the mission statement of our school, grades 6-8 will strive to live their lives in a purposeful, Christ-centered way, interacting with one another and holding each other accountable to the directive of Jesus to love our neighbor as we

love ourselves.

Mixing the students from all grades in the Family provides more opportunities for students to meet peers with whom they may not otherwise interact. When all students feel they can make a difference, it creates a climate where students and teachers want to be making the Family System a win-win situation. At St. Joseph’s School, we want students to build relationships with each other and with our faculty in meaningful, healthy ways. There are three Families within the school, each named for someone whose example of openness, faith, and service to others provides us inspiration to live as Christ desires us to live; we have selected Abraham, Moses and Elijah.

The Families are comprised of students from every grade level grades 6 through 8, led by a faculty leader and assistant leader. Students are assigned and will remain in the same family throughout their middle school years. To build identities, the school sponsors “Family games” and various other competitions throughout the year, leading to the “Family Cup” awarded to the one which accumulates the most points by year end. All middle school students will receive a baseball-sleeve t-shirt that goes with their new Family – one with navy sleeves, one with yellow, and one with red – the colors infused into everyday school uniform components.

Families earn points in a variety of ways. The first way is through grades they obtain in their classes. Each month, a grade point average (GPA) is calculated for each Family, based upon the fol-

Continues on page 19



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
The Family of Abraham, dressed in gold, at St. Joseph School in Bowling Green.



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
The Family of Moses, dressed in blue, at St. Joseph School in Bowling Green.

St. Joseph Family continued from page 18

lowing system: 12 points for an A+, 11 for an A, 10 for an A-, 9 for a B+... all the way down to 1 for a D- and 0 points for an F. Those totals are calculated for a Family Total.

They can also earn points via daily attendance percentages. Each month, students earn 1 point for every 10 percent of that rate. For instance, 100 percent attendance earn 10 points for their Family. Students with 87 percent attendance, moreover, would earn 8.7 points, and so on.

A third way to earn points is by being attentive and displaying appropriate behavior in class and in school. Each month, the Family's students start with 100 points and lose 1 point for each type of behavior or uniform infraction in that group.

Another way is to assign points based upon each school activity (sport, club, group, etc.) that a student participates in from the outset of the school year. Each student gets 10 points per activity. For example, a student who plays basketball, is in the art club, and on the academic team would earn 30 points for 3 activities.

The final way for earning credit is how the Family performs in the monthly challenges. Points are earned in the following way—100 for 1st place, 75 for 2nd, and 50 for 3rd.

At the end of each calendar month, charts will be placed around the school hallways to show where each Family stands, and who is ahead to win the "Family Cup" trophy at year's end.

If you would like more information on this, please contact the school at 270-842-1235. ■

Rodney Schwartz is principal of St. Joseph Interparochial School in Bowling Green.

February Wedding Anniversaries

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Thomas & Janice Foster, 63
Vince & Joan Frey, 60
John, Jr. & Mary Medley, 58
Joe & Christal Towery, 25
Leo & Mary Hagan, 54

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Darren & Shawn Dockemeyer, 25
Bernard & Betty Feltrop, 64
John & Carlene Gabe, 56
Ernesto Sanchez & Maria Gomez, 25
Fred & Michaelene Guillerman, 53
Jim & Patty Hanley, 40
Kenneth & Harriett Hite, 52
Richard & Doris Market, 56
Richard & Kathy Powell, 52
Mike & Bobbie Ann Willett, 56
Norman & Mary Anne Williams, 54

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Donald & Mary Jane Scarbeau, 59
Carroll & Virginia Hughes, 53
James & Patricia Signorello, 52
Charles & Veronica Shankar, 25
Peter & Kaye Buser, 52
Donald & Janet Mott, 51
Victor & Marti Billhartz, 50
Adam & Samantha O'Leary, 5
Carlos & Sandra Kummerfeldt, 5

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Fred & Rose Conti, 59

Immaculate Conception,

Hawesville

Denis & Martha Wheatley, 59

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

John & Vickie Ballard, 5
Joseph & Jennifer Galloway, 53
Francis & Doreen Russell, 55
Larry & Linda Field, 57
George & Martha Taylor, 63
George & Brenda Hardesty, 51

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Fred & Gloria Zinobile, 64
Gary & Patricia Satterwhite, 59
William & Lyndel Maddox, 52
James & Patricia Krampe, 59
Robert E. & Mary Ramage, 54

Precious Blood, Owensboro

James & Rita Cecil, 58
Wayne & Linda Winfield, 50
Guy & Linda Connor, 58

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Give us this day our Daily Bread

Editor's note: This article is the fourth in a series begun in November 2018 on the topic of the Our Father prayer and its connection to the work of evangelization.

