

CATHOLIC

The Western Kentucky

Volume 41

600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

Volume 41, Number 1

January, 2014

Graphic by Allison Hayden



Global Campaign To End Hunger, "One Human Family, Food For All"

At noon on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 - a world-wide wave of prayer spread with a message from Pope Francis: "We Cannot Look the Other Way To Fight Hunger." The global campaign to combat hunger, began on December 10 and runs through May, 2015. This "wave of prayer" across time zones marked the beginning of a campaign for Roman Catholic-related charities, called "One Human Family, Food for All." Pope Francis, who is supportive of the campaign, issued a video message on that day.

Pope Francis' gives his blessing to Caritas Internationalis' first ever global campaign against hunger. Pope Francis' campaign message: "Food is not just a basic need but it is also a right. It is a right which is trampled on every day for the 842 million children, women and men who are hungry in the world.

"We are in front of a global scandal of around one billion - one billion people who still suffer from hunger today. We cannot look the other way and pretend this does not exist. The food available in the world is enough to feed everyone."

Pope Francis' message for One Human Family, Food for All appeared on YouTube Dec. 9, 2013 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvC-k1ai71Q>. Together with the video, the following prayer spread around the world on Dec. 10:

Caritas Hunger Campaign Prayer One Human Family, Food For All

"O God, you entrusted to us the fruits of all creation so that we might care for the earth and be nourished with its bounty.

"You sent us your Son to share our very flesh and blood and to teach us your Law of Love.

"Through His death and resurrection, we have been formed into one human family.

"Jesus showed great concern for those who had no food - even transforming five loaves and two fish into a banquet that served five thousand and many more.

"We come before you, O God, conscious of our faults and failures, but full of hope, to share food with all members in this global family.

"Through your wisdom, inspire leaders of government and of business, as well as all the world's citizens, to find just, and charitable solutions to end hunger by assuring that all people enjoy the right to food.

"Thus we pray, O God, that when we present ourselves for Divine Judgment, we can proclaim ourselves as 'One Human Family' with 'Food for All'. Amen." *Official prayer from Caritas Internationalis for the "One Human Family, Food for All" campaign*

A common theme in Pope Francis' papacy is to challenge a "throw-away culture" or "culture of waste" that disregards those most in need.

"The bishops of the United States stand with Pope Francis in his call to end world hunger," said Bishop Richard Pates and Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, on behalf of their committees. Since his election, Pope Francis has challenged Catholics and all people to go beyond the boundaries of their own lives and encounter the poor and marginalized. As legislators in Washington deliberate how to allocate budget resources to the many people who are hungry, both in our country and around the world, this campaign gives all of us an opportunity to turn awareness into action."

Resources for the campaign are available in English and Spanish at: <http://crs.org/food-for-all/>

Pope Francis' apostolic exhorta-



In every Catholic church in the Diocese of Owensboro, Holy Mass was celebrated on December 10. In St. Stephen Cathedral, the homily centered on the lost sheep and the Shepherd going to look for the one. The assembly prayed for the intentions of the Holy Father this day. Mel Howard Photo

tion "*Evangelii Gaudium*" also created a wave for its straightforward attack on inequality. He wrote, "As long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world's problems or, for that matter, to any problems."

This isn't the first time Pope Francis has called the world to unite in prayer, as on September 7, 2013, he led a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria.

"We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor. May we never abandon them." (48 *EVANGELII GAUDIUM*).

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2 January, 2014



Most Reverend
William F. Medley,
Bishop
of Owensboro

Resolved: May I Be More Fully Father, Brother And Friend To Priests

Dear sisters and brothers,
Happy New Year! The Year of the Lord 2014 has arrived and we are all graced to be alive, and as baptized Christians called and commissioned to be instruments of the Kingdom of God that Jesus Christ came to proclaim. We are all part of a ministerial priesthood by virtue of the sacrament of baptism. We are called to feed the hungry, comfort the sorrowing, shelter the homeless, comfort the sick and dying, and give witness by our lives to the One who has saved us.

The primary role in the care of souls lies with the priests of a diocese who are totally dedicated in service to the local community of the Lord's flock. Diocesan priests then are the principal and irreplaceable co-workers of the bishop, who has been invested with the unique care of God's people as a successor to the Apostles. Jesus said to those apostles, "Go, therefore, and preach the good news"

The bishop is called to be the father of the priestly family and through him the Lord Jesus Christ should be present and evident among believers. Christ is likewise revealed and present in the Word of God and in the sacraments, most especially the Holy Eucharist.

The bond between a local bishop and the priests of the church is certainly then a sacred one. The Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops, published by the Holy See first in 1973 and revised in 2004, speaks to the bond of charity and trust that both bishop and priests must foster and nourish. I find it instructive and a spiritual exercise to periodically review this pastoral work.

Nourished by charity and a vision of faith, the spiritual union the bishop and each priest has with God will work for the good of the whole church. "In this way, the apostolic labors of priests will be more fruitful, since their union of will and of intent with the bishop deepens their union with Christ, who continues his ministry as the invisible head of the Church acting through the visible hierarchy."

The documents of the Church on Holy Orders call for the bishop to be "father, brother and friend" of priests. This is a noble and a spiritual ideal. Becoming a bishop in the midst of a local presbyterate, as I did in 2009, challenges one to make these identities real. How does one presume to be a father to men who were priests before he was born? Or to brother priests his same age? How does one become a genuine friend to men more than thirty years younger than himself?

I cannot begin to suggest that I have now, nor will I in a lifetime, achieve these roles perfectly. But for me and for the great priests who serve the Diocese of Owensboro these graced relationships will always present an ideal. I celebrate my fifth New Year's Day as bishop, though I was not ordained and installed until February 10, 2010, and am at peace that every year one of my New Year's resolutions will be to aspire ever more fully to be father, brother and friend to priests.

May God Bless You all.

William F. Medley

+Most Reverend William F. Medley,
Bishop of Owensboro

Bishop Medley's Calendar for January 2014:

January 3-5	FOCUS Leadership Summit, Dallas, TX
January 5-9	Region V Bishops Retreat, New Orleans, LA
January 13 - 16	Priest Convocation, Saint Meinrad, IN
January 20	9:45 a.m. Priests' Personnel Board Meeting, CPC
	1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting, CPC
January 21 - 22	March for Life, Washington DC
January 26	10:00 a.m. Confirmation, Sts Joseph and Paul, Owensboro
	2:00 p.m. Owensboro West Deanery Faith Formation Gathering, St. Stephen Cathedral
January 27	9:00 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson
January 28	10:00 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, St. Mary School System, Paducah
	12-3:00 p.m. Paducah Office
January 29	8:00 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, St. Ann, Morganfield
January 31	8:00 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, Christ the King, Madisonville

Bishop Wester Urges Senate to Support Community Access Cable Channels

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Senate should support local cable channels and the programming they carry by supporting a bill that preserves them, said the chairman of the Committee on Communications of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on Dec. 12, 2013. Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City urged support for the Community Access Preservation Act (S. 1789), which would provide "reliable funding" to Public, Educational and Government (PEG) channels, in a December 11 letter.

"In a time when religious programming faces increasing challenges to its voice being given an equal platform, PEG channels offer a venue for these programs to be accessed," wrote Bishop Wester. "This is of particular importance for the elderly, disabled or homebound who long to remain connected to their religious communities but are unable to take part in their religious or community activities."

Bishop Wester noted the disappearance of PEG channels as a result of new state cable laws that failed to include funding. The full text of Bishop Wester's letter is available online: www.usccb.org/news/2013/upload/S1789_CAP_Act_USCCB_Wester.pdf

Birthright Celebrates 30 years.



*"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth
and the right of every child to be born."*

Birthright in Owensboro has a big increase of families in need this year and they need help with:

- Diapers and baby wipes
- New and used clothing: baby and maternity,
- Blankets: new and gently used
- Formula
- Monetary assistance
- Gas cards and gift cards

We would like to thank the Catholic community for their support, donations and prayers.

For more information, contact:

Birthright

Terri LaHugh, Director
512 West 7th Street
Owensboro, KY 42301
1-270-683-1103

**"Prayer For My Son."
Photo by Father Joshua McCarty**

Family Faith Inventory

Take a moment to consider each of the actions and attitudes listed below and label the best description of how you currently experience that area of family faith. When done note if you are satisfied with the rating or if you or your family would like to begin work on developing a family faith plan in the coming year.

1 = Never, 2 = Very little, 3 = Somewhat, 4 = Fairly often, 5 = All the time

Family & Community

How well does our family recognize the sacredness of a family mean and discover God in the ordinary moments of family and parish life?

- Eating dinner together is a priority in our family schedule.
- Being Catholic is a significant part of our family identity.
- We participate in social and community events at our parish (outside of Mass)
- Religious art, images, and Bibles can be found throughout our home.

Prayer & Worship

Does our family recognize and embody the centrality of prayer in Catholic life?

- We attend Mass as a family on a regular basis
- I Pray on my own (outside of Mass)
- Pray together as a family (outside of Mass)
- Family members take turns leading prayer
- We celebrate the seasons of the liturgical year (e.g. Lent) with special prayers, actions, & rituals
- Special family occasions are marked with blessings &/or prayers

Formation

How important is learning and growing in the faith?

- I read Scripture on my own.
- We read Scripture as a family.
- We put a high value on learning more about our Catholic faith.
- I participate in faith formation opportunities (e.g., classes, spiritual reading, and spiritual direction).
- [PARENT] I make sure my children/teens participate in faith formation opportunities (e.g. retreats, mission trips, etc.)

Justice & Service

As individuals and as a family do we seek opportunities to perform works of mercy in our neighborhood, church, or other organizations?

- We discuss current events in light of the values and beliefs of our faith
- [PARENT] I model discipleship (following Jesus) for my children &/or teens
- In our family, we talk about morality, and how to judge right & wrong
- I am involved in regular justice and service in the parish & wider community.
- [PARENT] We expect our family members to be involved in parish ministry or service in addition to Mass and religious education (lector, usher, choir, vacation Bible school, etc.)



The Western Kentucky Catholic

- 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY. 42301**
- Publisher: Most Reverend William F. Medley, Bishop of Owensboro
 - Editor: Mel Howard, mel.howard@pastoral.org
 - Business Address: Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301
Phone: 270-683-1545. Fax: 270-683-6883
 - See the present edition and back issues of the WKC Online at http://www.rcdok.org/ministries/communications/WKC_online.php
 - Story Deadline: 15th of month prior to publication.

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 columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic must be signed and with contact information, may be edited for space, a lack of charity or a lack of clarity, and are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic. Please let us know politely if you find proofing or factual errors in items of this publication.

Please send all Western Kentucky Catholic address additions, address deletions or address changes to Cathy Hagan at cathy.hagan@pastoral.org.

Editor's Note: This survey form is reprinted here for illustration purposes only. Readers are invited to fill out the survey form on this page and bring it with you to the next Strong Catholic Families/Strong Catholic Youth meeting near you.

Owensboro Serra Club Host Annual Priest Appreciation Lunch

By Larena Lawson

OWENSBORO, Ky. - It has been an annual event for several years, a highlight of the ministry of the Owensboro Serra Club, the Priesthood Appreciation Luncheon that they hold every year in conjunction with the November Presbyteral Day. It is a time that they offer a nice meal for the priests during the lunch hour of their day of meeting with Bishop William Medley and all the priests of the diocese who are available to come, both active and retired. Bishop Emeritus John McRaith was also in attendance. It is a time to offer thanks and appreciation for all that they do for the people of the Diocese of Owensboro. The luncheon was held in the undercroft of St. Stephen Cathedral, newly named, The Father John Vaughn Community Center.

When the priests come over from the Catholic Pastoral Center, where their meeting is held, they can partake of a hot, catered lunch and enjoy one another's company, as well as, being greeted by the Serra Club who offer them affirmation and appreciation for the work that they do. Cash prizes are also given away as a small gesture of thanks. At the end of the meal, the clergy return to their meeting and/or resume their clerical ministry. May God continue to bless and strengthen the ministry of all of the clergy of the Diocese of Owensboro. We are forever grateful for their holy vocations and for the abundant things that they do to share the love of God with us.



Fathers Mike Clark, Jean Rene Kalombo, Tony Shonis and Dave Johnson are greeted by Serran Rick Hayden as they begin their meal. In the background, At back left, Serra Club member Mike Thompson speaks with Bishop Emeritus John McRaith.



Father Ray Clark, Chaplain of St. Joseph Passionist Monastery in Whitesville, sits with his father, Harold Clark, a Charter Member of the Owensboro Serra Club who has served in various roles and has been a champion for growing the club and a faithful supporter of priestly and religious vocations in the diocese.



At left, Long-time Serrans, Dr. Carroll Howard and his wife Marjorie, speak with the Diocese of Owensboro's newest priest, Father Julio Barrera, Parochial Vicar and Hispanic Minister at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville.

Below, Serra Club members work the drinks table, pouring and distributing drinks to all the priests. Here, on right, Sue O'Bryan and Alan Sims work to fill the cups. At left, Martha Kauffeld and Art Hodde take care and greet Father Chrispin Oneko, Pastor of Immaculate Conception in Hawesville, and St. Columba, Lewisport.



Owensboro Serra Club member, Larena Lawson, says hello to Father Randy Howard, the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield and St. John the Evangelist Parish, Sunfish. Father Randy is sitting with Fr. Dan Kreutzer, Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Cloverport and Holy Guardian Angels in Irvington.

Mel Howard Photos



Far from his native Kenya, seminary student explores his faith and his future

January, 2014 5

By LAUREL WILSON The Daily News
lwilson@bgdailynews

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. - Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero was born into an Anglican family in Kenya, but by age 8, he had convinced his family to convert to Catholicism.

Soon after that, he decided he wanted to be more than just Catholic – he had a desire to be a priest. Catholic priests visited his elementary school in Kenya about once a month, and he admired the way they acted, the songs they sang and how they dressed.

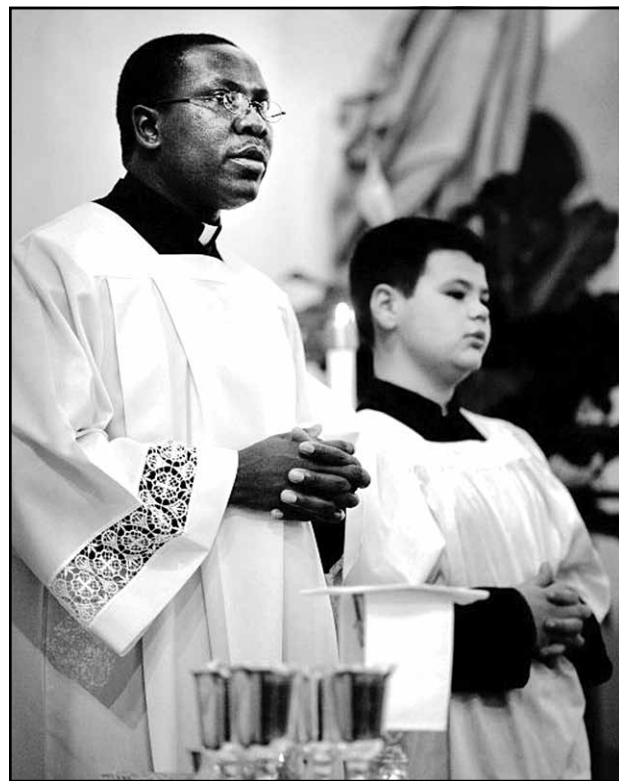
“I just found myself acting like a priest in school,” Abiero said. “From there, I just started wanting to be a priest.”

As a teenager, he attended a high school seminary in Africa and is now a seminary student at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana. Since August, he’s lived in Bowling Green, where he’s serving as a pastoral intern at St. Joseph Catholic Church through next month.

The Owensboro Diocese, where



Owensboro Diocesan Seminarian intern Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero is in Third Theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary. Photo by Nathan Morgan/Daily News



Owensboro Diocesan Seminarian intern Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero (left) participates in Easter Sunday mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sunday, March 31, 2013 in Bowling Green, Ky. Photo by Nathan Morgan/Daily News

he will serve as a priest once he’s ordained, requires a one-year pastoral internship before priesthood.

“You familiarize yourself with what you’re supposed to be doing (as a priest),” Abiero said. “That is the main purpose.”

During his internship, he’s performed a variety of tasks inside and outside the church, including coordinating Mass, directing the altar service, visiting the sick, meeting with the church youth, visiting jail inmates and working with candidates who are joining the Catholic church.

“My experience over here is very much fundamental for the future,” he said. “I’m basically seeing what I’m going to be doing in the near future.”

Abiero will return this fall for his third year of seminary at St. Meinrad and plans to spend the summer in Guatemala to learn Spanish, another requirement to serve in the Owensboro Diocese.

He’s had a good experience at St. Joseph, gaining knowledge and friends. He’ll be sad to say goodbye next month to parishioners, who have welcomed him and made him feel part of the community.

“Christ unites us together,” Abiero said. “We are members of one family. Far away from home, I feel at home.”

He’s also grateful for the aid of the Rev. Josh McCarty and the Rev. Andrew Garner, priests at St. Joseph with whom he is working during his internship.

“Those two guys have been like brothers,” he said. “They’ve been guiding me and helping me.”

Religion has had an impact on Abiero’s life since el-

ementary school. Religion is taught as a subject at public schools in Africa, and he began reading the Bible at a young age.

“I wanted to be like Jesus,” he said. Influenced by cousins and friends who were Catholic, he decided to join their faith, persuading his parents and six siblings to convert also.

“As a young kid, I had to bring my family into the Catholic faith,” Abiero said. “They had to support me spiritually and financially.”

After high school seminary, he taught chemistry and math in Africa, developing a profession outside the priesthood, as many priests do, he said. He originally came to the U.S. to study chemistry at Louisiana State University, but before he completed a degree there, he decided to attend seminary at St. Meinrad.

Though he was able to return to Kenya a few years ago to visit his family and talks with them by phone often, it’s hard to be so far away from them. He’s glad for his family’s support, especially his late father, who paid for him to attend high school seminary because he believed in his son’s ability to become a priest. Now, Abiero aims to make his father proud by achieving the priesthood, which he hopes will happen next spring.

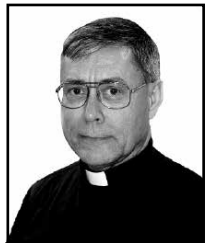
“I have to live by that, what he willed,” Abiero said.

Reprinted with permission of the Bowling Green Daily News, April 5, 2013



Owensboro Diocesan Seminarian intern Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero prepares the altar for communion during Easter Sunday mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sunday, March 31, 2013 in Bowling Green, Ky. Abiero, who is from Kenya, had been working in Bowling Green for eight months. Photo by Nathan Morgan/Daily News

Marriage In Christ



Father Richard Meredith

Editor's Note: Father Richard Meredith, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hopkinsville, Ky., contributed this seventh and final article in a series about Christian Marriage's role in the

New Evangelization. He wrote this about the series, "I tell people that I personally believe the "New Evangelization" will be borne by spouses upholding the truth of Christian Marriage, or it will not occur at all. I teach that Catholics need to know and be able to speak our doctrine on the Sacrament of Marriage. I believe that if I(we) do not teach loudly and clearly, the cultural tidal wave to sweep the sacrament away will be nigh overwhelming.

"In every respect my ideal is to speak the truth with love."

In the interview with the seminary Rector prior to being recommended for ordination to the diaconate, all of us knew that we each would have to say voluntarily at some point, I accept perpetual celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of God. I had already to come clarity and peace with that affirmation, so when my turn came, I readily made the required statement. I also realized that it would take years for the impact of that affirmation, promised at ordination, to unfold its appreciation. All through high school I had been considering entering the seminary to explore the possibility of being a Catholic priest. On my own I decided to avoid any serious dating which might short circuit the possibility. I knew that Catholic priests don't marry. I accepted being a virgin, practicing celibacy, until the choice either of ordination or of marriage should be decided.

My moral formation regarding sexuality was mostly a list of prohibitions. I learned neither the meaning of chastity (other than don't do anything sexual) nor the understanding of lust. Naive confusion, grace, a desire to obey and trust God, confession, and a very able Guardian Angel kept me peaceably on the straight and narrow. With a glad heart I was able to profess celibacy. I trusted God's promise

of joy in this way of life. At times my heart was heavy, sensing or grieving my renunciation of having wife and children, and a personal home, still, trusting God, I surrendered all to him. In my better moments I realized the self-centeredness of this form of self-pity. I could then and still can and must admit that God has always kept his promise of joy to me in this life. It was, however, in reading and studying Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body that, at long last, my heart opened to the understanding and meaning of human love and sexuality.