BY JOE BLAND,
OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION

A few years ago when I was working in parish and high school ministry my schedule allowed me one summer to attend daily Mass. My preferred time was the 8 a.m. Mass and I assisted the priest as a sacristan and also served during Mass. There was one particular weekday Mass, a Mass not unlike any other, except for the fact that at this Mass I had a profound encounter with Jesus. One might say it was just an ordinary Mass but there wasn't anything ordinary about it. I was kneeling off to the side of the sanctuary during the Eucharistic Prayer. Immediately following the Lamb of God and the prayer that we the faithful say, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed," I heard a voice in my head say this prayer audibly, "Lord as I consume you I allow you to consume me." I had never before heard or prayed that prayer but I know that the Lord placed that prayer in my mind and on my heart for a reason and my Communion experiences have never been

the same.

When we look at the Lord's Prayer I believe this part of the prayer is a prayer of surrender. We are acknowledging our complete dependence on God the Father to sustain us. If you have been reading along for the past few months you will know that we



said that we are asking the Lord to do His will here on earth as in Heaven; we are asking Him to bring Heaven to earth. Then following that we are asking Him to sustain us with food daily.

So, if we are asking for daily bread then we are

asking for two things. First, the means to provide and put food on the table for our family – as the family is a communion of persons or a communion of love that mirrors the Trinity. But also there is the need for the eternal bread, the bread from Heaven that sustains us.

This bread that comes from Heaven is the bread for our souls but my question is how many of us treat it as such? How many of our Catholics today truly know and understand what we are receiving. Now I know that on this side of Heaven none of us will ever truly comprehend what we are receiving in the Blessed Sacrament. But have we given any thought to what we say "Amen" to every Sunday? How many of us receive Jesus – body, blood, soul and divinity – each Sunday and really give thought what we are taking into our bodies? My prayer is that we all discern this.

You are consuming the King of the Universe. The God that loves you and sustains your life is allowing you to consume him, his flesh and blood so that you may have supernatural life. It is this flesh that is the

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Offer more time to God this Lent

BY KELLEY WHEATLEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

By the time this article reaches most of you, we will be preparing ourselves for the Lenten season. Do you ever catch yourself procrastinating, "Well, I will do it tomorrow or maybe next week," but whenever you do what you are trying to put off you are glad to have it done. My youngest daughter made a statement the other day that made me think long and hard about Lent. She said, "I'm

not going to give anything up this year; instead I am going to do something." Something I have been procrastinating about for a long time is giving more time to God. Rather than giving something up this year, I am going to give more time to Christ. We can do this through daily prayer, reading the Bible, extra Masses and a whole assortment of different ways. One that I would like to invite you to consider and think long and hard about is the upcoming Men's and Women's Cursillo weekends (Men's is Feb. 28-March 3; Women's is March 7-10). This is a

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great opportunity not only to start your Lenten adventure but to spend more quality time with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Lord is waiting on YOU. ■

DeColores - Kelley Wheatley

Kelley Wheatley is a parishioner of St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport. Learn more about Cursillo at cursillo-owensboro.org.

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hinge of our salvation and this flesh came to redeem our flesh. It is by his flesh that he saves us. As you may recall from a previous article the word “save” also comes from the same root as the word “heal,” so the Eucharist is also a Sacrament of Healing. What we should want is for the Eucharist to not only heal us but to conform us to who we consume. The more we conform our lives to his and let him consume us the better we become as evangelists. We will want to go out and bring others to Christ.

St. John Paull II said, “In order to evangelize the world, we need experts in the celebration, adoration and contemplation of the Holy Eucharist” (Message for World Mission Sunday, October 24, 2004). May the Lord sustain you with his daily bread and may you let him consume you to transform you into “alter Christi,” another Christ. n

Joe Bland is the director of the Office of Evangelization in the Diocese of Owensboro. To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/evangelization.