To love is to become a gift which serves the true good of the beloved. Human sexuality serves love in that way but also as a servant and steward of human life. The Sacrament of Marriage is the custodian of human sexual love and, as such, is a witness to the Kingdom of God already among us in Christ. Celibate virginity serves the same Kingdom and Marriage as it will be fulfilled in Heaven. It is important to me, even vital, that Catholic spouses have a view to the goal of their love, for it reveals an eternal destiny and fulfillment. My life is a sign and servant of that. For that purpose I witness that human sexuality may be even now a gift given to God, unused, in gratitude for God's total gift of love in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit. This frees me from coveting and lusting, frees me to honor persons as persons rather than as sex objects. In that freedom and the peace of that gift I can be pro-person, pro-marriage, pro-family, pro-life. By my consecration in God's grace to be such a gift, I find protection in temptation and can live in the goal of the perfect continence which clerical celibacy requires. I also realize how starkly this contrasts with our present culture of lust and with a wounded Church. So, the doctrine on virginity for the sake of the Kingdom found in the Catechism is factually true, but rather bare in the sense of the richness in gift, peace, service, and freedom to be found in its promise. Fr. Richard

Virginity For The Sake Of The Kingdom

1618 Christ is the center of all Christian life. The bond with him takes precedence over all other bonds, familial or social. From the very beginning of the Church there have been men and women who have renounced the great good of

marriage to follow the Lamb wherever he goes, to be intent on the things of the Lord, to seek to please him, and to go out to meet the Bridegroom who is coming. Christ himself has invited certain persons to follow him in this way of life, of which he remains the model:

"For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to receive this, let him receive it [Matthew 19.12]."

1619 Virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven is an unfolding of baptismal grace, a powerful sign of the supremacy of the bond with Christ and of the ardent expectation of his return, a sign which also recalls that marriage is a reality of this present age which is passing away.

1620 Both the sacrament of Matrimony and virginity for the Kingdom of God come from the Lord himself. It is he who gives them meaning and grants them the grace which is indispensable for living them out in conformity with his will. Esteem of virginity for the sake of the kingdom and the Christian understanding of marriage are inseparable, and they reinforce each other:

Whoever denigrates marriage also diminishes the glory of virginity. Whoever praises it makes virginity more admirable and resplendent. What appears good only in comparison with evil would not be truly good. the most excellent good is something even better than what is admitted to be good [St. John Chrysostom, De virginitate].

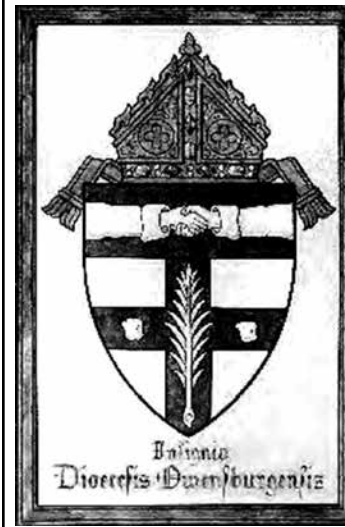
The Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky

will take place Saturday, February 8, 2014 at Brescia University beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The conference will address the subject of how to live your life as a Catholic man and will include nationally renowned and dynamic Catholic speakers such as George Weigel, who was the biographer for Pope John Paul II, Dr. Ray Guarendi, and Fr. Louis Caporiccio from the Fathers of Mercy. The sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available. The conference will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Medley.

The conference is open to men who are high school seniors or older. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for students, and it includes lunch.

For more information, look online at www.kycatholic.com or call Randy Clemens at (270) 316-5067.



Ever dreamed of going to Italy?

Join us for 12 days in October, 2014

Come on a fascinating journey, from the beauty of Tuscany, and Assisi, to the Mediterranean coast villages of Cinquetera, to Florence, and finally 6 days and nights in Rome, near the Vatican. St. Mary Magdalene Parish, in cooperation with Faith In Travel, is preparing for a very special travel experience, one in which we can enrich our faith, absorb Italy's history and rich culture, and so much more... The tour price, without air (based on dbl. occ.): \$2,655, Sept. 29 to Oct. 10, 2014. Air prices will be set soon.



All are welcome! We have been planning a year in advance, so there is still time to make that dream of Italy a reality! Rev. Mark A. Buckner, is chaplain for the trip. For your questions and to give you the details: 270-771-4436 or mbuckner@stmarymagd.org



Women's Shelter Rededicated And Renamed In Honor Of Father Edward Bradley

January, 2014 7

The Father Bradley Shelter for Women and Children celebrated their new name with a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on November 21, 2013. The Shelter was renamed this year in honor of Father J. Edward Bradley (holding scissors) for his instrumental role in the creation of it in 2001. In attendance were: Dr. Marcia Cave (holding ribbon) who was also instrumental in the Shelter's creation and has served as president of the board since, the Board of Directors of the Shelter, as well as Chamber Staff, Board, and Ambassadors. The Shelter is located at 530 Klutey Park Plaza Drive in Henderson.

The Shelter for Women & Children (SWC) provides safe, clean, temporary shelter for women with and without children in Henderson and the surrounding area.

"We pride ourselves on taking a "teaching" approach to helping our residents," said Executive Director. Sharon Hazelwood.

The Shelter offers classes in: Parenting, Employability, Morals & Values, Domestic Violence, Nutrition Education, Tutoring.

In addition to classes, the Shelter offer extensive case-work and assistance with budgeting, childcare, counseling services, and educational opportunities.

Ms Hazelwood said, "The needs of our community inspire us to move forward to continue our mission to help those less fortunate. SWC has become a beacon of hope in our community.

"Without the Shelter for Women & Children, many kids in our community would have no other place to go."

For more information about the Shelter for Women & Children, look online <http://shelterforwomenandchildren.org/>. Phone (270)830-8063

Under the direction of Janet Barkley, center, Music teacher for Holy Name School, students sang during ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on November 21, 2013. Mel Howard Photo



The Father Bradley Shelter for Women and Children celebrated their new name with a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on November 21, 2013. The Shelter was renamed this year in honor of Father J. Edward Bradley (holding scissors) for his instrumental role in the creation of it in 2001. In attendance were: Dr. Marcia Cave (holding ribbon to right of Fr. Bradley) who was also instrumental in the Shelter's creation and has served as president of the board since, the Board of Directors of the Shelter, as well as Chamber of Commerce Staff, Board, and Ambassadors. The Shelter is located at 530 Klutey Park Plaza Drive in Henderson.



Mary Ann Thrasher posed during the reception with Father Ed Bradley in front of a plaque remembering Elizabeth Posey Willers, the sister of John Posey, a donor. Mel Howard Photo

A Brief History of the Father Bradley Shelter for Women & Children, Inc.

The need for a homeless shelter for women and children was recognized by Father J. Edward Bradley, Sister Mary Pauletta Kane, Mary Ann Thrasher, and several other local citizens who were concerned about the growing population of homeless individuals in the Henderson area. Although our community offered a homeless shelter at the time, it only accommodated men.

The Shelter began operating in 1998 by offering women and children emergency housing in the form of temporary apartments and hotel rooms. However, as the number of clients outgrew the resources available, a plan was developed to construct a permanent facility.

The Shelter for Women & Children officially opened its doors in December 2001 and has served over 1,600 women and children in the past 10 years. The focus of SWC is not only to provide shelter, food, and basic necessities, but to equip the women with training to improve their chances of becoming self-sufficient as they transition back into the community.

Father J. Edward Bradley serves as Executive Director. Sharon Hazelwood is the Shelter Director, and Angela Nix is Assistant Manager.

Bishop Medley Accepts Two Seminarians In Rites Of Candidacy Ceremonies

By Dr. Fred Litke

In the Roman Catholic Church, ministry means "service." The Church teaches us that all members share in the ministry of Christ as prophet, priest, and king through their baptism. Seminarians are formally conferred ministries as they advance toward ordination to Holy Orders. Firstly, men receive the Ministry of Lector followed by the Ministry of Acolyte; these ministries are usually conferred during their first and second years in Theology. In their third year of theology, a seminarian may petition to aspire to receive Holy Orders. This aspiration is formally known as Admission to Candidacy.

The Admission to Candidacy Rite offers the candidates the opportunity to publicly express their intention to be ordained a Deacon first, and later as a priest. The aspirant presents a declaration stating his conscious intention to serve others as an ordained cleric and declares that he is making this intention freely on his own accord. The Bishop signs and dates this declaration attesting receipt in the name of the Church.

Recently, two of our seminarians were accepted for Candidacy to Holy Orders. Bishop Medley presided at the Rite of Candidacy Ceremony in each man's home parish. Also in attendance were each pastor (Fr. Steve Hohman of St. Paul, Leitchfield) and (Fr. Andrew Garner of St. Joseph, Bowling Green), Fr. Jason McClure (Director of Vocations and Seminarians), seminarians for our Diocese, and members of the respective parishes.

Gary Dale Clark professed his aspiration for candidacy at his home parish, St. Paul Parish, Leitchfield on November 30, 2013. Gary grew up in Leitchfield and attended St. Paul Parish. He attended St. John Vianney College Seminary and is currently studying at St. Meinrad School of Theology. Gary's parents are Joseph and Anna Jean Clark. Gary has one brother and two sisters. Gary is musically gifted and is an accomplished organist.

Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero professed his aspiration for candidacy at St. Joseph parish, Bowling Green, on December 1, 2013. Michael was born and raised in Kenya, Africa. He attended college at Spiritan Missionary Seminary in Tanzania. He has been studying for the Diocese of Owensboro for the past 4 years. Since becoming a seminarian for

our Diocese, Michael has accepted St. Joseph parish as his home parish within our diocese. Michael is the son of James and Dorsila Abiero Ajigo. Michael has two brothers and four sisters.

Seminarians Clark and Ajigo will continue their studies at St. Meinrad School of theology for two more years. They will continue to prepare themselves for ordination to the diaconate which will take place at St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro on May 3, 2014 at 10:00 AM.

They will serve the Diocese of Owensboro as transitional deacons for approximately one year before their priestly ordination in the spring of 2015.

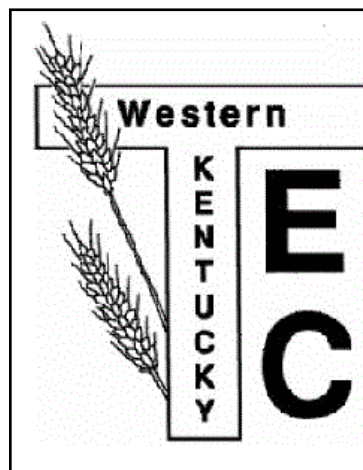
In the photo below, the new Owensboro Diocesan Vocation Director, Father Jason McClure, introduced Gary Clark to Bishop Medley and the Church as being a worthy candidate for the priesthood. He called him forth to be presented for admission.



Bishop William Medley begins the Ceremony of the Rite of Candidacy as the new candidate for priesthood, Gary Clark, stands before him for admission. Gary is surrounded by his family, his brother seminarians, his friends and the parishioners in his home parish of St. Paul where he grew up, all there to support him in his chosen vocation. Photos by Larena Lawson this page.



Owensboro Seminarian Gary Clark and his family, react to words spoken by Bishop Medley in his 1st Sunday of Advent homily. In addition to speaking about preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, he also explained the Rite of Candidacy and Gary's willingness to serve God in his vocation.



TEC #168 will be February 14-16 at Gasper River Retreat Center in Bowling Green. TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) weekends are for high school juniors and seniors. Although college-aged students and adults who have completed diocesan Safe Environment Training and background checks may typically observe the weekend, this particular TEC is limited to only high school juniors and seniors.

The weekend begins Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon. Applications are available at the TEC website, www.wkytec.org. Deadline is Jan 31st. Please sign up early, as this TEC fills quickly and there will be a limited number of Tecites this year.



Owensboro Seminarian, Michael Charles Ajigo Abiero, greets a lady sitting in the front pew of St. Joseph Church in Bowling Green, just before the beginning of the Sunday Mass on Dec. 1, 2013, that included the Admission Rite of Candidacy that formally admitted him as a Candidate for the Priesthood for the diocese.



After the Rite of Candidacy is completed, Michael Charles Ajigo is joyfully accepted by the Church as they give him their congratulatory applause. Michael Charles served his Pastoral Year of Internship at St. Joseph Parish and has chosen it to be his home. Photos by Larena Lawson this page.



During the reception of Holy Communion, Father Jason McClure, Pastor at St. Leo in Murray and current Vocation Director for the Diocese of Owensboro, offers a blessing to the young child held before him.



Proclaiming the Gospel at the Holy Mass, the 1st Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1, 2013, is Transitional Deacon Emmanuel Udoh. Deacon Emmanuel is a native of Nigeria who is studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Owensboro. His home parish is Precious Blood in Owensboro.



Bishop William F. Medley elevates the Eucharist during the consecration of the Holy Mass. Concelebrating the Mass with him are Father Andy Garner, at left, Pastor at St. Joseph, Father Jason McClure, center, and Father Carmelo Jimenez Salinas, on right, Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph. Kneeling on left, is Transitional Deacon Will Thompson, of Cadiz.

Hasta La Vista, Western Kentucky Catholics!



The Urcia Family, a few weeks before departing Owensboro: Felix, baby Joseph and Tami Urcia.

By Tami Urcia

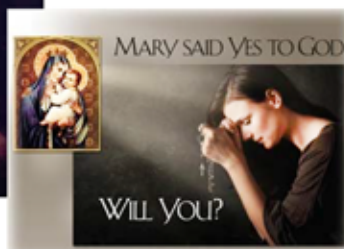
Director of Family Life, Diocese of Owensboro

When I first landed in Owensboro in September of 2006, I never dreamed this would become my home for the next 7+ years. I was a restless young adult looking for my place in this world. I originally moved here from Grand Rapids, Michigan, a city 10 times the size of this tranquil southern town, to finish my degree at Brescia University. After working a few months at a bank and attending weekend college full time, I was hired by the Diocese to work in the Communications Office. I had no experience in journalism, but could put words on a page and was able to write in Spanish. The chance I was given at that moment later turned into full time work in three different departments and eventually to my position as Director of Family Life. Three years and three months to the day (September 13, 2010 – December 13, 2013) this office has been my weekly companion.

After giving birth to my son, my husband and I realized the need to be near family, so we began discerning a move. Through prayer and action, God led us to Cincinnati, Ohio, where my husband's family lives. I will be working in family ministry at a parish there.

I am so grateful for the opportunities I have been given to learn, grow, gain experience and serve many of you in your journey toward marriage, adoption, or growth in faith and ministry. I couldn't have fathomed encountering so many kind, giving and open-hearted souls. The term "southern hospitality" is not a cliché but a true reality! Thank you, people of Western Kentucky, for opening your arms and your hearts to this "Yankee"! And who knows? Perhaps our paths will cross again someday...

The Glenmary Sisters invite you...



...to join us for a weekend of discernment on God's call as a religious working in the mission areas of the southern United States & Appalachia.

"Come and See"

Who: Single women (ages 18 - 35)

When: Friday, March 14 (4:00pm) thru lunch on Sunday, March 16, 2014

Where: Glenmary Center Formation House - 411 Locust Court
Owensboro, Kentucky

▶ Do you ever feel that tug of wanting to do more, be more, to help others?
YOU may have a special ministry that God is calling you to do...Maybe.

▶ The Glenmary Sisters welcome your questions, understand your doubt, and are here to invite you to find out more about God's calling for you.

Join other young women for a weekend of reflection!

Glenmary Sisters will be on hand to share their vocation stories and answer your questions.

Come for a visit **and see** what the Glenmary Sisters are all about.



Glenmary Sisters

www.glenmarysisters.org



For more information and to RSVP, please contact: Mrs. Barbara O'Nan, Vocation Facilitator
Barbara@glenmarysisters.org or call 706-414-2982



These 27 retreatants participated in the annual Diocese of Owensboro retreat at The Jesuit White House Retreat Center in St. Louis from October 14 to 17. Western Kentucky Catholic men and priests have been attending for over 40 years. Back Row: Matthew Valerius, Dr. Ron Kupper, Pat McNulty, Albert Goatley, Mike Taylor, Chris Denton & John McNulty 3rd Row: Leon Higdon, Robert Higdon, James Tidwell, Joseph Blandford, Andre Trawick, Larry Denton & Noel Wise 2nd Row: Bill Mills, Phillip Hatton, John Howard, Don Hayden, Doug Thomas, Dennis Wilson, & Ernie Taliaferro Front Row: Marvin Hancock, Rudy Elliott & Leo Thomas, Not Pictured: Ernie Mitchell, Joe and Bob Garland.



Many Experience the Christmas Spirit with Brescia University
OWENSBORO, Ky. - - Brescia University invited the public to begin the holiday season with a free evening concert featuring the Brescia University Student Choir, Handbell Choir, and Band on Thursday, December 5 in the Jody Berry Theater, located at the RiverPark Center in downtown Owensboro. Brescia's talented students, faculty and staff helped prepare Owensboro residents for Christmas and the New Year 2014.

CATHOLIC BY GRACE

January, 2014 11

Diocesan Newspapers Evangelize

By Denise Bossert



One morning last spring, I caught my older daughter flipping through a diocesan newspaper while eating breakfast. I had to smile. On that particularly morning, she wasn't officially Catholic. She entered the Church later that day at the 2:30 Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, Missouri. It was Pentecost Sunday and soon, my second child would be entering the faith I had chosen less than a decade earlier.

"Did you read the diocesan newspapers when you lived here? Or is this a new thing for you?" I asked her.

She looked up from the paper and smiled. "When there was no catalog or magazine on the table, I would read it. It was something to do." She laughed and closed the paper.

Those were rough years. She had moved into our house with her little boys and was trying to juggle them and full-time employment. She was also trying hard to avoid God.

But on this particular Sunday, the fight against God ended. On that day, she was received into Mother Church.

My husband also used to scan diocesan newspapers and magazines before he converted. He's the kind of guy that goes through withdrawal when he doesn't have a book to read. In the years after my conversion (before his own conversion), he would read the Catholic papers that were on the table – the random complimentary copies I received as a columnist. This is the same man who promised he would never become Catholic. He was born Southern Baptist, and he would die Southern Baptist.

He's been Catholic since 2008.

I don't know if there is a cause and effect relationship between conversions and subscriptions to diocesan periodicals, but at the very least, there is some correlation. I believe families that have subscriptions to diocesan papers are the very families most likely to experience conversion and ongoing conversion – even among families in which some members actively resist God. There are times that the diocesan newspaper on the kitchen table is the only remaining voice for Mother Church in the lives of those who stubbornly resist grace.

I am blessed to write for diocesan papers and magazines, but I am even more blessed to have those periodicals in my home and on my kitchen table. There was a time when my husband told me to stop talking about my new-found faith – but he would still read the diocesan newspaper. My daughter tuned me out for years. But last spring, she entered the Church.

Diocesan papers are tools of evangelization. Sometimes, they are the only evangelization tool left in a household.

If you are reading this, you understand how important this magazine or newspaper is. You know that it assists you in your journey – and you know that it assists those who live under your roof and sit at your kitchen table.

In a world that is filled with many voices and so many words, it is a blessing to have faithful media coming into our homes, sharing words that matter – words that bring life.

Denise Bossert is a Catholic convert, syndicated columnist, author and speaker with a story of grace that delights audiences of all ages. denisebossert.com.

Silent, Holy Night



An Advent program of music and scripture entitled Silent, Holy Night was presented at Immaculate Parish December 15th. Over 100 parishioners participated in bringing the message of Advent – preparation for the coming of Christ – to Immaculate. In the picture below, students from Religious Education Classes portrayed characters from the Nativity story. In the photo above, are a children's choir and the adult choir who added to the festivity with songs about waiting for Christ as well as His birth. The children's choir: Front (L-R): Samantha Rhodes, Ella Fogle, Daniel Gray, Jessenia Garcia, Alex Swift, Tess Hayden. Back (L-R); Will Crawford, Ashley Crawford, Josafina Garcia, Ella Payne, Kendall Kessler, Juan Javier Garcia. Afterwards, people gathered in the Parish Family Center for Christmas cheer. Parishioners were asked to deliver the poinsettias, provided by the Social Concerns committee which decorated the hall to the home bound of the parish. Photos by Nicole Gray



K-3 students collection for the Glenmary Sisters Mission Work



Pope Francis has called ALL of us to reach out to the poor. Teaching children to participate in acts of social justice is what we are called to do as a Catholic school. This year, as part of an Advent Project, the Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 Campus partnered with the Glenmary Sisters to collect items to be given to those in need. Each student was asked to bring baby items, winter wear, household items, and personal hygiene items. Sister Sharon came as a representative from the Glenmary's. She was overwhelmed with the generosity of the families from the Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus. Their collection filled the

entire trailer. John Calhoun is pictured helping students as they brought their items to the Sisters. Submitted by Lori Whitehouse

Join our Spinning Retreat!
March 7-9, 2014



Whether you are an experienced yarn spinner, weaver, knitter, crocheter or a beginner, you are welcome to attend the Arts at the Mount weekend retreat at Mount Saint Joseph

(located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56).

Enjoy the fellowship of those who appreciate this traditional skill.

The group plans to "spin, knit and talk until we're done!"

For information on room rates, costs, etc., or to register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org • www.ursulinesmsj.org

2014 SPINNING DAYS: Jan. 4, May 10 and Aug. 2



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999

Camp Elf

By Diane Willis

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Over 70 youngsters attended Camp Elf December 14 at Immaculate Parish. The camp was run by Head Elf, Diane Willis along with many 8th-high school helpers. Campers made ornaments, edible snowmen, wreaths, played bingo and had free time to run in the gym and watch videos while parents took advantage of the four-hour break.



Mary Dolinger and her mouse ornament



Kristen Corley glues puzzle pieces on her Christmas tree ornament.



Above, Andrew and Sam Brauer make marshmallow snowmen



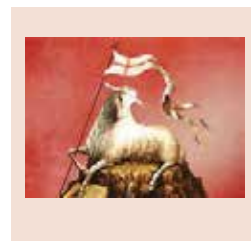
At right, Tyson Harville working on his reindeer ornament. Photos by Diane Willis



Elf Sarah Bemboom helps out Claudia Munsey on a craft project.
Photos by Diane Willis

Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come

Ascension Press
Bible Study
With Jeff Cavins
at Immaculate Parish



Mondays, January 6-March 10 (10 weeks)
Morning session 10-12;
Evening session 6:30-8:30
Fee of \$21 includes use of DVD, workbook, study questions, binder,
For more information or to register, contact
Diane Willis, Director of Faith Formation 683-0689
or dwillis@immacualteparish.org

Mark your calendar for September 19-20, 2014 as Jeff Cavins will be in Owensboro for a two day presentation / workshop. Go to Ascension Press's website (www.ascensionpress.com (Live Events) for more information.

OCHS Grandparents' Mass and Luncheon Talk



Stephanie Hayden.
Photo by Bev Howard

Catholic High recently invited our grandparents in for Mass and lunch in celebration of their importance to their grandchildren. Senior Stephanie Hayden delivered the following talk to the group as they had lunch in the small gym.

man year and being astonished at how many of my teachers had also taught my parents, or had gone to school with them. Catholic High is such a great environment to be in for the students here and that is why parents continue carrying on the tradition by sending their kids here. Once again, we have our grandparents to thank for this. If it wasn't for your continued support we would not be here today.

When people ask me how many people I have in my family I like to answer them by saying, "Oh about 450 to 500, give or take a few." You can imagine the look on their faces when they hear my answer. While many people believe I am joking, I could not be more serious. The minute I walk into Catholic High I am greeted by smiles and warmth from 500 people that I easily consider my brothers and sisters. Here you're not simply a number. Everybody knows everybody and are genuinely concerned about their lives or how they are doing. The bond here I have made with teachers and students alike is something that is irreplaceable and that

you would not experience anywhere else.

Finally, what makes OCHS simply the best is the faith that we are allowed to share and experience on a daily basis.

Christ is the reason for this school, and it can be seen all over. From school masses, to religion classes, to the crosses on the wall, our faith is something that we are allowed to express freely here. We are constantly reminded to carry ourselves in a way that Christ would and this not only is shown through the students' behaviors here, but in the whole atmosphere of the school.

These are just a few of the many reasons why Catholic High means so much to, not only me, but everyone in this building. This great atmosphere would not be possible without you. By cultivating the garden of Catholic High, you not only nourished the school into a great place but allowed your grandchildren to ripen and grow intellectually and spiritually in a Christ-centered environment.

I know I can speak on behalf of all the students here and say there is no other garden we would rather grow in than Catholic High. So, I want to thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your

continued support, prayers, time, and sacrifice you have put into this school.

Reprinted from Catholic High Phonelines, Owensboro Catholic High

School, November 2013. Supporting our parents in their role as the primary educators of the Catholic faith.



Catholic High Reunion Mass

Monsignor Bernard Powers says Mass in the Father Danny Goff Chapel at Catholic High recently for the Class of '63 at their reunion Mass. OCHS Phonelines Photo November, 2013

"When people ask me how many people I have in my family I like to answer them by saying, 'Oh, about 450 to 500, give or take a few.'"

Good morning! My name is Stephanie Hayden, and I am a senior here at Catholic High. I am so happy to have the privilege of being here with you today.

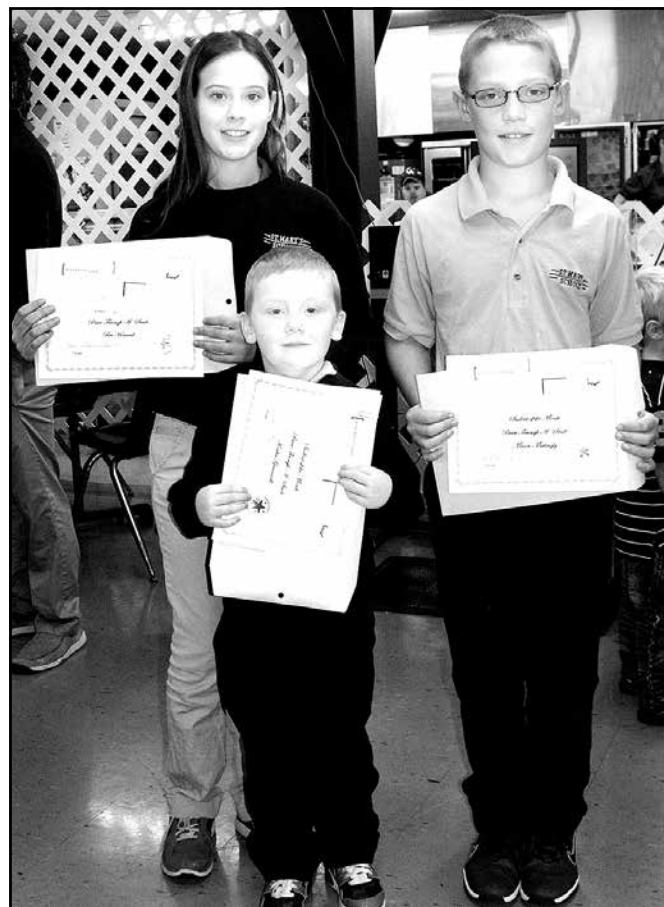
Some of the best memories that I have as a child are visiting my grandparents. The Fourth of July is one that particularly sticks out in my mind. Every year, I would sit in my Mimi's kitchen and watch my Papa pick his tomatoes out of her garden. He was so proud of those ripe, red tomatoes. Then, my family would travel back to Owensboro and I would walk into my Grandmother's house only to see more tomatoes because she would already be canning hers. My six year old mind just could not comprehend why my grandparents would spend so much time on something they would consume in seconds. Something my six year old eyes did not see was how much work and effort went into the gardening so that the tomatoes turned out to be a success. Now, you may be wondering what do tomatoes have to do with Catholic High?

Just like my grandparents spent countless hours in their gardens, I know many of the grandparents here today have spent much of their time cultivating Catholic High into the garden of tradition, family, and faith that it is today. These three aspects of tradition, family, and faith are what set Catholic High apart from other schools.

I remember coming to school fresh-

Angels

November, 2013
Students of the Month at Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic School, from left to right they are: Brianne Howard, Korbin Greenwell, and Mason Mattingly. Kim Rydecki Photo



New Cross and Steeple in Grand Rivers Witnesses Fervent Faith of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Founders and Parishioners

January, 2014 15

By Steve Krivan

GRAND RIVERS, Ky. - Parishioners at St. Anthony of Padua Parish here, along with visitors and benefactors, raised funds for the purchase of a Church Steeple.

An important part of the fund raiser was a raffle of a Quilt made by the St. Anthony of Padua Ladies Guild Quilters.

The winner of the Quilt (Rose Garden) was Mrs. Carla Gough of Kevil, Kentucky. Mr. & Mrs. Gough are pictured with Pastor Father Anthoni Ottagan, HCN.

The Steeple and Cross were installed November 15, 2013 by parishioners Bob Lang and D. G. Ferenbacher.

Through the insight of Pastor Ottagan, the steeple is an important symbol of the fervent determination of current and past parishioners to serve their small Catholic community and the many W.Ky. Lakes Region Catholic visitors and vacationers.

The roof Steeple and Cross also serves to honor the priest who built the church, Rev. Msgr. George H. Hancock, along with those important initial parishioners.



The winner of the Quilt (Rose Garden) was Mrs. Carla Gough of Kevil, Kentucky. Mr. & Mrs. Gough are pictured with Father Anthoni Ottagan, HCN. Submitted Photo

The Joy of Giving

By Tami Urcia

Each year, the Diocese of Owensboro's Family Life Office organizes a giving project for the Catholic Pastoral Center Staff. In years past we have helped families at the Pitino Shelter and Hispanic Families in conjunction with Centro Latino. Sometimes we even work together with Cathedral Preschool families to make an even bigger circle of giving!

This year after meeting with Martha Little and understanding the mission of the International Center, we decided to help Burmese refugees who have relocated here in Owensboro. "They are simple people," Martha assured us. "What they most enjoy is to be able to buy and cook their own cultural food."

We were told there were 25 single-parent families that were especially in need. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of the staff, we were able to help each one of these families in a small way with a Wal-Mart gift card.

We pray that what we share will make their Christmas a bit merrier and may in some way bring them closer to God.

Entering into the James H. Davis Funeral Home, Owensboro, on Nov. 21, 2013 for a prayer service for an Owensboro 68-year-old man who died in the week of Nov. 17, are members of The Owensboro Catholic High School Joseph of Arimathea Society. The Society performs one of the Corporal Works of Mercy for the good of the Church as they assist the families and friends of deceased persons as they bury a loved one. The last work of mercy, burying the dead, comes from the Book of Tobit. Mel Howard Photo



In the photo at right, Eric McBride offered a heart prayer for the soul of the man in the casket as Michael Thompson and Pete Mattingly listen. The Church believes that The Corporal Works of Mercy include Feed the hungry; Give drink to the thirsty; Clothe the naked; Shelter the homeless; Visit the sick; Visit the imprisoned; and Bury the dead. Mel Howard Photo



OCHS Group Shares The Last Work Of Mercy, Burying The Dead



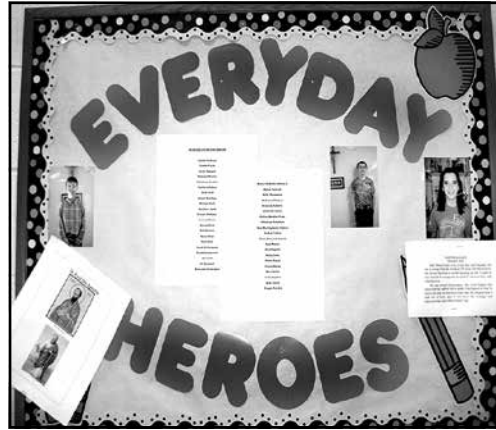
Standing in prayer around the casket in James H. Davis Funeral Home on Nov. 21, 2013 of an Owensboro 68-year-old man who died in the week of Nov. 17, are members of The Owensboro Catholic High School Joseph of Arimathea Society, from left, OCHS seniors Sam Hall, Alex Ross, Eric McBride, Blake Wedding, Michael Thompson, and Pete Mattingly. At right are Fr. Ed Bradley and Daviess County Coroner Jeff Jones. Mel Howard Photo

Do You Know An Everyday Hero?

Students Recognized As Everyday Heroes At Owensboro Catholic Middle School
By Julie Renshaw

This year Owensboro Catholic Middle school has instituted a new way to honor our students as everyday heroes. At the beginning of the school year, each student was given a necklace to wear with a medal of the Holy Family on it, our patron saint. Students can earn more medals of the saint of their choice throughout the year by being an everyday hero: helping another student, being friendly, completing all homework in a timely manner, stepping up to help out a teacher, etc.

When a teacher notices a stu-



Pictured are OCMS students Rachel Kyle, Emily Scheidegger, Morgan Cecil and Dakota McKay. OCMS Photos

dent doing something "heroic," that student gets to choose a medal (there are 12 different ones) to add to their own necklace. Each month students who are nominated are listed on the "Everyday Heroes" bulletin board in the cafeteria. One student from the list of nominees is selected to be the everyday hero of the month. That student's picture is posted on the bulletin board along with a summary of the life of their baptismal saint, their everyday hero!



Habitat for Humanity House #113 Dubbed CEO Build

Ken Rasp, Director of the Owensboro Catholic Schools System, presented a \$1000 check to Virginia Braswell on Dec. 17, 2013 for the CEO Build that is currently going on. Each organization was asked to contribute \$1,000 toward the build. The Owensboro Catholic Habitat for Humanity Chapter raised the funds by working for Kimberly Clark on

their 20th anniversary celebration earlier in the year. The officers from left to right: Camille Settles, Mason Robertson, Sarah Haleman, Ken Rasp, Virginia Braswell, Stephanie Hayden, Bev Howard (sponsor) and Raychel Bahnick also took part in the presentation.

Photo by Ashley Wilkerson



Third Graders Practice Multiplication Facts

In the two pictures above and below, Students at the Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus in Mrs. Flahardy's 3rd grade class practice their multiplication facts in a "nontraditional" way- by using playing cards! Students who could call out the answer first- won the round! Submitted by Lori Whitehouse, Principal, Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus



St. Anthony's Welcomed 9 Members As Adults On Sept. 15, 2013

January, 2014 17

BROWNS VALLEY, Ky. - Not only was this an exciting day for the youth and their families here, but also for Deacon Tim Nugent who was celebrating his first anniversary as a Deacon. We are so glad to have him in our parish to assist with the many needs we have even as a small parish! May God continue to shine on all of us at St. Anthony's in Browns Valley!

Pictured at top from left to right: Pastor, Fr. Mike Clark, Kenny Ray Boarman, Bishop Medley, Corey Fulkerson, Forrest Clark, and Deacon Tim Nugent; Bottom row: Kelly Hayden, Kayla Austin, Kayla Selby, Miranda McCormick, Bailey Wiggins, & Lauren Hagan.

Submitted by Kaye Fulkerson, Deerpark Elem School Teacher



St. Mary High School Students Score Perfect 36 on ACT Reading



St. Mary High School Senior Allison Reed, left, and



Junior Alex Rich, right, have

scored a perfect 36 on the Reading section of the American College Test (ACT). Their score puts them in the top 1% of all high school students who took the test nationwide. Reed is the daughter of Pam & Greg Reed. Rich is the son of Vickie & Steve Rich. Submitted by Jackie Hopper



Hats Off To Mary Carrico Catholic School

In the picture above, Mary Carrico Catholic School recognized these ten students as October students of the month: Front row L to R: Ezra Mattingly, Rylan Cecil, Abby Payne, Collin Hamilton Middle row L to R: Emmalynn Higdon, Kamryn Johnson, Logan Horn Back row L to R: Devin Rhinerson, Jacey Fulkerson, Seth Pence. Submitted by Chuck Green



Mary Carrico Catholic School Spanish teacher Donna Peeles is pictured with Kindergarten students Landin Milan, Jude Cecil, Collin Hamilton in front of a replica of a Spanish memorial. El día de los Muertos is a Spanish holiday that celebrates the lives of friends and family who have passed away. In Spanish class all of the students were able to add names and pictures of their loved ones who had passed away. Many students shared personal and loving stories about these special people. Submitted by Chuck Green

In the picture at left, Randy Lanham with the Bluegrass Museum, demonstrates how to play the mandolin as part of the Bluegrass in the Schools program in Ms. Kayla Veach's third and fourth grade class at Mary Carrico Catholic School. Randy taught the students to play "Boil That Cabbage Down" during the week of November 11 - 15. Submitted by Chuck Green

A Big Year at Gasper River!!!

By Ben Warrell

Whew! It's been an amazing summer and fall at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center. This summer was our biggest ever! Over 450 campers came to camp in the summer of 2013. Our newest element, the Giant Swing, was loved by all who tried it and young people grew in faith. There was just something very special about this summer, the Holy Spirit was moving in powerful ways! I'd like to share a part of a letter (and we actually received several like this one from other parents) that we received when camp was over. "I just wanted to thank you for all the time and commitment and care you provide during camp. My daughter attended and was amazed. She had a wonderful time but her main emphasis and discussion wasn't about the activities, like scuba diving, zip line, etc. She had fun doing those things but her main focus of discussion was the reflections, wonder and awe time, going to mass, going to confession and especially adoration. She said she truly felt the presence of God-she felt Him tug at her heart and realized that she needs to make Him a larger part of her life! Thank you all so much for allowing her to attend and helping her become stronger in her faith. In our lives, we meet many people, but there are only a few that can really change us! Thank you and God bless." We are blown away when we hear from parents about the experiences their children have at camp. The really amazing thing is this happens to almost every camper here! They are allowed to get away from the ordinary, live a week focused on God and



Scene from a Quest Camp, Summer, 2013

His teachings through the Church and the Holy Spirit does the rest. When all the distractions of daily life are removed, young people (all people) are able to respond to God's call because they can hear it!!! God is doing amazing things here at Gasper River!

Please don't forget, that this place belongs to you! It's no good unless you come and use it! We always need help to make this amazing ministry happen. If you'd be interested in volunteer for a week of camp please let us know! We are always in need of volunteers. We also need people in the medical field-EMT,

nurses or doctors to serve as our camp health care provider for each week. If you'd be interested in serving the Church in this capacity, please call our office for more information. Everyone who volunteers out here has told us how much they benefitted from the experience!

In addition to young people changing, there will be some new additions for next summer's camp! We're building a new lodge that will sleep 52 campers and it will include a storm shelter and a chapel! We will also remodel the old Banquet Hall building and convert that into our new dining hall. Both projects will add so much to the camp and retreat experience and both will be completed by the time summer camp starts for the summer



Scene from a Quest Camp, Summer, 2013

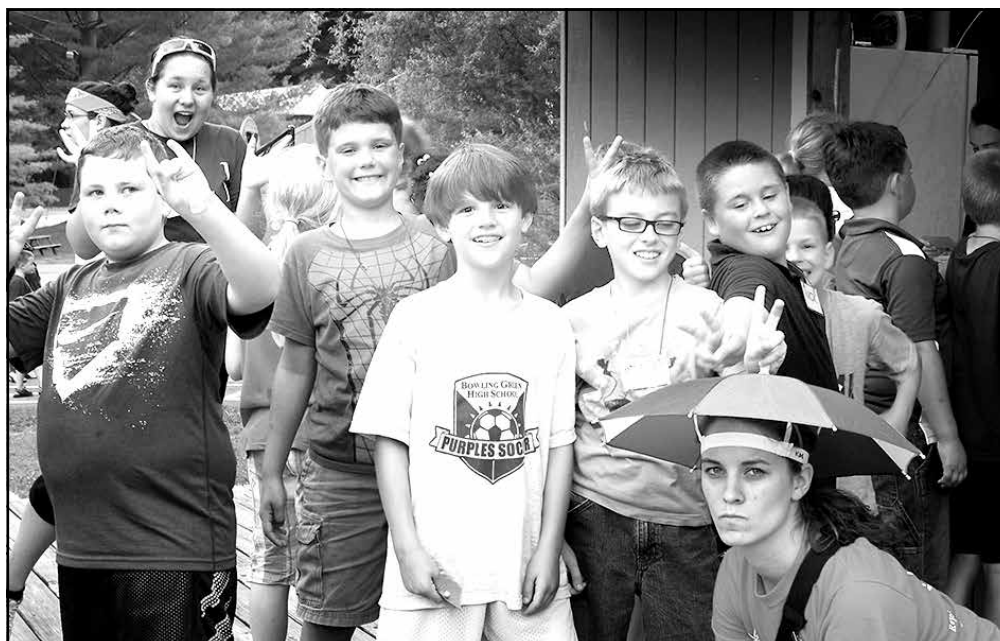


Ben and Jessy: Santa's little helpers hard at work, getting ready to send out our Christmas mailing!!

of 2014! These projects will help us take the camp experience to the next level! A very special thanks to all those involved in making these projects happen. May God bless your generosity. Please be involved with this wonderful ministry. First of all, please pray for the ministry here. Secondly, help spread the word about camp-we get campers from all over the country and we here from them how blessed we are to have this place right here in our backyard! Come to camp and encourage others to do the same. Lastly, get involved here, be a counselor, a summer staffer, a financial supporter or a promoter of this wonderful place. Your life will never be the same!