Accompanying the marginalized in western Kentucky

BY SUSAN MONTALVO-GESSER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

How appropriate that I begin my tenure as director of Catholic Charities in the Year of Accompaniment. I see Catholic Charities as the “field hospital” that Pope Francis called the Church to be... to accompany the poor, marginalized, and those deemed disposable by our society. I hope to build a Catholic Charities for the diocese wherein the faithful can engage in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and welcoming the stranger. My passion for social justice started early in life and each experience God allowed me to have prepared me to lead this organization.

I grew up in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and until I was around 12 years-of-age, lived a very comfortable middle-class life. My life changed drastically when my parents divorced and I was introduced to poverty. I had already known what it was to be different, in that my father was a Bolivian immigrant and we were part of a miniscule Latino community in Owensboro. Growing up Latina in a single-parent, impoverished household was humbling. And now, I

thank God for that experience! One of the greatest gifts God ever gave me was to know the experience of the poor. I feel that it made me know how to accompany the poor on their journey... how to empathize, how to see solutions, how to find resiliency.

So where do we begin this task of accompaniment of the marginalized in the diocese of western Kentucky? We begin with discovering the needs of the people in western Kentucky. Through researching poverty and demographic data of our diocese, I have discovered that we have about one-fifth of our brothers and sisters living in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau, SAIPE Program). The poverty data is even more heartbreaking for the children in our diocese where in 12 of our counties, one-in-four children are living in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau, SAIPE Program). Because of these high poverty rates, we will need to coordinate efforts to alleviate poverty.

Also, the demographic data shows that our population is changing. A 2004 CARA Report (“Identifying U.S. Hispanic Catholics,” Vol. 10, No. 2) estimated that there were 98,000 non-citizens living in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and some 12,576

undocumented persons living in our diocese. This change is something I have witnessed firsthand at the immigration clinic I have run for the last dozen years. The needs of the Hispanic and immigrant communities are a focus of Catholic Charities USA. In that vein, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro will have services for immigrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking/abuse.

Reviewing the data is important, but more importantly we need to understand the view from our parishes’ perspectives, so I am seeking input from pastors and parish staff. I am also asking you to get involved as the hands and feet of Jesus. We at Catholic Charities can give you opportunities to accompany the marginalized. With your help, we can link the work of parish social concerns committees, St. Vincent de Paul Societies, and Catholic Charities. I am so excited and hopeful for this work and I hope to get you involved with it as well. ■

Susan Montalvo-Gesser is the director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Owensboro.

100-year-old priest ‘grew up with the diocese’



MEL HOWARD | WKC
Fr. George Hancock sits at his desk at the Catholic Pastoral Center in this undated photo.

Editor's note: The following continues an ongoing WKC series introducing priests from the Diocese of Owensboro who will share their stories and why they love their vocations.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A priest in the Diocese of Owensboro who turns 100 on Feb. 2, 2019 knows that from all eternity, “there was an image in God’s mind that there was George Hancock, and he was going to be a priest.”

“From the time that I was a little boy I wanted

to be a priest,” Msgr. George Hancock told The Western Kentucky Catholic in a Jan. 14, 2019 interview.

Msgr. Hancock, who was born in 1919 in Waverly, said he would “play Mass as a little boy,” with his sister assisting him as an altar server.

He graduated from high school in 1937; incidentally, the same year that the Diocese of Owensboro was founded.

(Prior to 1937, the Diocese of Louisville oversaw the territories in western Kentucky. In 1937, Louisville was elevated to an archdiocese, and the

Diocese of Owensboro became its own entity.)

“I have grown up with the diocese,” said Msgr. Hancock.

Msgr. Hancock said he never really talked to anyone about his vocation in particular; he just knew. And somehow, everyone around him “knew” as well: “My parents, teachers, friends,” he said, remembering “a whole lot of encouragement” toward the idea of the priesthood.

After graduating from high school, Msgr. Hancock worked on the family farm for a year. Money was tight, and he could not afford the \$300/year tuition at St. Meinrad Seminary.

At the time, the brand-new diocese could not pay for seminarians’ educations as it does today.

Miraculously, Msgr. Hancock was able to enter seminary the following year, thanks to a great-uncle who provided some financial assistance.

In the first years after Msgr. Hancock’s 1947 ordination, he served at several parishes around the diocese. Bishop Francis R. Cotton then sent him to Rome to study canon law, where he received his canon law degree in 1954.

He served at several parishes around the diocese for a number of years, and then Msgr. Hancock was appointed to be the diocese’s chancellor in 1963 – which was historical in more ways than one.

He began his first day of work as chancellor on Monday, Nov. 18, 1963.

“President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on Friday,” he said, recalling being told the news from someone who had heard it on the radio.

Another memorable aspect of his 72 years of

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priesthood was helping to establish two parishes: St. Henry Parish in Aurora (1967), and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Grand Rivers (1966).

Back in the day, “many tourists visited but there was no Mass for them,” Msgr. Hancock said of the people vacationed in the Land Between the Lakes.

“Pavilions,” consisting of a metal roof on a frame with a concrete slab, were constructed for both the Aurora and Grand Rivers locations. They provided a basic shelter for celebrating Mass.

While still serving as the chancellor, “I went down there on the weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day,” said Msgr. Hancock.

He stayed in a tent on Saturday night so that he could make it to Sunday Mass; “everyone else was

camping, so I did, too,” he told the WKC.

Eventually, churches were built for both parishes; in fact St. Henry Parish was the first of Bishop John J. McRaith’s church dedications.

Msgr. Hancock said he entered the priesthood “with the idea of giving myself,” and after working “nights and days” for many years to serve his many parishes, “I would do it all over again.”

He said his favorite aspect of the priesthood is “offering Holy Mass.”

“God has given me the power to take a piece of bread and wine and pronounce some words and they become the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ,” he said. “For the glory of God and the salvation of souls – those two things, when you get down to it.” ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

On Jan. 14, 2019, Msgr. George Hancock stands in front of two framed collections of photos given to him by St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Grand Rivers on his 85th birthday in 2004.



Photo Courtesy of Lolek Productions

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Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

San Blas vivió durante el siglo IV. Sabemos muy poco acerca de su vida, pero de acuerdo con los relatos de la tradición, fue un médico antes de convertirse en obispo. Fue el obispo de Sebaste en Armenia. Al menos desde el siglo VIII, se le ha identificado con el ministerio de sanación de la Iglesia Católica porque se dice que curó milagrosamente a un niño pequeño que casi murió a causa de una espina de pescado en su garganta.

Su fiesta es el 3 de febrero y es costumbre en este día que se bendiga las gargantas de los fieles de acuerdo con el ritual. Se atan dos velas en forma de cruz. Las velas apagadas se juntan en la garganta y se dice la siguiente oración: "Por la intercesión de San Blas, obispo y mártir, te libre Dios de todo mal de garganta y de cualquier otro mal: En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo".

La bendición de las gargantas no es más que un ritual de bendición de la Iglesia Católica. Tales bendiciones son parte de la rica tradición de los sacramentales de la Iglesia. Entonces, ¿qué son los sacramentales?

Para definir los sacramentales, deberíamos definir los sacramentos, que es una palabra mucho más conocida. Los Siete Sacramentos típicamente celebran los momentos cumbres de la vida humana, como el nacimiento (Bautismo), una boda (Matrimonio) y los llamados extraordinarios al

servicio (Órdenes Sagradas). Algunos Sacramentos tienen el propósito de santificarnos con frecuencia, como son la Sagrada Eucaristía y la Reconciliación.

Los sacramentales son objetos o experiencias que son formas importantes de santificar los momentos cotidianos de nuestras vidas. Entre los sacramentales bien conocidos se encuentran los crucifijos, el agua bendita, los rosarios, las medallas benditas, los escapularios y más. Entre ellas se encuentran bendiciones simples, como la bendición de gargantas, la recepción de las Cenizas benditas el Miércoles de Ceniza y las Palmas benditas recibidas el Domingo de Ramos. Estos son objetos o experiencias que nos santifican.

La Navidad pasada les di el regalo de un nuevo libro a todos nuestros sacerdotes. El libro se llama "La Bendición sacerdotal: Redescubriendo el regalo" por el P. Stephen Rosetti. El P. Rosetti reta a los sacerdotes y a los fieles a redescubrir una teología renovada de la bendición sacerdotal y acoger el hábito de bendecir a las personas, los objetos y los eventos.