Scene from an Expedition Camp, Summer, 2013



Scene from an Explorer Camp, Summer, 2013

Serve God In A Unique And Special Way At Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp And Retreat Center

January, 2014 19

By Jessy Bennett

Every summer Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center becomes the temporary home to many people. We have been incredibly blessed in our six years of operation. I still remember the first time I came through the gates and felt the peacefulness of the place settle over me as the river drew me from my car out into the middle of the rapids! All these years later, that feeling stays with me and I cannot believe how much this place has grown. On that warm summer day, I could not have imagined that (1) I would have the privilege to work here year round and (2) that Gasper would grow and thrive as quickly as it has. The Lord has truly blessed this place.

I began working at GRCYCRC back in 2008 and have been here every year since. The first three years I worked in Summer Staff, and the last three as Program Director. Every year I look forward to summer because I love the activities we do and the youth who attend. I know that this is where the Lord has called me. Being a part of GRCYCRC has given me the opportunity to serve God in a unique and special way - I get to take part in Salvation History! Working at Gasper as a staff member or volunteering as a counselor, nurse or cook allows you to slow down and take time away from our everyday routines. Out here we have daily Mass and are surrounded by other holy men and women who seek to grow in their faith. The bonds and fellowship that are formed here are not just

among the campers but the staff and volunteers. As Christians we are all called to help one another grow - and that is but one of the benefits of being a part of the summer camp experience at Gasper River.

Each year we look to hire 12-14 Summer Staff/Staff Counselors, 2-3 Staff in Training per week (about 15 for the summer), as well as recruit a Camp Health Care Provider for each week of camp (Remember, there are 11) and 10 counselors per week (which totals out to about 110). Each year the number of youth has grown for our Summer Camp program, which is a great thing! This has also made it difficult to staff each week of camp with all the necessary personnel. We are looking for young men and women who love the Lord and wish to serve Him by being a part of Salvation History themselves!

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in helping out in any capacity, please visit our website www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org or contact Jessy Bennett via email at jhagan924@gmail.com, through Facebook or call (270)781-2466 during business hours. See below for information concerning job openings, important dates and requirements.

Summer Staff/Staff Counselors: Must be at least one year removed from high school and a strong, practicing Christian to be eligible for this position. Primary duties of a Summer Staff will be to facilitate camp activities and to mentor youth. Staff Counselor's primary duties will be to stay in the



A Mass scene with Fr. Mike Williams presiding from a Quest Camp, Summer, 2013

cabins with the youth to oversee the other counselors and act as liaison between the staff and volunteer counselors.

Staff-In-Training (SIT): Must be at least 17 and/or a junior in high school and a strong, practicing Christian to be eligible for this position. Primary duties of an SIT will be kitchen duties, serving meals and doing maintenance. ****NOTE**** Applications for Summer Staff/Staff Counselors and SIT available on website and are due by NO LATER THAN FEB 28, those arriving afterwards will not be eligible for hire. There is also a mandatory interview weekend March 28-30 (plan to attend from Friday evening to Sunday morning-specific times to be announced).

Volunteer Counselor (VC): Must be 16+ and a strong, practicing Christians to be eligible. Those wishing to help with high school camps must be at least one year removed from high school. Primary responsibilities are to supervise campers, help them to arrive at activities on time and to work with the staff to provide a great experience for the youth.

Junior Counselor (JVC): Must be at least 14 and a strong, practicing Christian to be eligible. Only two (2) JVC may work at each camp; only eligible to work at Explorer and Expedition Camps. ****NOTE****We will only be accepting 5 men and 5 women for each week of camp, spaces will be given on a first come first serve basis. Anyone wishing to be a Volunteer or a Junior Counselor must attend a Counselor Training Date. Several have been set up at different places in the Diocese to help make attendance possible. Schedule is as follows: Feb 2 @ GRCYCRC, Bowling Green 1-5 PM; Feb 9 @ St John, Paducah 1-5 PM; March 2 @ Blessed Mother, Owensboro 1-5 PM; April 27 @ GRCYCRC, Bowling Green 1-5 PM

Camp Health Care Provider (HCP): Each week of camp will have one HCP on site who is qualified to administer first aid, dispense prescribed medicines, assume the responsibility for emergency situations, maintain health records and recommended procedures for proper sanitation in camp. This person must be a licensed physician, a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, paramedic, EMT or health care student certified in first aid and CPR (minimum requirements). Food and lodging will be provided at camp. In addition, those volunteering to be a HCP will receive a scholarship for one youth (child, sibling, niece/nephew, etc) to attend camp.

Above all, we here at GRCYCRC ask for your continued prayers for our summer camp season, those who will be working here and most especially for the youth who will be attending. Lastly, ask yourself - would you (or someone you know) be willing to help out/work at Gasper this summer? Prayerfully consider where the Lord is calling you to be and may he bless you wherever that is!

Scene from a High Adventure Camp, Summer, 2013



Submitted by Ben Warrell

"Why don't all kids go to camp at Gasper?" One of my boys asked me that very question last summer. He then said, "It's not even very far to go, Mom, but when you get out there, it feels like you're in the middle of nowhere...but you're kind of in God's backyard." Soon after this conversation, my son recruited 3 of his friends to go to camp with him, all of whom have said they had a "blast," and want to go back again next summer.

I first volunteered at Gasper 2 summers ago when I read in our church bulletin that healthcare personnel were needed at camp. Having 3 boys to send to camp, I knew the volunteer time would help balance with our tuition. That was my initial intention. I soon found, however, that although I DID bandage a few knees, I truly did get back way more than I gave.

As a kid growing up, I never had the opportunity to attend a camp like Gasper River Retreat Center. I wasn't openly taught about God, or encouraged to talk about my faith. I didn't have role models like the counselors at Gasper, in fact, until I spent time with the counselors myself, I have to admit, I didn't really know that

such great young people even existed. I couldn't ask for better mentors and role models for my boys, or any of our youth. The counselors at Gasper incorporate Scripture into every activity at camp, and regardless of the age of the camper, they are able to relate it to their daily life - and as my boys say, they make it FUN!

It's amazing to me how kids can transform in just a week away from their normal lives—without cell phones, video games and TV. After my 2nd summer volunteering, and seeing a lot of return campers, I really saw the changes in the kids - even in my boys. Now, anyone who knows me, knows that my kids are not angels. Just when I think I'm really missing the boat as a parent, my boys surprise me: they fight over which prayer to say at dinner, or one of them, out of the blue, tells me about a Saint that he learned about at camp, and asks for a book of Saints so he can learn more about them. Or, best of all, when I recently walked through my son's room I found that his Bible isn't just collecting dust on a shelf, but that there are underlined verses and worn pages, and when asked to choose a Confirmation sponsor, his first choice was a counselor



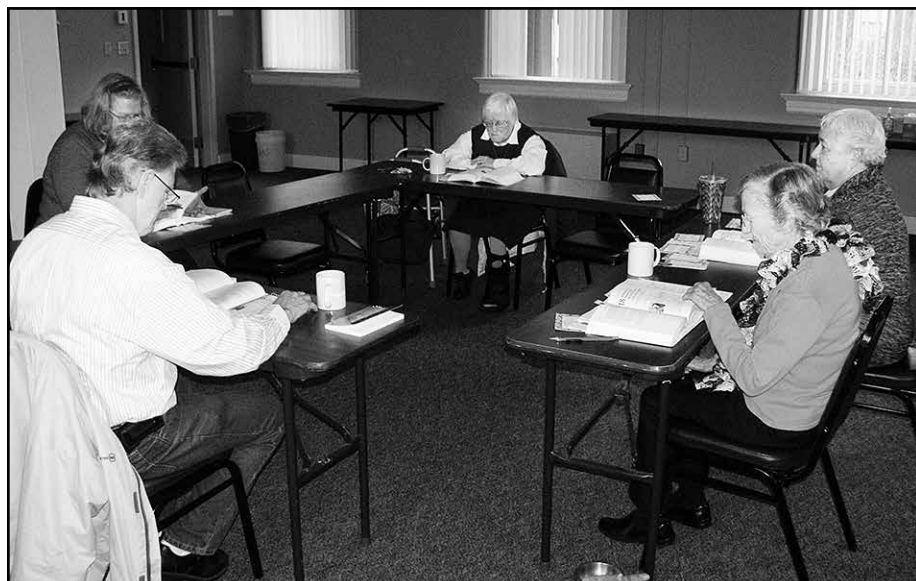
A scene from an Explorer Camp, Summer, 2013.

from Gasper.

Yes, it seems to me that there's a lot of good stuff going on out there at Gasper, and if you have any doubts, just take a drive out there yourself. For me, as my boys start counting down for the school year to end this spring, I too will start counting down. I think of my volunteer time at Gasper River as my own little retreat - my own time to renew my faith, as my son would say, in "God's backyard."

- Tracey Burke

Monthly Studying the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults Rewarding



The December gathering to study the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults took place Dec. 5, 2013 at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. From left are Mike McLevaine, Karen DeSosa, Sister Debra Ann Bailey, Ursuline Sister Ann McGrew and Ursuline Sister Marietta Wethington. The monthly study of the catechism will continue into 2014 at the Center. The next session is Jan. 9. MSJ Photo



Deepening One's Spiritual Life

Monsignor Bernard Powers brought his unique perspective on what God is calling us to during Advent for his annual Advent Prayer Retreat Day on Dec. 12 at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Monsignor Powers asks a participant what she noticed at Mass the previous weekend. Look online at <http://ursulinesmsj.org/conference-retreat-center> for more photos the Spiritual Life Office of The Diocese of Owensboro.

Deepening One's Spiritual Life January, 2014 21 at The Mount Saint Joseph Conference & Retreat Center



Becky Monetathchi, left, of Lewisport works on spinning cotton for the first time, as Frances Remines, of Morganfield looks on. "My aunt grew this cotton in her garden and gave it to me to spin," Monetathchi said. MSJ Photo



Gathered in Conference Room B are participants at the Nov. 15-17, 2013 Spinning Retreat weekend at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. They were working on their individual craft projects. "We do a silent auction to raise money for the (Ursuline) sisters in Saint Joseph Villa," event coordinator Debbie Webb said. "We bring our own stuff to donate. Over the past three retreats we've raised \$1,500." MSJ Photo



OCHS Band Makes School History

On Saturday, October 26 the Owensboro Catholic Marching Aces placed 3rd at the KMEA Marching Band Class AA State Finals at Papa John's Stadium in Louisville. Earlier in the day, the band placed 4th at State Semifinals at Christian Academy of Louisville. The top 4 bands moved on to State Finals at Papa John's stadium Saturday night. The Marching Aces also earned a Distinguished Rating at both Semifinals and Finals. This is the first time in school history that the Owensboro Catholic Marching Aces have made State Finals. Last year the band placed 5th at State Semifinals in Class A. Submitted by Katie Hauser



Above, Father Tony Shonis, right, speaks during a one-day retreat focusing on Thomas Merton. A group of 36 people gathered in the Madonna Room at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on Nov. 16, 2013 to hear Father Tony Shonis and Ursuline Sister Mary Matthias Ward discuss what Thomas Merton could teach us today about growing older.

St. Paul Catholic School Cross Country Comets Make a Comeback



Saint Paul Catholic School Boys' Cross Country Team gathered around the trophy are: Corbin Geary, Alex Skaggs, Wyatt Clemons, Ryan Higdon, John Pirtle, Nathan Witten, Will Higdon, Isaac DePoyster, & Gabriel Mudd. They won this trophy at the 2013 Central Kentucky-Meet of Champions. at the Hardin Co. Fairgrounds. Their distance was 2000 meters This team competed in 7 meets for the season in central Ky. Photos and article submitted by Gina Sims

Donna Cori Gibson in concert

*- The Way of the Cross-
a song for each station*

Take up your cross and follow Jesus with a moving concert presentation of the Stations of the Cross to include video by Donna on Sunday, March 30, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Our awesome Faith, a beautiful voice, brought together to draw you closer to God. Come and sing and "pray twice" with Donna

St. Stephen Cathedral, 610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301. For more info: 270-683-1545 www.DonnaCoriGibson.com



The 2012-2013 Saint Paul Catholic School Cross Country Team member are Gabriel Mudd, Isaac DePoyster, Savanna Higdon, Lydia Mudd, Will Higdon, Mikayla Clemons, Nathan Witten, Shelby Davis, John Pirtle, Ryan Higdon, Rebecca DePoyster, Wyatt Clemons, Alyssa Skees, Alex Skaggs, Corbin Geary, Lilly DePoyster, & Avery Davis. Go Comets!

GRAYSON COUNTY, Ky. - For the first time ever, St. Paul School entered a Cross Country Team to represent Grayson County. The team has 17 members ages 5-12. Under the leadership of Coach Glen Smith and Fr. Steve Hohman, the team finished a very successful year. Coach Glen and Fr. Steve talked with the young athletes about the importance of good sportsmanship, teamwork, a healthy lifestyle, & setting goals. Coaches discussed what an accomplishment it was to consistently improve their time.

At season end the team received 2nd Place in the Boys Elementary Division of the 2013 Central Kentucky-Meet of Champions. At that meet also, Isaac DePoyster, sixth grader, received 10th Place. Two team members were recognized as our Most Valuable Players, Isaac DePoyster and Shelby Davis. The team looks forward to next year.

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This monstrance is the vocational monstrance blessed by Blessed John Paul II and is located throughout the year at the Carmel Home in Owensboro, KY.

Fr. Chrispin Oneko Helps Implement “Water with Blessings” Project

January, 2014 23

By Denise Long

Fr. Chrispin’s recent visit to his home in Kenya was met with surprise when he discovered his longtime friend Fr. Gabriel had become seriously ill and had not been able to implement Immaculate Conception’s and St Columba’s Lenten project. During Lent we partnered with Mount Saint Joseph Ursuline Sr. Lorraine Lauter’s organization called Water with Blessings to provide water filters and educational materials to the women and families in one of Fr. Gabriel’s villages named Kadenge. Our goal was to raise money for 25 filters and we were blessed to raise enough for 50!

Sr. Caren, a family member of Fr. Chrispin’s, came to visit this summer and transported the filters back to Kenya for us but due to her busy schedule as a new physician and Fr. Gabriel’s illness the project had been left uncompleted.

When Fr. Chrispin arrived at his home in Kenya, he immediately helped Fr. Gabriel on the road to recovery and very soon they both visited Kadenge and together started the program.

In the pictures, you will see Fr. Chrispin displaying how to assemble the filter systems to the buckets and showing the women it is safe to drink after it has been filtered. The pictures display how delighted the women are in receiving their

filters knowing they can now provide clean water for their families.

Next Lent St. Columba, Lewisport,

and Immaculate Conception, Hawesville, parishes, will continue to raise money to provide filters for the remaining 50 families in the hope that all in Kadenge will have clean and safe drinking water.

If you would like more information on how you can help provide clean drinking water please see the website www.waterwithblessings.org or contact Sr. Lorraine Lauter, OSU.



Photos on this page show Fr. Chrispin and Fr. Gabriel implementing the Water with Blessings Project in Kadenge Kenya on Fr. Chrispin's recent visit to his home in August. Photos submitted by Denise Long

By Sr. Mary Regina
Anderson, O.Cist.

At the beginning of every human life, God already knows the person in the fullness of his or her mystery, and foresees every choice which will be taken in the course of life. God Himself has a plan for that life, which He offers to each: a particular calling that will lead the person through certain circumstances and events and into relationships with others, so that His purpose may come about.

This purpose which God has for each of us is nothing less than loving union with Himself. The idea that "God loves me" is quite a familiar one. It is surprisingly easy for us to let the actual truth skim right over us; we may shrug it off or even shrink from it as demanding too much from us. What, in fact, is the too-great demand? Really, nothing other than to fully believe the All-Holy God, who attests His choice to love each one of us, personally. At a point in our life, we may choose to believe it, and begin to believe in Him as our loving and merciful Lord.

The monastic way of life is the most ancient form of religious life. It opens with a petition to enter the monastery, in order to seek God; and it culminates in a life-long commitment to stay there, in order to be found by Him daily. Monastic life is not about strange and apparently fearsome practices such as silence, separation from the world, or rising early to keep vigil. (Neither, for that matter, is Christian life in the world about communication, improving society, or keeping oneself active and busy.) The reason that a person would choose to become a nun or a monk is that in a hidden, interior way, the soul senses God attracting her, wanting her to let Him be with her more fully every day....

This has perhaps been an unusual aspect under which to introduce the event of Sister Christina Marie Murphy's Solemn Monastic Consecration, which took place in the chapel of Valley of Our Lady Monastery, on November 9th, the Feast of the Dedication of Saint John Lateran.



Abbot Anselm van der Linde questioning Sr. Christina Marie.



Sister Christina Marie Murphy's Solemn Monastic Consecration, took place in the chapel of Valley of Our Lady Monastery, on November 9, 2013, the Feast of the Dedication of Saint John Lateran. O.Cist. Photos

If I had observed the celebration as an invited guest, and wished to relate it as an item of Catholic news, I might have taken note of its symbolic

beauty, and remarked the sober and uplifting character of the Cistercian chant. I might have compared the ceremony to a wedding or likened it to a Mass of Ordination, describing the rite in its series of bows and prostrations, vows and prayers. Such an account of a monastic consecration (also known as a "solemn profession"), however, might have failed to convey the deeper meaning—the justification, as it were—leading a person to make such a permanent sacrifice of her life.

I might have left you, as you read, with an uncertain sense of "Why?"

What is more, I, myself, could put on the role of journalist with little success. My only honest perspective has to be the one belonging to Sister Christina Marie herself: that of an enclosed contemplative nun, recently professed. From that perspective, **I offer my reflection on monastic consecration.**

As a meditation at Holy Communion, Sister Christina Marie chose the words of this antiphon to be sung as a refrain with the Canticle of Mary:

"Ecce ancilla Domini: fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum."

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word (Luke 1)."

"Here is the Lord's servant-girl: following your word, may it be for me."

When Mary speaks these words to the angel, she is consenting to the action of God about to take place: the bodily conception of the eternal Word in her womb. Yet her "may it be" is to the whole mystery. God wants to live with her— dwell in her. Surely she is worthy, as a holy tabernacle built by God for Himself. In her lowliness, though, she knows how



Sister Christina Marie Murphy



Everyone kneeling for the Litany of the Saints

no creature is worthy—that is, deserving—of contact with the All-Holy God, much less of familiar converse with Him.

"How has this happened to me?" (Elizabeth asks this when greeted by Mary who

Continued on page 25

A Reflection Upon Sister Christina Marie Murphy's Solemn Monastic Consecration

January, 2014 25

Continued from page 24

carries the Lord in her womb.)

The question may well express Mary's own wonder at God's personal love for her. It belongs to the experience of anyone who imitates Mary in being willing to say "Yes, I believe that God loves me." She means to say, "I am a poor little servant-girl: but may it be that

the Lord is with me just as you have said. May it be that He is continually with me: by my side, as a friend with a friend, as the Loving One with His beloved. May it be: may all that Your Word means be so for me. Let all I choose from now on follow upon this Word. Behold, here I am: let Him even come to me and make me His dwelling-place.



Sister Christina Marie Murphy making her Solemn Profession



Abbot Anselm van der Linde of Mehrerau Abbey in Austria and Abbot President of Cistercian Nuns of Valley of Our Lady Monastery Sister Christina Marie Murphy lying prostrate



Sister Christina Marie Murphy taking the veil of her community.

Here let us turn to the significance of the individual's call to divine union within the Church: the call of each of the faithful, and above all the call of every contemplative nun.

"**Cloistered nuns** see themselves especially in the Virgin Mary, Bride and Mother, figure of the Church (Verbi Sponsa, p.1)." When the sister accepts the Word of God into her heart by choosing to entrust her whole life to Him, the mystery of the Church as God's dwelling is realized. This mystery of the Church is presented to us in the liturgy of the dedication of a church. From the last book of Scripture, we hear: "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and God Himself will be with them (Revelation 21)."

These words are proclaimed as the holy city, the Bride of Christ, is revealed in her splendor. The Church herself is God's dwelling-place – but she is such as a city made up of men and women who are living temples of the Lord God. As Paul reminds Christians, "Do you not know that you are God's temple, and that God's Spirit dwells in you?...For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are (1 Corinthians 3)."

As the young sister lies prostrate on the floor during the rite of profession, the abbot accepts her self-offering in the name of the Church, praying to and consecrating her life to each Person of the Holy Trinity. In this moment, she becomes an enduring witness to the whole Church, and to every human being, that

the Thrice-Holy God has chosen to dwell among men. She gives all she has and is, but receives God Himself, and becomes a sign urging every person to believe in God's love, to entrust himself or herself to His love.

From now on, her only aim will be attending on a mystery of love so great, she can hardly believe it is true. The Word made Flesh has desired her love, has asked her to let Him make His home in her. Filled with wondering trust, she responds with her whole heart: "May I be, Lord, please may I be your dwelling-place—and let me dwell in You."

For more information about the Cistercian Nuns of Valley of Our Lady Monastery visit www.nunocist.org, to see information on their project to build a new monastery see www.valleyofourlady.org, and to buy their crafts visit www.monasterycraftshop.com

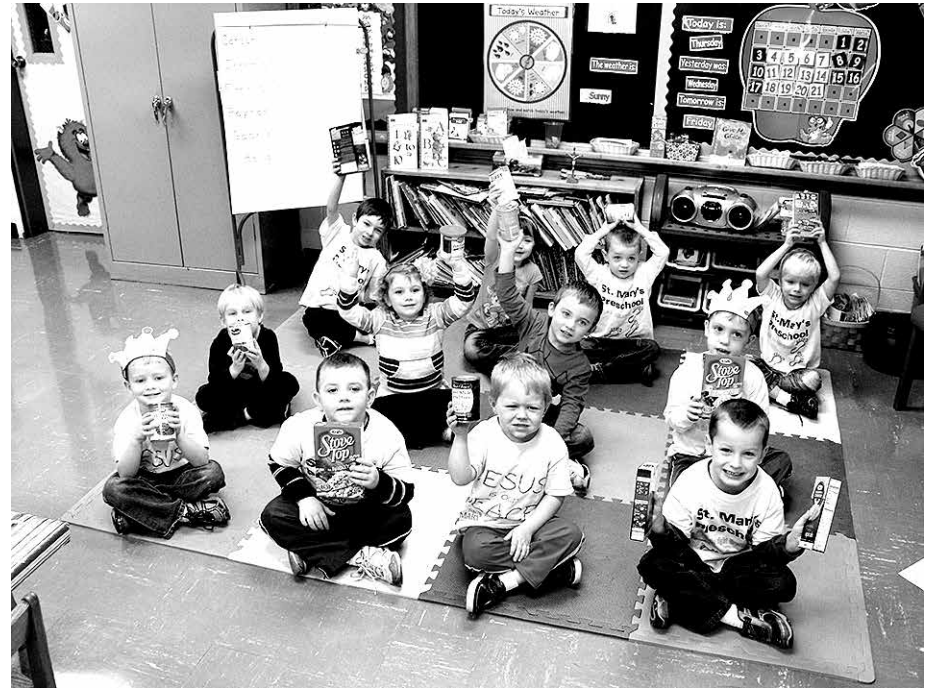


Sister Christina Marie Murphy , a member of the Cistercian Nuns of Valley of Our Lady Monastery.

26 January, 2014

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Preschool Thanksgiving Basket

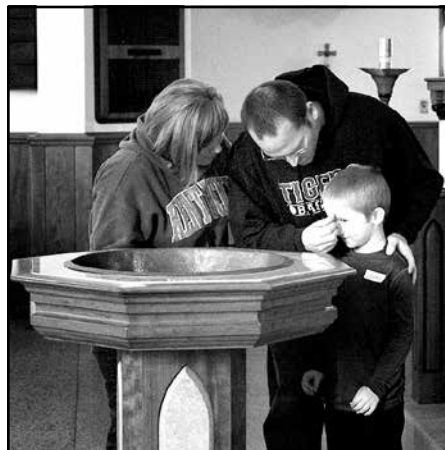
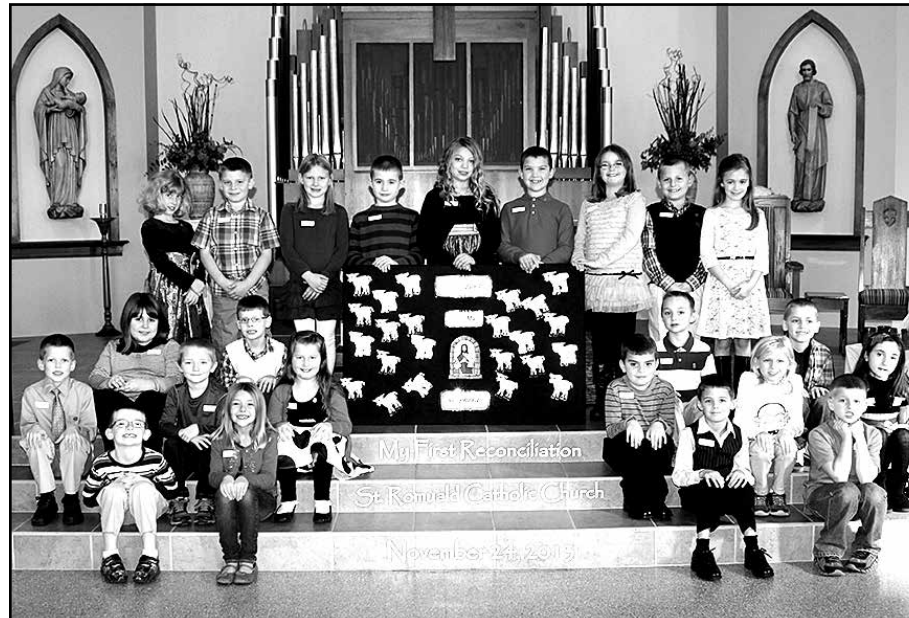
WHITESVILLE, Ky. - Every child brought one item from a list compiled by Mrs. Henson of traditional items for US Thanksgiving (stuffing, green beans, gravy, cranberry sauce, mac and cheese, etc.) In the photo attached you will see a turkey card. There is a gift card to a grocery store for the family to purchase a turkey. Everything in the basket is from the preschool. The Preschool children were very excited about making the basket. Mrs. Henson suggested that the students take \$1 (average price of any of the items in the basket) out of their piggy banks to pay for the item for this family. The general reaction of the students was "but the money in my piggy bank is so I can buy a toy." Mrs. Henson explained the importance of helping someone in need and how this sacrifice can make someone's thanksgiving much better than they've ever had.



Thursday, November 21, 2013 where Saint Mary of the Woods Catholic School Preschoolers made a Thanksgiving Basket that will be donated to a family in need in order for that family to have a Thanksgiving dinner. Ms. Kathy Henson (St Mary of the Woods School Preschool teacher), left, Ms. Julie Foster (Preschool aid); students from left to right-bottom to top, Gabriel Kuder, Tate Howard, Bella Miller, Payton Edge, Emma Jo Payne, Sam Johnson, Evan Onstoot, Gabe Howe, Easton Howard, Jeremiah Millay, Braylon Coots, and Carson Burch. At right, the class displayed their gifts. Submitted Photos

St. Romuald Second Graders Celebrate Their First Reconciliation Nov. 24, 2013

HARDINSBURG, Ky. - On Friday, November 22nd following school, 23 second-graders attended their First Reconciliation Prayer Day at the St. Romuald Parish Hall. On Sunday, November 24th, the children celebrated their First Reconciliation at St. Romuald Catholic Church. Fr. Tony Bickett and Fr. Dan Kreutzer presided over the Prayer Service. The catechists for the children are Carol Smith and Betty Whitfill. Submitted by Kim Brumfield - CRE K-6th



In the group picture above are in the front row from left, Trey Laslie, Kailey Payne, Dallas Kennedy & Ryan Whitfill; Second row, from left, Luke Walz, Kaden Coomes, Madalyn Dooley, Cameron Geeding, Lily Sturgeon & Claire O'Donoghue; Third Row, from left, Natalie Hockenberry, Brian Barton, Landen Henning & Jacob Wilson; Back Row, from left, Madeline Taul, Mason Boehman, Ava Phillips, Benjamin Barr, Lola Allen, Landon Critchelov, Macie Richards, Ethan Bratcher & Claire Flood.

In the photo at left, Following his First Reconciliation, Kaden Coomes received a blessing of the sign of the cross on his forehead from his parents, Dana & Kevin Coomes. Photo at far right, during the First Reconciliation Prayer Service, Madeline Taul reads an intercession. Photos submitted by Kim Brumfield



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The Immaculate Parish To Host A Marriage Workshop Jan. 11, 2014

Immaculate Parish, Owensboro is happy to host a marriage workshop with Greg and Julie Alexander of The Alexander House on Saturday, January 11, 2014. Greg and Julie began this Catholic-based ministry in 1999 after the near dissolution of their own troubled marriage. They now travel the country to inspire couples to look at their marriages and the joy that God intends for marriage to be. Topics for the workshop include improve your communication, experience the healing power of forgiveness, explore the role of service and prayer in marriage, and cherish the marriage God intended for you.

The retreat will begin at 8:45am and will be finished by 3:30pm at Immaculate Parish (Parish Family Center). Afterwards, couples are invited to renew their vows during the 4:30pm Mass at Immaculate. A dinner will be served that evening for couples attending the event. Cost of the entire retreat is \$35 per couple. Reservations and fees must be to Immaculate Office by Tuesday, January 7th. For more information, see their website www.thealexanderhouse.org or call Immaculate 270-683-0689.

"It's All About the Child"

January, 2014 27

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro, was awarded first place in their category, in the 2013 Daviess County Christmas Parade, on Nov. 23, 2013, the Saturday before Thanksgiving in Owensboro, "where Kentucky starts Christmas", to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. The brightly-lighted float, assembled by Kelly Ward and Eddie Mattingly, also won 1st place in 2011. A replica of the one hundred twenty-six year old downtown church and children creating the manger scene, depicted the theme for the season.... "It's All About the Child".

Portraying biblical characters from the story of Jesus birth which the world celebrates on Christmas eve and day were Madalyn Ward, Lance Dickens, Caleb Ward, Mason Mattingly and Anthony Trogden-Brown who rode on the Saints Joseph and Paul parish's entry in the 2013 Daviess County Christmas Parade, the 77th Annual Christmas parade whose route wound through the city of Owensboro. This year that route traveled on 3rd St. behind the Sts. Joseph and Paul Church property on Saturday afternoon, November 23, 2013. The parish's float entry Iso won \$250.00, which was used towards helping the poor during Christmas. Submitted by Lavidia Mischel



Owensboro Serra Club Invites You To Adopt A Priest

The Serra Club of Owensboro has launched a program to provide prayerful support for the priests of our Diocese called ADOPT A PRIEST.

A lapel pin has been designed as shown. The initials of the priest and his date of ordination have been engraved on the back of each pin. Along with each pin, a card and envelope will be included, designed especially to be sent by the wearer to the adopted priest.

The Serra Club is asking that you pray daily for your adopted priest. The names of priests are assigned randomly.

To order a pin, send a check or money order for \$15.00 to: Serra Club of Owensboro 4213 Spring Bank Drive Owensboro, KY 42303



**Diocesan Marriage Anniversaries
Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50
& Over 50 Years of Marriage****Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

Robert & Dena Montgomery, 59

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

James & Sharon Drury, 52

Guy & Frances Hogan, 52

Jerry & Charlotte Hopf, 55

James & Elizabeth Thomas, 61

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

George & Barbara Powers, 54

Basil & Joann Jones, 53

Harry & Constance Largen, 54

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Bobby & Theresa May, 60

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

John R. & Betty Brown, 52

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

William & Suzanne Blandford, 50

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Michael R. & Trina Riney II, 25

Gary & Mary Carol Jackson, 50

John W. & Barbara Montgomery, 50

Phillip & June D. Bell, 53

Melvin & Lois Connor, 57

Charles & Mary Bonnie Gray, 57

Jack & Wanda Hufnagel, 65

Hal & Eleanor Renshaw, 57

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Charles & Ann Connor, 56

James & Shirley Ellis, 56

Doug & Betty Howard, 59

Michael & Susan Johnson, 40

James & Evelyn Mattingly, 61

Mike & Cloa Thompson, 54

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

John & Roslin Dumas, 50

David & Linda Stiles, 54

Sacred Heart, Waverly

William T. & Cecilia Buckman, 51

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Hamel & Rose Floyd, 61

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Gary & Imelda Cecil, 40

St. Ann, Morganfield

Donald G. & Peggy French, 63

St. Anthony, Axtel

David & Alicia Whitfill, 25

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Norbert & Helen Rose Smith, 56

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Ed & Gayle Derringe, 25

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Francis M. & Judith Taylor, 50

Keith & Judy Walker, 54

Michael J. & Esther Shoulta, 54

W. J. & Norma Word, 63

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Norman & Ginny Elliott, 59

Joseph & Pearl Stahr, 57

Charles & Shirley Rowe, 56

Conrad & Rozella Spalding, 58

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Albert & Joyce Wurth, 54

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Ray & Helen Grudzielanek, 65

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Denny & Nancy Hargrove, 51

James & Wanda Warner, 54

James & Frankie Riley, 57

St. Martin, Rome

Jerry & Michelle Fischer, 25

Donald & Vivian Fischer, 61

St. Mary, Franklin

Frank & Marie Farmer, 55

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Joseph & Margie Merimee, 59

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Harold & Jan Clements, 56

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

J. Wm. & Mary Howard, 50

Bill & Katie Christian, 54

Joseph & Jackie Head, 57

Dan & Sue Howard, 55

Joseph B. & Cecelia Montgomery, 55

Elmer & Marcella Schepers, 58

St. Peter, Waverly

George & Rita Gayle Nelson, 55

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Kenneth & Martha Pendleton, 53

James & Patty Settles, 54

William J. & Lillian Young, 60

James & Mary Keller, 57

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Carl & Shelia Moore, 40

Leon & Cecilia Aud, 51

Francis G. & Betty Haynes, 51

Francis & Mary Howard, 61

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Mack & Dolores Mattingly, 55

Jimmy & Mary Rita Whitworth, 55

St. Rose, Cloverport

William & Bonnie Hawkins, 50

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Richard & Jane Pauze, 55

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Donald & Norma Axley, 50

James R. & Mary Ann Clouse, 54

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Bernie & Connie Herrmann, 61

St. William, Knottsville

James & Linda Hamilton, 56

Darrell & Ann Cecil, 40

St. William of Vercelli, Marion

Mike & Anne Laughlin, 52

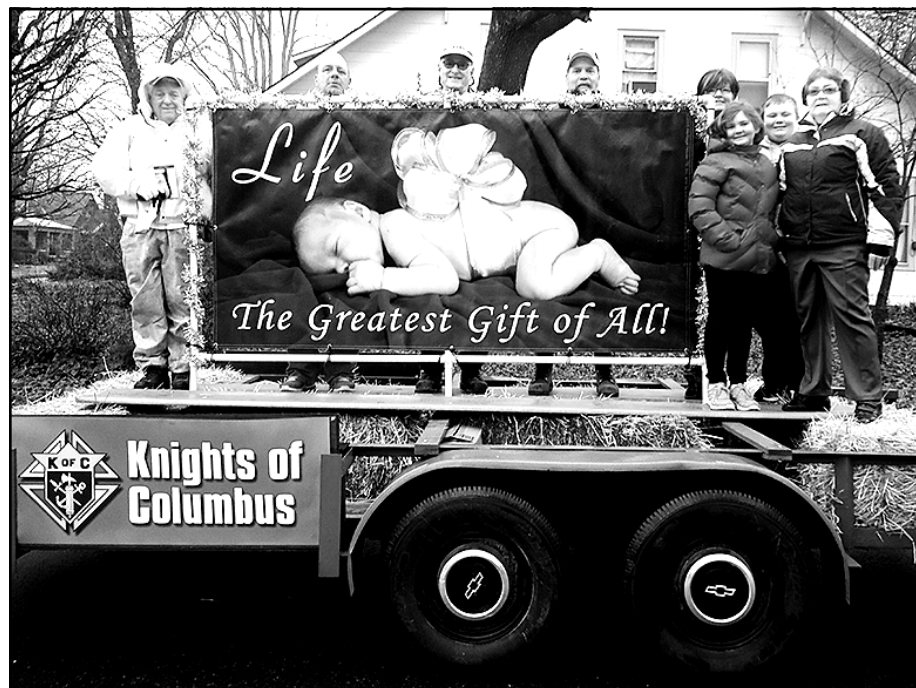
Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Charles C. & Bonnie Gray, 57

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Michael & Janice Wagner, 25

Levi & Margaret Peterson, 55

Knights of Columbus Christmas Parade Helps Keep Christ in Christmas, Sends Out Pro-Life Message

The Knights of Columbus council #6897 and St. Leo's Catholic Church in

Murray Ky participated in the Christmas Parade December 14th with two float's



representing Keep Christ in Christmas & Pro-Life. Above are photos of the

floats. Submitted by Kevin D'Angelo



St Pius Tenth Knights of Columbus Hot Dog & Chili Supper Nov. 23, 2013. Parish members and Knights of Columbus serving the parish - Left to Right: Jeff Hunter, Derwood Doyle, Dan Shea, RJ Witowski and Joe Cirrito.



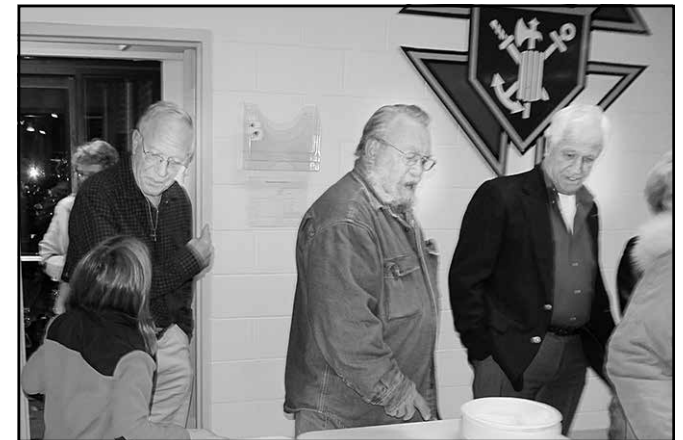
Hot Dog & Chili Supper Set Up Crew :Left to Right (Back Row): Diane Witowski, Joel Rivera, Dan Shea, Mitzi Shea, Fr. Anthony Ottagon, Russell Tomlinson; Dependents Left to Right: Austin Shea, Sidney Shea, Collin Baeza; Seated: Joe Cirrito. Taking Photo: RJ Witowski

Jeff Hunter provides refills and assists members of the St. Pius Tenth, Calvert City, Parish.



Saint Pius Tenth Church, Calvert City

In the picture at right, Chuck Gullo, Alex Baeza, Marty Tskling, and Robert Burgess prepare to enjoy some of the wonderful Hot Dogs and Chili. Photos and text submitted by RL Witowski



Mission H2O Winners

In the photo at left are shown the 3 students from the Owensboro Catholic Schools K-3 Campus who won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place in the Jim Claypool Conservation Art Contest. The theme for this year was "Mission H2O". Students who placed won money: 1st Place- Allison Bennett- \$25; 2nd Place- Lolly Patterson- \$15; and 3rd Place- Aubrey Randolph- \$10

Photo submitted by Lori Whitehouse, Principal, Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus



Owensboro's West Deanery To Meet And Greet Bishop William Medley Jan. 26, 2014

The Religious Ed students of the Owensboro West Deanery and their families are invited to meet and greet Bishop Medley Sunday, January 26 at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Medley beginning at 2pm with the priests of the deanery con-celebrating mass with him. Religious Education students from the parishes of Blessed Sacrament, Immaculate Parish, Precious Blood, St. Alphonsus, St. Augustine, St. Elizabeth, St. Martin, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Peter, St. Sebastian, and St. Stephen are invited to attend and bring food or monetary donation which will be given to the Owensboro Help Office. Afterwards, a reception will be held in the Fr. Vaughan Community Center so the students can individually meet Bishop Medley.

Catholic Leadership: Meeting the Challenge

The 39th annual Mid-South Catholic Leadership Conference was held at the Lake Barkley State Resort Park Nov. 3-6, 2013.