En nuestra vida tan sofisticada en el siglo XXI, es posible que nos hayamos sido laxos con respecto a las bendiciones. Quizás hemos tenido el miedo de que nuestra rica costumbre de bendiciones se confunda con nociones de magia. De verdad, eso podría ser un peligro, pero al mismo tiempo podemos reconocer que las esperanzas y los temores de las personas de nuestra época no son tan diferentes de los de la gente en tiempos pasados, ya sea hace cientos e incluso miles de años atrás. De hecho, las bendiciones han existido desde el Antiguo Testamento. En realidad, tales rituales e invocaciones se encuen-

EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA FEBRERO 2019:

FEB 2	9 a.m. Institución al Ministerio de Lector para los Candidatos al Diaconado Permanente – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
FEB 3	10 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Owensboro
FEB 5	6 p.m. Oración de Lamento y Reparación – Catedral
FEB 6	Mediodía Reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Fundación Católica – Centro Católico McRaith (MCC)
FEB 9	9 a.m. Institución al Ministerio de Acolitado de Corey Bruns, Christopher Kight y Martin Ma Na Ling – Catedral
FEB 11	6:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Owensboro
FEB 16	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Francisco de Sales, Paducah
FEB 18	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – MCC 1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – MCC
FEB 19	Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky – Louisville
FEB 20	Reunión de los Obispos de la Provincia – Louisville
FEB 24	9:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Juan Evangelista, Paducah
FEB 25	8 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela San Pablo, Leitchfield
FEB 26	Escuela San Pablo, Leitchfield
FEB 27	6:00 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Antonio, Browns Valley

tran en muchas culturas antiguas, lo que significa un entendimiento innato entre las personas humanas



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de que existe una fuente de vida y bondad y que esa fuente es divina.

La Iglesia católica tiene decenas de bendiciones prescritas para las personas, para edificios y actividades humanas, para objetos y artículos religiosos. Quizás la bendición más conocida sea la universal. Cuando una persona estornuda, casi instintivamente muchos decimos: "Dios te bendiga". O por lo menos es la costumbre en inglés. Esto puede ser solo un hábito y puede ser dicho por personas que no tienen ninguna fe en particular. Al mismo tiempo, ¿no podría ser un reconocimiento sutil pero real de que Dios es la fuente de la bendición? Para agradecer algún favor, podríamos decir: "Dios te lo pague". Aunque estos no siempre sean actos conscientes de fe u oración, quizás todos podamos esforzarnos por asegurar que sean genuinos y, con frecuencia, un verdadero acto de fe, esperanza y amor.

En el Rito de Bautismo de Niños, el sacerdote o diácono invita a los padres y padrinos a trazar una cruz en la frente del bebé. No se requieren palabras. Siempre les he dicho a los padres que deben repetir

este símbolo y acción todos los días hasta que los niños aprendan a hacer la Señal de la Cruz por sí mismos. Si les han dicho seguido las palabras "En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo," nunca tendrán que enseñarles intencionalmente esas palabras.

Recuerdo a una madre que me dijo que cuando sus hijos se acostaban todas las noches, ella se les acercaba para trazar la cruz en la frente. A veces estaban despiertos, a veces dormidos. En algún momento, tal vez cuando ya eran los adolescentes y siempre estaban despiertos más tarde que la mamá, la práctica desapareció. Un día su hijo de 14 años le preguntó: "Mamá, ¿por qué ya no me bendices?"

Nunca dejamos atrás la necesidad de las bendiciones de Dios. ■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

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434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101
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113 South 3rd Street, Central City, KY 42330
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403 North Main Street, Franklin, KY 42134
Contacto: Padre Daniel Dillard (270) 586-4515

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511 2nd Street, Henderson, KY 42420
Contacto: Abraham Brown (270) 724-2172

Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville

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

902 East 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
Contacto: Padre Michael Charles Abiero (270) 885-8522 o Mayra Tirado (270) 498-6456

Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville

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1600 Kingsway Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431
Contacto: Padre Carl McCarthy (270) 821-5494

Parroquia de San José, Mayfield

Domingos – 12:30 p.m.

702 West Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066
Contacto: Hermana Eloisa Torralba (270) 356-0339

Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown

Domingos – 9:15 a.m.

766 Logansport Road, Morgantown, KY 42261
Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (270) 526-3723 o parroquia (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray

Sábados – 5:30 p.m.

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

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 8:00 p.m.