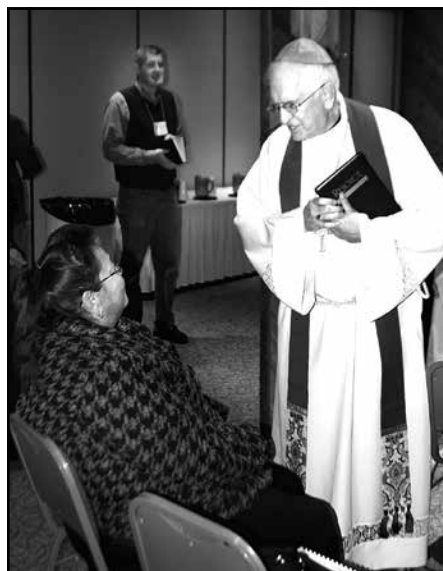
The Catholic school administrators from the Diocese of Owensboro attended a forum that included Tim Weaver, superintendent of the Diocese of Lexington Catholic Schools, and Dr. Therese Williams, superintendent of the Diocese of Nashville Catholic Schools. Topics included Common Core State Standards, educational technology, Catholic Identity, and increasing enrollment. Everyone involved in the discussion came away with new ideas shared by the participants.

Fr. Steve Hohman stayed throughout the conference to be celebrant at liturgies each day. World Library Publications composer John Angotti provided music for all liturgies. John Angotti is a full time music missionary. He travels throughout many parts of the world providing inspirational music and witness to all ages through concerts, workshops, retreats, missions, conferences, and liturgies. John is originally from Clarksburg, West Virginia, and now resides in Memphis, Tennessee with his wife and two children.

The conference planning committee works very hard to keep the conference affordable. Through the generosity of exhibitors, they have kept the cost of the conference at \$75 for many years now, have been able to obtain nationally-known speakers, and the rooms at the state park are much less than those at national conferences.

This year's speakers were:

- Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., Archbishop of Louisville, spoke about "Catholic Leadership and the New Evangelization" at Tuesday's conversation.
- Sarah Wannemuehler, Director of Graduate Education and instructor at Aquinas College in Nashville, provided the opening keynote, and a "legal issues in schools" workshop on Monday.
- Sr. Louise Shoulta, RSM, will lead a mini-retreat on Monday afternoon, and provide a workshop that evening.
- Kathy Hendricks, sponsored by Sadlier, will provide a workshop on Monday evening, and Tuesday's keynote address.
- Jim Mattingly, Superintendent of the Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools, and Ann Flaherty, Assistant Superintendent, will provide a workshop on aligning



Archbishop Joseph Kurtz speaking with Rosa Hockenberry from St. Romuald, Hardinsburg. Kevin Kauffeld Photo

Catholic School Accreditation with National Standards.

- Musician and composer, Mark Friedman, will provide a workshop on the Six Tasks of Catechesis, as well as the final keynote on Wednesday.

- Dr. Therese Williams, Superintendent of the Diocese of Nashville Catholic Schools, will join Jim Mattingly in a "Superintendent's Advisory Council" setting.
- Dan Mulhall, Director of Professional Development and Hispanic Catechesis for RCL, will share information with "veterans" on how to get more people involved in Youth Ministry and Catechesis.

Forums were presented on Monday, each targeting specific groups: Parish Catechetical Leaders (led by Diocesan DREs) and Youth Ministers (led by Melinda Prunty).

Diocesan Director of Faith Formation Office Elaine Robertson commented, "I value this conference for many reasons. First, it is a conference with excellent presenters (many nationally known) that is reasonably priced. Being in our backyard is a big asset for me. I also value the schedule which is much more relaxed and allows participants time to retreat and spend time with God. In addition, it is an excellent opportunity to network and build ties with co-workers around the area."

Asked whether this conference deserves to continue, Ms. Robertson said, "Yes, because it is a high quality con-

ference that gives one the opportunity to learn, share and relax. It is affordable for most while still bringing in quality speakers. The time for networking is one of these conferences great benefits."

Diocesan Schools Office Administrative Assistant Karen Jarboe who organizes the conference commented, "We were blessed with beautiful fall weather, and the trees were magnificent. People come for lots of different reasons, but for me, the conference schedule provides the perfect blend of time for prayer, learning, sharing, and enjoying God's creation every day."

Diocesan Schools Superintendent Jim Mattingly said, "We are grateful that Bishop Medley and Archbishop Kurtz visited the conference. Archbishop Kurtz addressed the conference participants on Tuesday afternoon, and moderated a question and answer session afterward. Following the Q&A session, Bishop Medley and Archbishop Kurtz concelebrated Mass, along with Fr. Steve Hohman, Fr. Bob Drury, and Deacon Mathew Keyser."

In the photo below, Conference participants singing liturgical music at Mass. At right in front row are, right to left, Jim Mattingly, Karen Jarboe, Ann Flaherty, David Kessler, Ken Rasp. Kevin Kauffeld Photo

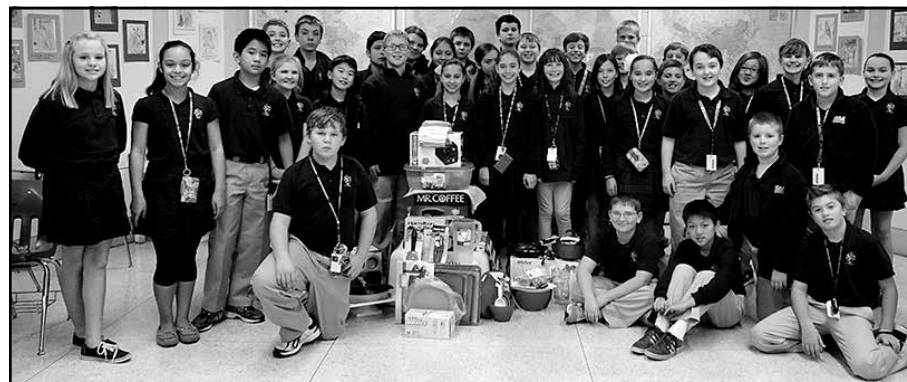


By Missy Eckenberg

The Paducah Catholic Community including St. Francis, St. John, Rosary Chapel, St. Thomas More, Lourdes Hospital, St. Mary School System, and Catholic organizations united to honor the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Owensboro by building a Habitat for Humanity home. After the ground blessing service in September, construction began to provide a home at 1109 Monroe Street for a legally blind single mother and her two children. The home has seen steady progress thanks to all those who have provided donations, materials, labor, and prayers. A special second collection was taken up November 23rd and 24th at all parish Masses to help raise the remaining funds needed to complete the home by Christmas.



The Habitat for Humanity home exterior as it was toward completion on Dec. 2, 2013. Photos this page by Missy Eckenberg



A lot of work on the house was done by the St. Mary School System students – elementary - in the photo at bottom right, Mrs. LaBarge's kindergarten provided kitchen towel racks and a basket of kitchen towels for the project; 1st graders purchasing the vanity mirrors; 5th graders providing the smoke detectors and ceiling fans; middle school – Mrs. Wade's 6th grade religion class providing kitchen items from coffee makers to measuring spoons (in photo above); and in the photo at right, St Mary High School students planned and planted exterior landscaping on Nov. 19.



From left, John Kuebrick, Donnie Niehoff, and Steve Batusic pausing from getting the walls up in November, 2013.



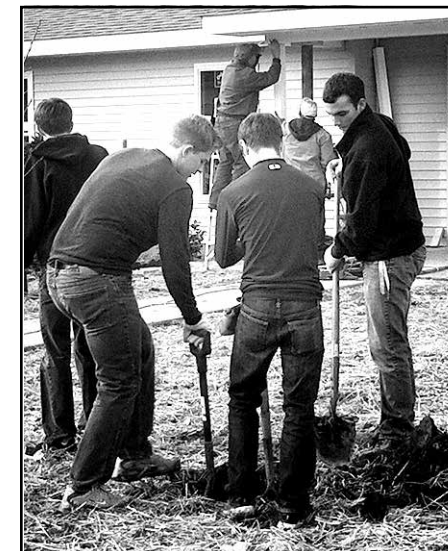
Josh Green, Saint Francis de Sales Parish, helped with the plumbing in November, 2013



Rick Schipp with workers – L to R – Donny Neihoff, St. John parish; Charles Hill, neighbor; Steve Batusic, St. Francis parish, Rick Schipp, St. Thomas More parish, and Bill Clark, St. John continue the progress.



Donnie Niehoff and Rick Schipp placing the first window in November, 2013.





The National Catholic Youth Conference is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The schedule includes keynote addresses, concurrent and workshop sessions addressing a wide variety of topics. There are also opportunities for liturgy, reconciliation, prayer and worship, service, and special activities such as concerts, exhibits, and the interactive thematic park.

NCYC is open to high school age youth and their chaperones. Most participants are Catholic. Many youth participants are leaders in their local parishes, schools and/or diocese, though many are just beginning to connect to their faith. Some attendees may have participated in previous national or international events such as the World Youth Day. Many are experiencing this type of gathering for the first time.

The National Federation for Cath-

olic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) produces NCYC. NFCYM requires that chaperones be 21 years or older. The diocesan group must have at least two chaperones for first one to ten youth and one additional adult for each additional one to six youth.

NCYC, the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the United States, took place November 21-23 in Indianapolis, participants were "Signed. Sealed. Delivered." The three-day event is described by youth, priests, and other adults as a faith-filled, action-packed, and fun! The participants experienced some of the most amazing liturgies and prayer experiences, great speakers, and clean entertainment during the conference.

Some of the 17,604 on Dec. 5, 2013 Facebook "Likes" (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalCatholicYouthConference>)

• **Ellie Perisi-Nishanian** God Bless the youth of our nation. May the Holy Spirit



Bishop Medley visiting with the NCYC youth from our Diocese. Photo by Danny May

continue to fill their hearts and minds with his love and guidance. The NCYC is indeed a blessing to watch and be filled with renewed hope. Praise God!

- **Debra Ann** had a great time with father bob on the cath chnl on xm radio! been listening!
- **Marisela Isais** It was just amazing to spend my weekend with my Lord! Im inviting the whole young community to attend on 2015!
- **Dillon C. Schueler** November 21 - It may only be 9 am. And we may not have fallen asleep until 3 am. But, NCYC is SO amazing so far. I can definitely see and feel the Holy Spirit moving around. Needless to say, this will be amazing.
- **Lisa Dubinski** A an Amazing 3 days filled with Jesus Love and family.



Holy Name Parish members who went to NCYC 2013: Charlie Hardesty, Seminarian Basilio AzCuc, Beth Probus, Lily Morton, Lauren Probus, Anne Beckert, Bryce Hoffman, Iliana Parrillas, Abby Gager, Rebecca Robards, Riley Powers, and Jo Carver. Picture was taken by Marvin the Seminarian :)



Winner of the Owensboro Diocesan Logo contest for National Catholic Youth Conference shirts

Pictured with the shirt he designed is Blake Knott from St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho, who won \$50.00 from the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office for his shirt design. YM Photo



NCYC -Precious Blood Youth And Champerones
 First row: Jaimie Thompson, Abby Dickens, Molly Thompson, Lauren Goodwin, Madison Connor and Deacon Emmanuel Udoh. Back row: Any Dickens, Terry Ward, Tyler Ward, Luke Dickens, Se. Rosanne Spalding, Monti Millay, Danielle Durbin and Lane Dickens. Photo Submitted by Sister Rosanne



Here's the Blessed Mother NCYC 2013 crew!
 Back Row: Eva Cash, Jenna Ruth, Stephanie Hayden, Mason Robertson, Alex Danhauer; Middle Row: Christina Barnard, Cameron O'Nan, Courtney Hayden, Brandon Barnard; Front Row: Liza Brown, Becca Ballard, Emily Linn, Clare Bivins. Photo taken By: Michele Linn



WE ARE THE CHURCH & ALL ARE WELCOME!

By Caitlyn Campbell
 HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH,
 Bowling Green,, Ky. - "This was my first year going to NCYC & it was the best experience to be able to go. 22, 000 Catholics in one place. For me, it was somewhere I can be myself with out being judged. Everyone I met & already knew were so polite, nice & welcoming new people.

"NCYC happens every two years & people all over the Untied States from the beautiful Pacific to the shining Atlantic attended NCYC. I personally met people from 38 states. From the bus ride there, to the slow mornings, to the long days, to the crazy nights; listening to the bands & others personal stories about their life & incountering Christ.

"Thank you, Mom & Dad, for letting me go. Thank you God for watching over the whole church. "WE ARE THE CHURCH & ALL ARE WELCOME!"



Photos submitted by Caitlyn Campbell.

Middle School Lock-in To Bring Youth From Across The Diocese Together



Photo courtesy of <http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org>

The Diocese of Owensboro Youth Office is holding a Middle School Lock-in on Friday, January 31, 2014. Starts at 11:00PM to 5:00AM on Saturday at the YMCA in Owensboro. This event is open to those in 6th to 8th grade. The cost is \$20.00 and includes a t-shirt and pizza. We ask that 1/2 of each group bring one 2-liter bottle of pop and the other 1/2 bring their favorite snack to share with everyone. This will be a great opportunity to meet other youth from the Diocese. A variety of activities will be offered; Swimming, Ping Pong, Basketball, Racquetball, and lots of different games. Contact your parish youth minister for more information or call Robin Tomes at 270-683-1545. Group registration is due by January 20, 2014. No registrations will be excepted at the door. In case of inclement weather the backup date will be Friday, February 21, 2014.

Join us for a Women's Retreat



Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

March 21-23, 2014

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, "the Little Flower," was one of the most popular saints of the 20th century. Her spirituality of "the Little Way" reminds Christians that holiness does not require extraordinary deeds, lofty theology or mystical phenomena. Rather, Thérèse's ideal of holiness is faithful and loving attention to the ordinary circumstances and people of our daily lives. Retreatants will reflect on and pray with Saint Thérèse by looking at her family life, her experience of Carmelite life, her "Little Way" and her experience of dying and the promise of eternity.



Sister Cheryl

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. 21, 2014.

A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact Sister Ann McGrew: 270-229-0200.

To register, contact Kathy: (270) 229-0206 • kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
Find a brochure online at www.ursulinesmsj.org under Conference & Retreat Center



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• **Jan. 9, 2014**

• **Feb. 13**

• **March 13**

• **April 3**

• **May 8**

• **June 12**

• **Aug. 14**

• **Sept. 11**

• **Oct. 9**

• **Nov. 13**

• **Dec. 11**

Study the Catechism with us!

One Thursday each month*

**Except July*

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Each session is \$10 (includes lunch)

A program book is \$5

LED BY: Sister Ann McGrew & Sister Marietta Wethington



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To register, call
Kathy McCarty
(270) 229-0206 or email
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56



Outstanding!

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Students from Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School recently participated in the Kentucky Youth assembly in Louisville. The students were awarded the Outstanding Premier Bill, Outstanding Delegation, Lauren Langhi was an Outstanding Delegate, and Taelor Duncan was Outstanding Speaker. In the photo above are: First Row: Georgianna Baker, Anna King, Victoria Fisk, Muki Kunmann, and Lauren Langhi; Second Row: Zoe Braboy, Taelor Duncan, Maddie Craft, Emma Sunderhaus, and Olivia Folz; Last Row: Will Goves, Nathan Riddle, and Alex Allard. Submitted by Sarah Kranz

USCCB Chairmen Praise Introduction of the 'Marriage and Religious Freedom Act' in the Senate

January, 2014 **35**

WASHINGTON - December 12, 2013 - Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, and Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, expressed strong support for the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act (S. 1808) introduced today in the U.S. Senate by Senator Mike Lee. Both archbishops previously en-

dorsed the companion Marriage and Religious Freedom Act introduced by Rep. Raúl Labrador in the U.S. House of Representatives on September 19, 2013.

"The fact that this very important non-discrimination bill has now been introduced in the Senate is quite encouraging," said Archbishop Cordileone. "As with the House bill, the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act introduced in the Senate would prohibit the federal government from discriminating against

religious believers who hold to the timeless truth that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. This Act, therefore, provides necessary protections. Increasingly, state laws are being used to target individuals and organizations for discrimination simply because they act on their belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Such prejudice must not be allowed to spread to the federal government."

Archbishop Lori said, "I urge both the House and the Senate to pass the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act. We are witnessing a growing climate of intolerance against individuals and organizations who believe that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, with a 'comply or else' attitude being advanced

by those who favor marriage redefinition in law. In this coercive climate, the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act is an important step in preserving religious liberties at the federal level."

Archbishop Lori added, "Among the many protections in this bill, the federal government would not be able to deny individuals and organizations a grant, contract, or employment because of their religious belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman."

More information on the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act is available online at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/promotion-and-defense-of-marriage/marriage-and-religious-freedom-act-background.cfm.

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Perhaps you know Sister Laurita Spalding, who helps shape the education and faith life of second-graders as a teacher at Holy Name School in Henderson. The Ursuline mission is to proclaim Jesus through education and Christian formation in the spirit of our founder, Saint Angela Merici.

Ask Sister Laurita about her life as an Ursuline Sister. To learn more, visit www.ursulinesmsj.org.



Contact Sister Martha Keller, Director of Vocation Ministry:
270-229-4104
martha.keller@maplemount.org



Ursuline Sisters

of Mount Saint Joseph

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Eucharistic Adoration

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

2nd Sunday of the month



The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite you to join us for Eucharistic Adoration on the second Sunday of the month to pray for vocations. Our next date is **Sunday, Jan. 12.**

Eucharistic Adoration is from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the **Motherhouse Chapel** (located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56) and concludes with evening prayer.

If you are unable to be present, please join us in prayer for this special intention.

Adoration will continue on the second Sunday of each month in 2014.


Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org
info.ms@maplemount.org

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2014

- 4 **Yarn Spinning Day**
- 6 J.D. Byrider meeting
- 9 **Study of the Catechism**
- 10-12 Retrouvaille
- 13-17 **Spiritual Direction Training Program (Week 2)**
- 18-24 St. Meinrad Seminarians
- 24-26 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program

FEBRUARY 2014

- 7 Lourdes Youth
- 8-9 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 10 CPC Staff Retreat
- 13 **Study of the Catechism**
- 15 St. Michael's/Sebree Planning Committee
- 21-23 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program
- 23-26 Sisters' Quilting Friends

To register or schedule an event, call Kathy McCarty: **270-229-0206**
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

MARCH 2014

- 7-9 **Yarn Spinners Weekend**
- 7-8 ICSC Youth Confirmation
- 13 **Study of the Catechism**
- 14-15 Chapel Hill Women's Retreat
- 21-23 **Women's Retreat with Sister Cheryl Clemons (Saint Thérèse of Lisieux)**
- 28-30 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program
- 29 Junior Festival Winners

APRIL 2014

- 3 **Study of the Catechism**
- 5-6 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 7-11 **Spiritual Direction Training Program (Week 3)**
- 11 Glory Conference Women's Retreat
- 12 Sts. Joseph & Paul RCIA
- 25-27 Diocese of Owensboro Permanent Diaconate Program
- 29-1 North American Ursuline Leadership Conference

Center-sponsored programs are in **BOLD** type. Please call to register.



www.ursulinesmsj.org



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Saints Peter And Paul School Marches Into School Mass With The Saints

Students dressed as Saints of the Church attended Mass on November 22, 2013, and sang "When the Saints Go Marching In" at the entrance and recessional. Submitted by Sarah Kranz, Principal.



Saint Mary Group - Front Row: Maddie Benford, Natalie Linares, Allison Sunderhaus, Marley Hancock; Back Row: Trace Pound, Will Groves, Lauren Langhi Sofia Sargeant. Photos by Sarah Kranz, principal Sts Peter and Paul Catholic School, Hopkinsville, Ky.



Vincent De Paul
Franco Fiscella



Mariana
Cecelia

Mariana Veyra
Cecelia Langhi



Padre Pio Fr. Julio and Ryan Carlton



Caroline
Rose of Lima
Anthony

Caroline Baker
Laney Chaudoin
Collin Woods



John the Baptist
Aiden King



Elizabeth Ann Seton
Jane Irwin (teacher)



Ambrose
Aaron Stevens



Michael the Archangel
Luke Shouse



By Ann Renfrow

LIVERMORE, Ky. - St Charles Catholic Church here wants to share a story about an event which occurred on Thursday, December 5, 2013. The Livermore Woman's Club 4th Annual Christmas Tree Forest Gala was held at the McLean County Public Library. That evening was the start of what was feared to be another major ice storm.

The 19 beautifully decorated Christmas trees in this Christmas forest were featured in the Gala, the official opening of the Christmas Tree Forest in the parish. The Gala event had a good turnout, despite the threatening weather. Guests who were able to get out and endure the sogginess of the all-day rains on Thursday enjoyed the Christmas forest and refreshments and the opportunity to vote for their favorite tree.

During the month of December, 2013, the Christmas Tree Forest was available to the public for viewing, during normal Library hours at 116 E. Second St., Livermore. The Library is handicapped accessible, making it possible

for all to come in out of the weather. St. Charles Church encouraged everyone to visit and cast a vote for a favorite tree by dropping one's change in the appropriate container. All proceeds generated were applied towards the Livermore Woman's Club Education and Scholarship programs.