609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, KY 42303
Contacto: Padre Basilio Az Cuc o Padre Jean Rene Kalombo (270) 683-5641

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

Domingos – 1:00 p.m.

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001
Contacto: Hermana Celia Sanchez (423) 883-5757

Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Russellville

Domingos – 2:00 p.m.

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

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree

Miércoles – 12:00 p.m.

Jueves – 12:00 p.m.
Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 7:30 p.m.

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

¡Tu parroquia podría salir en el Católico de Kentucky Occidental!

¿Están pasando cosas emocionantes en tu parroquia? ¿Quieren compartir las buenas noticias con otras personas católicas en Kentucky occidental? Si quieres compartir, favor de mandar las fotos y la información por correo electrónico a la editora, Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, al wkc.editor@pastoral.org.



Usted tiene una voz

Coordinadora que habla español proporciona una "vía" para los alegatos de abuso



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Nuria Elizondo fue nombrada Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral para los que hablan español en la Diócesis de Owensboro en diciembre de 2018.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Nuria Elizondo, la nueva Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (PAC) para la Diócesis de Owensboro para los que hablan español, tiene un mensaje para cualquier persona que la llame para denunciar el abuso por parte de alguien que actúa en el nombre de la Iglesia Católica.

"La Iglesia siempre lo apoyará pase lo que pase", dijo en una entrevista el 14 de enero con el Católico

de Kentucky Occidental.

El PAC es la persona que se encuentra en el otro lado de la línea telefónica confidencial (disponible las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana) que recibe informes de abuso sexual por parte de cualquier persona que sirve a la Iglesia.

Cualquier persona puede llamar al número de teléfono, sin importar quién sea, cuándo haya ocurrido el abuso o si el presunto perpetrador esté vivo o haya fallecido.

Se requiere que todas las diócesis de los Estados Unidos tengan a alguien que desempeñe este papel, de acuerdo con el Estatuto para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes que se creó después de que se hizo público el escándalo de abusos sexuales cometidos por el clero de la Iglesia Católica de EE. UU.

Elizondo, quien habla español e inglés, recibió su nombramiento en diciembre de 2018 para atender las necesidades de la creciente población hispanohablante del oeste de Kentucky.

La contraparte de habla inglesa de Elizondo, Louanne Payne también está disponible a través de una línea telefónica confidencial las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, para las personas que hablan inglés.

Payne explicó que ella y Elizondo no son consejeras, sino voluntarias que sirven en nombre de la Iglesia. El trabajo cotidiano de Elizondo es ingeniero industrial; Payne trabaja como directora del tribunal de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Payne y Elizondo le dijeron al WKC los diferentes protocolos que siguen un informe de abuso, "dependiendo de las personas involucradas", dijo Payne. Pero algunos aspectos siguen siendo consistentes en todas las situaciones.

Ella dijo que el PAC toma el tiempo para reunirse en persona con la persona que llama, ya sea en el centro pastoral de la Diócesis de Owensboro, o en otro lugar si eso es preferible. El PAC ayuda a la persona a encontrar consejería y/o dirección espiritual.

Además, "esto se mantiene privado", dijo Elizondo, explicando que el nombre de cualquier persona

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que hace un alegato nunca se da a conocer al público.

El alegato informado a Elizondo o a Payne se comunica al obispo y/o a la Junta de Revisión Diocesana (un comité que revisa todos los alegatos de abuso contra personas que actúen en nombre de la Iglesia en la Diócesis de Owensboro).

Payne dijo que, si el presunto perpetrador se encuentra en un ministerio activo, por ejemplo, es el párroco de una parroquia, son removidos de inmediato de esa posición para asegurarse de que nadie más pueda sufrir daños.

Y dentro de las primeras 48 horas de recibir un informe, la Junta de Revisión Diocesana tiene que comunicarse con las autoridades civiles.

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director del Ministerio Hispano/Latino en la Diócesis de Owensboro, abordó algunas preocupaciones que pueden sentir los inmigrantes y/o personas indocumentadas que dudan en hacer un informe, por temor a llamar la atención sobre su estatus legal.

“Lo que quiero es ayudar a los inmigrantes a entender de que deben ser escuchados; tienen una

voz”, dijo al WKC. Mencionó que, para los latinos, Elizondo sirve como “una vía por la cual se puede escuchar sus voces”.

El Diácono Gutiérrez dijo que algunos inmigrantes que ahora residen en el oeste de Kentucky podrían haber sufrido abusos en sus países de origen. Si ese es el caso, Elizondo también está disponible para escucharlos y ofrecer apoyo. “Como diócesis estamos nosotros comprometidos a responder en buscarles apoyo necesario y también dar parte a cualquier diócesis implicada,” aseguró el Diácono Gutiérrez.

“La población indocumentada en general es muy vulnerable”, comentó.

El Diácono Gutiérrez dijo que Elizondo será alguien “que los escuchará en su dolor, sin juicio”.

El Diácono Gutiérrez reconoció la aversión en las culturas latinoamericanas por decir algo negativo acerca de un sacerdote, religioso o cualquier persona que se perciba como “en un pedestal” en la Iglesia. Dijo que esto no debería prevenir que alguien denuncie abusos.

“También somos personas”, dijo el Diácono Guti-

érrez, hablando como alguien que también es miembro del clero, y enfatizó que en los ojos de Dios, nadie es más grande que otra persona.

El nombramiento de Elizondo “no dice ni insinúa que sepamos ni sospechemos ningún tipo de abuso” entre las comunidades de inmigrantes en la diócesis, agregó el diácono.

“Pero cuando vemos lo que está sucediendo en el país entre los que hablan inglés, también deseábamos proveer un medio en español”, dijo. ■

Para hacer informes de abuso sospechado, llame a la Línea directa para la Protección de Niños de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597- 2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su fiscal local del Commonwealth (estado). Para hacer informes de abuso a la diócesis, actual o pasada, por cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a Nuria Elizondo, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270 -880-8360 o a Louanne Payne, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380. También puede visitar la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro (owensborodiocese.org/safe) para obtener más información.



El obispo Medley celebra misa por la Semana Nacional de Migración

El 11 de enero, el obispo William F. Medley celebró una Misa de Clausura de la Semana Nacional de Migración 2019 en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro. Disfrute de estas fotos de la Misa.

Foto por Tina Kasey.



Susan Montalvo-Gesser se convierte en directora de Caridades Católicas

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, una parroquiana de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, fue recientemente nombrada como directora de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Montalvo-Gesser ha sido una abogada en ejercicio por más de 10 años y organizó la primera Clínica Legal de Inmigración de Owensboro, que se lleva a cabo mensualmente en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo. Montalvo-Gesser dice que uno de sus objetivos para Caridades Católicas es ofrecer servicios a los inmigrantes y refugiados, y ayudar a compartir recursos "para mejorar vidas de la gente en todo el oeste de Kentucky".

Un sacerdote celebrará su cumpleaños número 100

El 2 de febrero, el Monseñor George Hancock, sacerdote de la Diócesis de Owensboro, celebrará su cumpleaños número 100. "Desde que era un niño, quería ser sacerdote", dijo Mons. Hancock. Dijo que el propósito del sacerdocio es "para la gloria de Dios y la salvación de las almas, esas dos cosas".



Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día

POR JOE BLAND, OFICINA DE EVANGELIZACIÓN

¿Cuántos de nosotros recibimos a Jesús (cuerpo, sangre, alma y divinidad) cada domingo y realmente pensamos en lo que estamos incorporando a nuestros cuerpos? Mi oración es que todos nos pongamos a pensar en esto. Estás consumiendo al Rey del Universo. El Dios que te ama y sostiene tu vida te está permitiendo consumirlo, su carne y su sangre para que puedas tener vida sobrenatural. Es por su carne que nos salva. Que el Señor te sostenga con su pan de cada día y que permitas que te consuma a ti para transformarte en "alter Christi", otro Cristo. ■



¿Le interesa el sacerdocio o la vida religiosa?

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

Aprenda más en owensborodiocese.org/vocations



La Hna. Fran "Panchita" Wilhelm cumple 90 años

El 7 de enero, la hermana Francisca "Panchita" Wilhelm, OSU, celebró su cumpleaños número 90. La Hna. Panchita es la que inició el ministerio hispano/latino en la Diócesis de Owensboro. En su cumpleaños, varios ministros hispanos de toda la diócesis visitaron a la Hna. Panchita en el Monte San José para asistir a la Misa y almorzar con ella.

Fotos por cortesía del Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez.