The Jesse Tree, **shown in the photo at right**, was sponsored by St. Charles Catholic Church. Marylynn Logsdon, also a parishioner and an elementary school teacher at Livermore Elementary School commented, "The Christmas Tree Forest let St. Charles Parish have more of a presence in our community. We were able to put a "Jesse Tree" at this annual Christmas Tree Forest, and this opened the door for people to know more about our Faith."

Within two weeks time, each parishioner had selected a specific ornament design representative of the Jesse Tree and created a three dimensional ornament. The Jesse Tree, named after Jesse, the father of the great King David, of the Old Testament, is meant to symbolize

the spiritual heritage of Jesus rather than His strictly genealogical origins. Each ornament symbolizes a person or event in Salvation History.

The 28 ornaments were hand-made by parishioners of St. Charles Catholic Church, young and old alike. Their beauty and uniqueness of the Jesse Tree were evident in the many questions, observations and ongoing conversations of the guests during the Dec. 5 evening. Even among some of those parishioners who made these ornaments, many had never heard of the Jesse Tree. So it was educational and fun, and a wonderful learning experience, not to mention the evangelization that the Jesse Tree produced and continued to do throughout the month of December!

The Saint Charles parishioners wanted to share the Jesse Tree not only with our own local community but also with other Western Kentucky Churches.

Ann Renfrow is a Parishioner of St. Charles Catholic Church, Livermore, and President of the Livermore Woman's Club



The Nativity Story. The preschool and kindergarten students at Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville, presented the story of the Nativity to their parents and friends. Their teachers are Patty Mitchell and Gina Cayce. The play was directed by Luci Hughes and Richard Barnett. Submitted by Sarah Kranz

New Owensboro St. Vincent de Paul Store To Open February, 2014



Two Owensboro St. Vincent de Paul Society parish presidents, Johnny Kelly for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, and Louis Clements for Saints Joseph and Paul Parish, took a lunch break while painting rooms on a work day, Dec. 2, 2013, in the SVDP store located at 18th St. and JR Miller Blvd. in Owensboro. Working Monday thru Friday and some Saturdays, dedicated SVDP members have been doing "yeoman's duty" to get everything ship-shape for receiving donations and for helping people who need materials to make ends meet in weekly budgets. Mel Howard Photos this page.



Above, concrete was being poured Dec. 2, 2013, making ready sidewalks and driveways around the new SVDP store in Owensboro which will "center on service."



At right, SVDP volunteers Bill Hayden, left, and Louis Clements talk about what's next on their jobs list Dec. 2, 2013 as they worked on the new store.

St. Vincent de Paul "Centering on Service" Capital Campaign

New store targeted opening is Feb. 1, 2014



We are making great progress on consolidating the current stores and warehouse into one centrally located St. Vincent de Paul Center! This center is located at 18th and Daviess Streets in Owensboro. It will serve as a hub for activities including Thrift Shop operations, donor drop off, warehousing and outreach. Give what you can today, and we will reinvest it wisely for the needy.

Please send your investment to:
St. Vincent de Paul
1205 W. 9th St.
Owensboro, KY 42301
270-683-0062



www.svdpusa.org

"Help us help others! Invest in St. Vincent de Paul"



SVDP member Louis Clements has been one of the regular workers helping to get the new store ready for business at 18th St. and J.R. Miller Blvd. in Owensboro



Volunteers from Precious Blood Parish, Daryl McCarter and Guy Connor preparing the mashed potatoes, smoked turkey, and greens. Mr. Connor has helped with this dinner for several years.



Serving, from left: Tonia Brown, Lori Carman, Barbara Hammond, and Nancy Bumm serving Nov 24, 2013 Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owneboro. Mel Howard photos

Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro hosted its Fifteenth Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 24. What began as a ministry to the hungry by a parish prayer group in 1998 has grown into a parish ministry of community fellowship and thanksgiving for all. Members of the parish along with volunteers from other parishes cook and serve a complete Thanksgiving meal with

all of the trimmings. Hugh Cecil from St Peter's parish in Stanley has provided fresh greens and turnips to the cooks for over 10 years. Local benefactors and parishioners provide and cook the turkeys and hams as well as the side dishes.

This year over 300 dinners were served including those sent out to shut-ins. People from around the Owensboro area of all faiths and all walks of life attend each year. Old and new friends alike gather here for a home-cooked meal in a warm and home-like atmosphere. Parish-



From left, Blessed Sacrament parishioners Charlene and Mary Jo Meadows, Nestra McFarland, Marcia Wilhite, Karen Leachman, Frances Johnson, and Barbara Hammond.

ioners were thrilled especially that former pastor John Vaughan was able to join them this year.

This was current pastor Fr. Jerry Riney's first year to attend the dinner. Both Fr. Riney and Fr. Suneesh Matthew, Associate pastor were amazed at the size of the crowd that was served and the amount of home-cooked food. For many, this is actually Thanksgiving dinner, especially the homeless, the forgotten, and the lonely. Those who participate are also fed spiritually, for as we know, hunger is not always just a physical need.



Former Blessed Sacrament Pastor Fr. John Vaughan, center, and current pastor Fr. Jerry Riney, with Pastoral Associate Fr. Fr.Suneesh Mathew, HGN with Gloria Adams, a parishioner in front center, welcomed people who came to share a Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 24, 2013 at Blessed Sacrament Chapel Hall.



As the community gathered for the 15th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Blessed Sacrament Chapel Hall, Layson Brooks, front center, a Lector for Blessed Sacrament Chapel, offered a Blessing before the meal; at back - Hugh Joseph Moorman, Veronica Wilhite, and Charles Brown, Jr.

Confirmation : “Know And Proclaim The Treasure Of Jesus Christ Alive With A Mature Faith.”

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On November 18-19, 2013, Monsignor Liam Bergin, Sacramental Theologian from Boston College, spoke in the Catholic Pastoral Center with two Owensboro Diocesan groups about the Sacrament of Confirmation. On Sept. 18, he met for a day-long presentation with parish Youth Ministers, parish Directors of Religious Education, and parish Faith Formation Directors. On Sept 19, Msgr. Bergin met with Bishop William Medley and the Owensboro Diocesan Presbyterate, speaking again about the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Monsignor Liam is from Co Laois, Ireland and is a priest of the diocese of Ossory. Before coming to Boston, he was in Rome for over twenty years as graduate student and professor at the Gregorian University and as formator and then rector at the Pontifical Irish College for 10 years. He now teaches sacramental theology at Boston College. He assists with daily and weekend Masses throughout the academic year. (<http://www.gateofheavenstrigid.org>.) He lectures in dogmatic theology at the Gregorian University in Rome. He is the author of *O Propheticum Lavacrum - Baptism as Prophetic Act*.

“We want to know,” Msgr. Bergin said to the priests Nov. 19, “what it is to know the power of God within us.” This simple idea became a central theme in his presentation about Confirmation. Quoting Pope Francis, Msgr. Bergin said, “We must find the treasure of Jesus Christ Alive! The fundamental choice a Christian must make is not to take away any precepts of the Church, but of going into the streets and proclaiming Jesus Christ Alive.”

“The treasure of Jesus Christ Alive is at the center of the Church’s Mission,” Msgr. Bergin said. He urged his listeners to attend to “The power of the Holy Spirit that lives within every Christian and the Church.”

Msgr. Bergin spoke about the Triduum, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. He noted that The Apostles Creed says that Jesus descended into Hell, into Sheol, the Place of the Dead. “We priests are supposed to be ‘Alter Christus,’” Msgr. Bergin said, “but who wants to be ‘Alter Christus’ on Holy Saturday? To enter the experience of Holy Saturday can be an uncomfortable feeling of standing before the Christ who is dead, something that the world just can’t cope with.”

Christians are called to proclaim the Death of the Lord. Msgr. Bergin said, “Ever wonder about that? Why? Catholic theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar wrote : ‘Jesus Christ is in solidarity with the dead.’ We were baptised in His Death. The Easter Vigil Liturgy talks about joining Jesus Christ in death. The world says to us: Run! Avoid negativity at all costs! Christianity says to us: Let us proclaim the Death of the Lord! We are called on occasion to be there, too, in that darkness. In the Apostles Creed, we pray “He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven.”

Msgr. Bergin said that as a person studies the teachings of the Church more, as in preparation for Confirmation, we Christians learn that “we must hold our own brokenness and failures, our struggles with our own sinfulness, our ill-



Msgr. Liam Bergin pointed to a priest in the Presbyteral Day audience Sept 19 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The respondent knew the correct answer (The Word of God) to Msgr. Bergin’s question, and so he rewarded him with “Well, of course, you do!” The question Msgr. asked was whether the audience knew where a story he was telling came from. Mel Howard Photo

nesses that take us by surprise, and turn to God to beg Him to take away our pain, to own the pains we have, hold them while proclaiming the Death of the Lord. Only then can He heal us. This healing is an escatological sign: there is more in store for the Christian, an after-life. In the Communion of Saints and sinners that we are, we want to jump from death to resurrection and skip Holy Saturday. Resurrection happens in God’s own time, not ours.”

During the preparation for Confirmation, all Catholic Christians grow spiritually into the making of that decision to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, to know and to proclaim the treasure of Jesus Christ Alive with a mature faith.



A large group of diocesan priests and deacons took time out from their week’s schedule to attend the Sept. 19 Presbyteral Day to hear Msgr. Liam Bergin, at top left, speak about the Sacrament of Confirmation. Priests commented how easy it is to listen Msgr Bergin’s interesting delivery. Mel Howard Photo



Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

*Hurting from abortion?
Know someone who is?*

Rachel's Vineyard offers post-abortion healing retreats for women and men suffering from the effects of abortion.

Next Retreat: January 31 – February 2, 2014
Location: Whitesville, KY

Contact: Debbie: 270-205-4388
RachelRetreat@fathersofmercy.com
www.hopeafterabortionky.com
www.rachelsvineyard.org

Healing the trauma of abortion - one weekend at a time.

Contemporary Woman Program Announces Programs for Winter/Spring Semester 2014

Brescia University's Contemporary Woman Program, directed by Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Rose Marita O'Bryan, enters the winter/spring semester with a variety of programs in celebration of its 51st year. The brochure lists new and continuing programs available to both women and men:

- **Spirituality of Beauty**, exploring the theme of beauty and its important role in spirituality, is presented on three Wednesday afternoons, beginning on March 5 from 1:30-2:20.
 - **The Canticle Group**, examining materials that develop issues of spirituality, peace, and justice, meets on six Friday mornings from 10 till noon, beginning on March 21. This semester the group will continue to explore lectures given by Joseph Campbell, mythology scholar, that have been filmed and initially seen on PBS.
 - **The Partnership Group**, in its 25th year, meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m., beginning January 8 and continuing through May. The book chosen for dialogue is "The Untethered Soul" by Michael A Singer. Registration is closed for this program.
 - **Soul Gardening with Mechthild of Magdeburg**, a special opportunity for four Tuesday afternoons in April from 1:30-2:20, consists of guided reflections on the life and writings of German medieval mystic, Mechthild of Magdeburg.
 - **The Return of the Global Sex Trade and How We Can Prevent It**, a program of three Monday morning sessions which begins on February 3rd from 10:30-11:20, explores the alarming rise of human slavery and what is being done to end this appalling epidemic.
 - **Hildegard of Bingen: Sybil of the Rhine**, which begins on March 6 from 1:30-2:20, continues for four Thursday afternoons through March 27.
 - **Julian of Norwich: Icon of the Motherhood of God**, beginning February 7 from 10:30-11:20, continues for four Friday mornings in February.
 - **AND on one Wednesday afternoon from 1:30-3:00 on March 26th, the focus will be on praying with the elemental universe.** For ninety minutes participants will dive deeply into the elements of air, earth, fire and water and hopefully will be drawn into contemplation of the abiding presence of God in all things.
- For a brochure and/or more information regarding programs, dates, and costs, contact Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, at Brescia University, 717 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301; 270-686-4275; rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu. Participants are asked to pre-register at least two weeks in advance for each program.



Join us for Eucharistic Adoration each month at Maple Mount

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are extending an invitation to the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on the second Sunday of every month to pray for vocations. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will occur from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Motherhouse Chapel in Maple Mount. The next adoration day is Jan. 12. The adoration will conclude with evening prayer. Those unable to be present are asked to pray for this special intention.



Dear Catholics in Western Kentucky,

Have you taken a moment yet to help a young man in our diocese discern his vocation?

The Called by Name campaign run by the Vocation Office aims to help men in the diocese to know where God is calling them. We want to help them to live the vocations which God has planned for them, whatever they may be. The young men you know in your parish are often very committed to God - but they also often need a nudge from the rest of the Church to help them realize where God is leading!

This nudge is important both for our diocese and for our men who are discerning their vocations. I encourage you to assist Father McClure and Dr. Litke in the vocation office. By submitting a name, you may give one of these men the nudge he needs.

If you haven't yet, will you please consider recommending a young, faithful man who may be called to discern the priesthood? Tell us: Yes, I know a young man who may have a priestly vocation, online at <http://www.gopriesthood.org/contact/called-by-name/>

We'll be sending out invitations to our discernment retreat soon. Your submission may help to ensure that God's call is heard by someone on that retreat! Thank you for playing a part in helping our young people discover God's call. We deeply appreciate your help.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most. Rev. William Francis Medley
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF MONTREAL & QUEBEC WITH FR. FREDDIE BYRD

June 16 - 21, 2014
6 Days/5 nights
\$1,695 PER PERSON

Pricing Includes: Round trip air from Nashville, meals, downtown hotels & tours.

Highlights: Montreal Notre Dame Basilica, Cruise the St-Lawrence River, Oratory of St. Joseph, Our Lady of the Cape Shrine, Tour of "The Old City of Quebec", Notre Dame de Quebec Basilica, Montmorency Falls, Copper art Albert Gilles, Basilica of Ste-Anne-de-Beaupre & fantastic meals & shopping!

Contact Rayma Dayberry at St. Ann's Parish Office to receive a full brochure and registration form!

Space is Limited!

270-389-2287

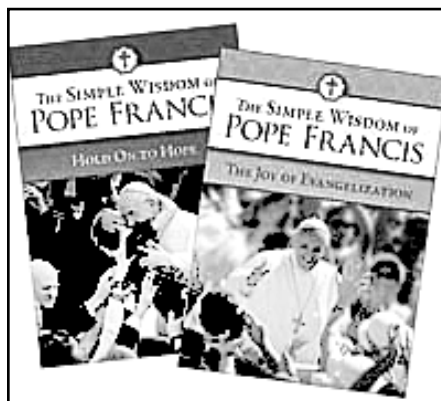


Simple Wisdom Series Offer's Pope's advice on everything from gossip to not wasting food

WASHINGTON—The Simple Wisdom of Pope Francis Series, two brief books of homespun messages of Pope Francis, have been released by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Communications Department. The first, on hope, is 66 pages; the second, on evangelization, is 73.

The books include papal remarks that have garnered worldwide media attention. Noted comments include:

- “Let us remember that whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor, from the hungry!”
- “To pray for those with whom we are angry is a beautiful step toward that law of love.”
- “Never gossip about others, never! So much damage to the Church comes from division among Christians, from biases, from narrow interests.”
- “Behave like Jesus. Always answer



Pope Francis has captured the attention of the world with his simple ways, humbleness, and love for the poor and sick. With the Simple Wisdom of Pope Francis, be transported to St. Peter's Square and listen to his teachings as he presents simple and profound insights for our modern times. USCCB image

with love and with the power of truth.”

The popularity of Pope Francis, who was elected in March, shows in huge attendance at his appearances in St. Peter's Square, interest from mainstream media and his visibility in social media, where he has a Twitter account with more than 10 million followers.

The Austin, Texas-based Global Language Monitor recently reported from their annual survey of top terms used during 2013 that “Pope Francis” was the #1 proper name most talked about on the web.

Helen Osman, the U.S. bishops' secretary for communications, noted the books are published in English in conjunction with

the Vatican publishing house, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. “USCCB is delighted to have the opportunity to launch this collection,” she said. “I am amazed at how Pope Francis translates great theological truths into everyday speech and images. His tone and expressions mark a new day in papal teaching. He reaches everyone and his words go well beyond the Catholic community.”

The series of two books is available for \$11.95 plus shipping, in individual and bulk copies. More information can be found at www.SimpleWisdomSeries.com, from the USCCB Publishing website.

Editor's Note: Parishes and families within the Diocese of Owensboro might like to make a gift of this set of books from Pope Francis to the Diocese's 2104 Wisdom Award recipients.

National Catholic Rural Life Conference Celebrates 90 Years of Ministry to Rural Communities

NCRLC is changing its name to Catholic Rural Life (CRL)

In celebration of its 90th anniversary, NCRLC is announcing several celebratory events and a new name. NCRLC is changing its name to Catholic Rural Life (CRL). “We are Catholic, we serve rural communities, and we address rural life concerns,” says James Ennis, executive director of Catholic Rural Life. “Catholic Rural Life has always been at the heart of who we are, so we are making the change to our name to reflect that reality. It is a subtle, but important change.”

Indeed, the Catholic Rural Life has always been integral to the organization. On November 11, 1923, Reverend Edwin V. O'Hara founded the National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC) to serve the Church by protecting and promoting vibrant rural life in America. O'Hara, who would go on to become Archbishop of Kansas City, was the spirit and energetic guide behind NCRLC, and he saw that the rural Church was under-served in terms of priests, churches, hospitals and Catholic schools. He instituted a plan for religious education for rural Catholics and helped them remain on the land.

In 1940, Monsignor Luigi G. Liguitti became NCRLC's first full-time executive director. He established NCRLC as a highly credible institution committed to cultivating a “purpose-driven economy” founded on the richness of rural life.

In the second half of the 20th century NCRLC was on the forefront of issues such as advocacy for land reform and fair farm policy, responsible stewardship of the land, care for the rural poor and disadvantaged, and ministry to rural laity, among others. Today, NCRLC works with a network of 2,200 leaders located in 105

dioceses in 46 states. NCRLC applies the teaching of Jesus Christ for the social, economic, and spiritual development of rural America, strengthening and sustaining Catholic life by developing and training leaders in rural communities.

Besides its new name, Catholic Rural Life is also announcing several important celebrations and meetings over the next year, including:

1. Catholic Social Ministry Gathering – February 2, 2014 in Washington DC – In conjunction with the USCCB's annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, CRL will host a preconference meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2014 from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm.
2. Catholic Rural Life 90th Anniversary Celebration – October 3-4, 2014 in Des Moines, IA – CRL will celebrate its 90th anniversary with a two-day national conference. Keynote speakers include: Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL; and the Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, Bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne, WY.
3. Faith, Food, and Environment Symposium – November 2014 in St. Paul, MN – in partnership with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Farmers Union, the symposium is the first of a series of events to inform the development of resources for leaders involved in food and agriculture.

Catholic Rural Life will also be participating in rural life celebrations and Masses over the next 12 months. Watch www.ncrlc.com in the coming months for more information on each of the celebratory events and additional scheduling information.



While serving as Director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, 1971-1978, Bishop John J. McRaith traveled throughout the United States, giving conferences and conducting workshops in many dioceses, in the areas of rural issues, social justice, and rural ministry. He is a nationally recognized authority on the Church in rural United States. He worked with groups like the coal miners of Appalachia and the pulp workers of Louisiana. This picture with Sr. Fran Wilhelm, OSU, interviewing Bishop-emeritus John was taken Nov. 16, 2013 during Centro Latino's 20th Anniversary celebration on Mel Howard Photo

2014 Ecumenical Workshops Sponsored by the Offices of Faith Formation and Ecumenical/Interreligious Affairs

Catholics interact every day with Christians from faith traditions other than Catholic. These interactions are a natural part of the workplace, supporting children activities, and being involved in civic or community volunteer activities. The question is not, “Whether we are interacting with Non-Catholic Christians?” The question is, “How can we have a more mature Christ centered relationship with our family, friends, and coworkers.” We need to learn how to discuss issues that we do not agree on in a positive manner that does not alienate us from one another. The discussion should respect the faith traditions of those participating in the discussion.

The biblical roots that form the basis of the Catholic Church’s relationship to the other Christian Churches are also the basis of how individuals from different Christian faith traditions can share their faith with each other. A workshop to review and discuss these biblical/scriptural roots will be held in February at three locations:

- Feb. 8th at the Catholic Pastoral Center, Owensboro from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Feb. 11th at St Thomas More, Paducah from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- Feb. 15th at Holy Spirit, Bowling Green from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

The biblical roots will be referenced from the Catholic documents: *Lumen Gentium*, *Ut Unum Sint*, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, and *The Ecumenical Dimension in the Formation of Those Engaged in Pastoral Work*. The scriptural roots from *Lumen Gentium* will discuss God’s Plan; *Ut Unum Sint* will highlight the desire for unity; and *Unitatis Redintegratio* will focus on the Divine Call.

Deacon Terry Larbes will facilitate the workshop.

All interested persons are welcome to participate. Just let us know whether you are coming so that we can make appropriate plans. Lunch will be provided on Feb. 8 and 15; snacks will be provided on Feb. 11. Please contact either Deacon Terry Larbes, St. Thomas More, deacon@stm.org, (270) 534-9000. OR Donna Biggs, Catholic Pastoral Center, Donna. Biggs@pastoral.org (270) 852-8324

Additional workshops will be scheduled in May, September, and December. The future workshops will discuss: the catholic principles of ecumenism, freedom from coercion, spiritual ecumenism, and the guidelines of ecumenical dialogue.

Submitted By Deacon Terry Larbes, Diocesan Office for Ecumenism

Unity in the Body of Christ is important to Jesus.

“We see this most clearly in his prayer in John 17—that they may all be one.

“We make a real effort to learn about and even learn from the beliefs and practices of other denominations than our own—recognizing the gifts each other bring. This is in direct response to the “Decree on Ecumenism” and “Ut Unum Sint” which speaks of separated communities having gifts that can help in the edification of the Catholic Church. We do this while learning about our own doctrines and traditions. We are able to discuss an issue more intelligently when we understand more about the religious tradition or set of beliefs, from which another brother or sister comes.

“One day the gift of unity will take us by surprise, just like an event we witnessed in 1989. If you had asked passers-by in West Berlin on the morning of 9 November, 1989, ‘How much longer do you think the wall will remain standing?’ the majority would surely have replied, ‘We would be happy if our grandchildren could pass through the Brandenburg Gate some day’”. Cardinal Kasper goes on to say, “On the evening of the memorable day the world saw something totally unexpected in Berlin. It is my firm conviction that one day we too will rub our eyes in amazement that God’s Spirit has broken through the seemingly insurmountable walls that divide us and given us new ways through to each other and to a new communion. Hopefully we won’t have to wait another 400 years.”

Excerpted from “Alleluia Community: Ecumenical, Christian, Covenant,” at <http://yeslord.com/newsite/ecumenism/>

Revised Sexual Abuse Policy Coming

By Molly Thompson, Office of Safe Environment

“Promise to protect—Pledge to heal.” With this dual focus in mind, the Diocese of Owensboro completed its latest revision of “Sexual Abuse Policy & Procedures,” last modified in 2003. This document clarifies the diocesan response to sexual abuse allegations involving anyone acting in the name of the Church.

Unchanged in the policy revision is the requirement that any adult aware of abuse of a current minor is required by law to report that abuse to civil authorities immediately. The diocesan policy is intended to supplement that initial response and provide a plan in any situation where a person acting in the name of the Church is accused of sexual abuse of a minor.

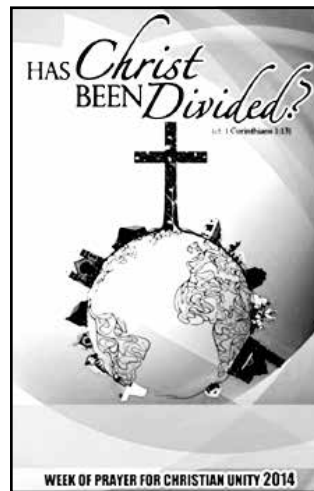
Specific goals for this revision include:

- a change in Church reporting—A dedicated phone line will be installed to allow the diocese’s Assistance Coordinator to be the initial point of contact for all Church reports regarding allegations of sexual abuse of a minor;
- improvements in procedures to reflect best practices developed by dioceses nationwide;
- and a well-defined presentation of the steps involved, starting with the initial receipt of an allegation by the diocese.

“Diligence is required to assure that children and young people and vulnerable persons are cherished and protected...” This reminder from the new policy’s conclusion makes clear the policy’s overriding purpose.

Next month’s Western Kentucky Catholic will include the formal announcement, called a promulgation, of the updated policy. The promulgation will state the policy’s effective date.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18 - 25, 2014



Logo from the Franciscan Fryars of the Atonement Graymoor - <http://www.prlog.org/12223609-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2014.html>

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is approaching, January 18 - 25, 2014. This year’s Week of Prayer theme is “Has Christ been divided?” (1 Corinthians 1: 1-17).

Many of you are already aware of the Week of Prayer and promote it. For others it might be less well known. Christians across many traditions have found the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be an occasion for shared prayer and service. The Week of Prayer offers an opportunity for individuals, congregations or parishes, and communities to gather for worship, prayer, reflection, fellowship, and service in the name of Jesus Christ. Possible program ideas include: a Sunday emphasis on church unity within a congregation; shared prayer services with neighboring churches; shared community service; exploration and support of ecumenical ministries or topical studies of ecumenical interest.

We can move beyond our differences and experience the unity of being members of the body of Jesus Christ.

Online information and resources abound including:

- *The Graymoor Institute (http://www.geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/)
- *The U. S. Catholic Conference (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/events/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity.cfm>)
- *The World Council of Churches (<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/week-of-prayer>)
- * Kentucky Council of Churches (kycouncilofchurches.org/ecucamp)

Submitted By Deacon Terry Larbes, Diocesan Office for Ecumenism

Fiestas de Navidad y año Nuevo en las comunidades Hispánicas en la diócesis de Owensboro

Por Luis Aju

En el mes de Diciembre, se celebran varias fiestas en nuestras comunidades hispanas en general para los Católicos.

Para el día 8 de Diciembre, Celebramos la Fiesta de la Virgen de Concepción; Para el día 12 de Diciembre, Celebramos la Fiesta de la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe; Navidad, Año Nuevo.

Para el día 8 de Diciembre se celebra el día grande de la Virgen de Concepción, fiesta en el que dedicamos, cuando María, la Madre de Jesús y Madre Nuestra fue concebida sin pecado original, preparándola para ser la Madre de Jesús. Fiesta y Patrona de los Católicos de los Estados Unidos y otros países y la misma devoción en varios países de América Latina.

Los hispanos, debemos de recordar la importancia de esta conmemoración a la Virgen María. Puesto que sin María, no habría venido Jesús, yo recomendaría leer la Biblia y descubrir la importancia de la participación de la Virgen María en la Historia de la Salvación.

Para el día 12 de Diciembre, celebración a la Virgen de Guadalupe, que es la misma Virgen María pero en otra forma de aparición, como un signo de que La madre nunca deja sus hijos, siempre está presente en todas partes. Comunidad Hispana, es una fiesta donde se debe celebrar la diversidad de culturas que constituimos la Iglesia Católica Hispana aquí y ahora. La virgen de Guadalupe no pertenece a un solo país en particular sino de toda persona que proclama y reconozca la importancia de la Virgen María, en toda la historia de la salvación como se dijo antes.

La fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe, no es un folklor, donde se viste a los niños y niñas de traje indígena, no es un folklor, es una fiesta donde se luce el vestuario ancestral con quienes se identificó la Virgen. Ella no se le apareció a un Europeo tal como se conoce, sino a alguien que vivía su Fe diaria. En sintonía con la naturaleza que es la presencia de Dios, por ser obra de sus manos. Necesitamos recogimiento y silencio desde nuestra humildad para poder oír el mensaje de Dios, así como hizo San Juan Diego, con Fe firme pero con humildad sentir a Dios en el silencio de su mente y corazón.

Para la comunidad hispana que vive en Estados Unidos, debemos de retornar a nuestras fuentes y seguir el ejemplo de este tipo de personas que nos anteceden en cuestiones de Fe y Oración. Imitar la humildad de la Virgen y de San Juan Diego. Entonces sí, celebraremos la fiesta de la virgen, con sencillez y Fe, sin hacer de menos a otros países en la comunidad hispana.

Fiestas de Año Viejo y Año Nuevo

Para todos, un saludo cordial y respetuoso en las celebraciones de Fin del año Viejo, e inicio de otro Nuevo año, Nuevo 2,014.

Pasan los años, los meses y los días, la naturaleza ha venido cambiando de color, dirección del sol, movimiento de la Madre Tierra donde todos mal o bien vivimos.

Todos estos cambios se dan no por rutina, si no por voluntad de Dios nuestro Creador, el universo es de él, nosotros solo vivimos un poco de tiempo en su mundo, él nos llamara cuando El, quiere.

De todas maneras; las preguntas vienen, ¿Que cosas buenas hice este año? ¿En que puedo decir que he cambiado positivamente? ¿La relación con Dios, la relación interpersonal en mi trabajo? ¿En mi barrio? ¿Con la esposa, con el esposo? ¿Con los hijos? También cabe preguntarse, ¿qué mal hice a las otras personas este año? ¿Porque he tratado mal a otros y otras? ¿He puesto yo personas en mal, para que otros le hagan daño?

Jesús nos dice: Si tienes algo contra tu hermano, deja tu ofrenda y ve primero a reconciliarte, y después haga su ofrenda. Somos muy religiosos, no faltamos a misa los domingos, pero tenemos el azote de juzgar a los otros y condenar a los otros, Jesús nos dice, No todo el que dice Señor, Señor, es digno de mí. Para todos nosotros esto debe llamarnos a la reflexión.

Hoy por hoy, estamos llamados hacer reflexión y darle gracias a Dios porque nos regaló otro año más. Hay tantas cosas de que agradecer. Pedir a Dios su bendición, para que el Nuevo Año, nos traiga bendición, sabiduría para encontrar a Dios en nuestro camino, Feliz Año Nuevo y que nuestra felicidad sea de todos los días de este año.

Obras maestras humanas

Por Anne McGuire

Mientras miraba conmovida, yo me seguía haciendo las mismas preguntas: ¿Cómo pueden estos soldados hacer esto? ¿Cómo pueden actuar con tanta brutalidad contra su prójimo? Estaba mirando una película sobre el Papa Juan Pablo II antes de ser papa, y las escenas eran de las acciones de los soldados nazis durante ese horrible período de la historia.

A lo largo de la película, seguía volviendo a esta conclusión: Se había olvidado el significado de ser humano. ¿Cómo podía una persona actuar con una crueldad tan inhumana y desalmada hacia otra persona? ¿Podría ser que ya no consideraban como personas a quienes eran víctimas de su violencia, pero los veían de una manera distante como infrahumanos, y por consiguiente no merecedores de respeto?

En un momento, Karol (que luego se convirtió en el Papa Juan Pablo II) aprende la lección fundamental que la respuesta al mal debe ser el amor. Sería tentador enojarse por el enojo hacia las personas responsables de tales atrocidades, pero esto sólo continuaría el ciclo de destrucción. Solamente el amor puede triunfar sobre el mal. Solamente la Verdad puede obtener la victoria. Y la verdad es que incluso quienes han cometido los peores crímenes fueron creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios.

Todas y cada una de las personas poseen una dignidad intrínseca que requiere nuestra reverencia. Sin embargo, ¿con cuánta frecuencia estamos predispuestos a ver a las personas que están ante nosotros como irrelevantes y de ninguna manera conectadas con nosotros? ¿Nos quedamos estancados en mirar cómo son diferentes a nosotros o en que tienen una opinión contraria? ¿Nos olvidamos de la maravilla que es cada persona?

A estas alturas, conocemos bastante las expresiones de amor del Papa Francisco hacia quienes a menudo la sociedad margina. Sin embargo, nos siguen emocionando las imágenes y relatos de cómo los acepta con un simple abrazo. ¿Por qué resuena tan claramente en nuestro corazón? ¿Podría ser que reconozcamos la verdad en sus acciones, una verdad que nos habla de la belleza de cada persona, incluso la nuestra?

Cada persona cuyo rostro se ha vuelto conocido para nosotros en los últimos meses posee una historia en la cual la persona tiene un papel principal. Cada uno tiene un nombre. Dominic Gondreau, el niño estadounidense con parálisis cerebral, y Vinicio Riva, que tiene neurofibromatosis, son dos personas por medio de las cuales el Papa Francisco nos ha enseñado la tierna compasión que le debemos a nuestro prójimo. Lo que significa ser humano no se define por medio de nuestras habilidades, edad o condición de dependencia. Cada uno es “la obra prodigiosa” de sus manos” (Salmo 139,14). Dios, que es Amor, nos sostiene en la existencia.

Pidamos las gracias de ser conscientes de que “incluso los más débiles y más vulnerables, los enfermos, los ancianos, los no nacidos y los pobres son obras de artes creadas por Dios, hechas a su imagen, destinadas a vivir para siempre y merecedoras del máximo respeto y reverencia”.

Para tener un recordatorio visual de las lecciones de amor que nos enseña el Santo Padre, únase a mí para ver un video de un minuto basado en esta cita del saludo del Papa Francisco para la Jornada por la vida. Busque “Open Your Hearts to Life” en el canal de YouTube de usccb.

Únase a los obispos en su llamado a la oración y al ayuno por la Vida, el Matrimonio y la Libertad Religiosa. Visite www.usccb.org/reza o envíe el mensaje de texto "AYUNA" al 99000. ¡Únase al movimiento!



Anne McGuire es Coordinadora de proyectos especiales para el Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos. Para más información sobre las actividades pro-vida de los obispos, visite www.usccb.org/prolife.

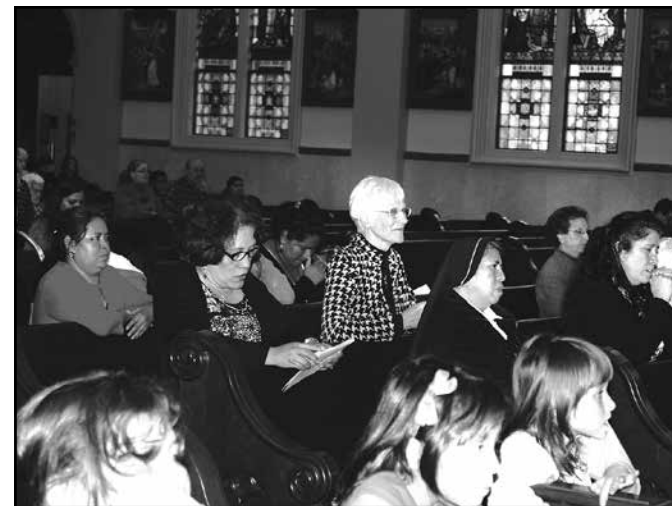
Centro Latino Celebra Veinte Años De Servicio A Los Inmigrantes Hispanos 16 de Noviembre 2013



Varios sacerdotes han venido a la celebracion del Centro Latino. La presencia de mucha gente dice mucho, aunque no se les dirigió un mensaje para animar a seguir dando ayuda de todo tipo en el Centro Latino. Pero este medio sirve para darles a todos su agradecimiento por su presencia, que es el pueblo que da vida a esta dependencia. A todos quienes hayan venido, reciban nuestro mensaje de agradecimiento por su presencia y apoyo a la institucion. Foto por Luis Aju



Para la celebracion de los 20 anos del Centro Latino, han concurrido varias personas. como apreciacion por los servicios humanitarios que el Centro Latino ha prestado a la comunidad. Foto por Luis Aju



A cada una de las personas que han venido gracias por tomar el tiempo y estar con nosotros en la celebracion. No obstante las inclemencias del tiempo. Foto por Luis Aju



Las personas en esta foto, muestran la gente que vino a participar al evento. como muestra de gratitud al Centro Latino y personal. Foto por: Luis Aju



Al coro, que han venido a cantar. Siempre las celebraciones son alegres cuando el pueblo canta y celebra. Gracias por los cantos dirigidos a Dios. Al coro gracias por acompañarnos. Foto por Luis Aju



Sacerdotes, grandes y jovenes religiosas y laicos hicieron presencia a la celebracion del Centro Latino a cada uno de ustedes gracias por acompañarnos. Foto por Luis Aju.

Centro Latino Celebra Veinte Años De Servicio A Los Inmigrantes Hispanos

Enero, 2014 3

El Centro Latino staff han estado ayudando a los trabajadores inmigrantes hispanos por más de 10 años. Liderados por un nativo de Nueva México , Sr. Fran Wilhelm , OSU , es miembro de la Mount St. Joseph Ursulinas de arce Monte y dirige el Centro Latino , un recurso para las familias hispanas que viven en la región. Los trabajadores contaron 845 hispanos en el condado de Daviess para el censo de 2000 , pero que probablemente representan sólo los residentes de todo el año . Centro estimación personal latino que alrededor de 1000 los hispanos viven en el condado de Daviess , con cerca de 2.000 en la región de siete condados . Funcionarios de la ciudad y los defensores dicen que el número puede saltar a varios miles durante la temporada de crecimiento.

El personal del Centro Latino no pregunta si están legalmente en este país , porque no es en relación con la misión. El personal de Centro Latino veces encuentra los recursos de atención de salud de la región. Los más o menos 100 familias hispanas del centro sirve dependen del personal latino Centro y algunos otros que se ofrecen voluntariamente para interpretar para ellos. Un miembro del personal también va al hospital con las mujeres embarazadas para interpretar en los partos , dijo la hermana Fran . Y Hermana Romero Keough hace dos viajes al día a Sebree tomar a mujeres a clínicas de atención prenatal . Fuente: <http://ursulinesmsj.org/ministries/ministries-by-type/social-outreach-and-justice-advocacy>



Hna. Fran (Panchita) dirige sus palabras a la comunidad presente. No cabe duda de su alegría y acompañamiento a varios. Gracias por sus palabras. Mel Howard Fotografía



Sr. Lorraine Lauter, saludo OSU Sr. Fran Wilhelm 16 de noviembre 2013 en Sts. José y Paul Parish Hall justo antes de una celebración y fiesta en celebración del 20 Aniversario de la fundación de Centro Latino en la Diócesis de Owensboro. Mel Howard Fotografía



Hermana Rose Mary habla



La Hna. Fran y su Hermana de comunidad Ula, ambas son miembros de las Hnas Ursulinas de Owensboro la misma comunidad. Hnas Ursulinas gracias por ayudar la gente hispana. Dios bendiga esta comunidad. Mel Howard Fotografía



Fue una fiesta de familia. familia porque hemos caminado juntos en varias situaciones, de la vida en comunidad. Mel Howard Fotografía



El P. Fidel Levit y la Hna JA. acompañaron a la Hna, Panchita, en sus celebración de sus 20 años de servicio en la diócesis. era de celebrarlo con los amigos de antano y presente. Mel Howard Fotografía



Granjero del condado de Daviess y Centro Latino gran amigo, Joe Elliott, dieron las gracias al personal del Centro Latino para todas sus labores en favor de las familias y los trabajadores hispanos. Mel Howard Fotografía



En la imagen de la izquierda, El Señor Obispo-emérito Jubilado, Juan McRaith, es presentado por la Hna. Panchita. durante los actos alusivos a la celebración. Mel Howard Fotografía



Mons. William F. Medley, Obispo de Owensboro

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

¡Feliz Año Nuevo! El año del Señor 2014 ha llegado y todos con la gracia de estar vivos y como cristianos bautizados llamados y comisionados para ser instrumentos del Reino de Dios que Jesús Cristo vino a anunciar. Todos somos parte de un sacerdocio ministerial, por virtud del sacramento del bautismo. □ □ Estamos llamados a alimentar a los hambrientos, consolar a los afligidos, abrigar al desprotegido, consolar a los enfermos y moribundos, y dar testimonio con nuestra vida a Aquel que nos ha salvado.

El papel principal en el cuidado de las almas corresponde a los sacerdotes de una diócesis que se dedican totalmente al servicio de la comunidad local del rebaño del Señor. Los sacerdotes diocesanos son,

entonces, los principales e irremplazables compañeros de trabajo del obispo, que ha sido investido con la atención exclusiva del pueblo de Dios como sucesor de los Apóstoles. Jesús dijo a los apóstoles: "Id, pues, y predicad el evangelio"

El obispo está llamado a ser el padre de la familia sacerdotal y través de él el Señor Jesucristo debe estar presente y evidente entre los creyentes. □ □ Cristo es igualmente revelado y presente en la Palabra de Dios y en los sacramentos, sobre todo en la Eucaristía.

El vínculo entre un obispo local y los sacerdotes de la iglesia es, sin duda entonces algo sagrado. El Directorio para el ministerio pastoral de los obispos, publicado por la Santa Sede por primera vez en 1973 y revisado en 2004, habla con el vínculo de la caridad y de la confianza que tanto el obispo y los sacerdotes deben fomentar y nutrir. Me resulta instructivo y un ejercicio espiritual para revisar periódicamente este trabajo

pastoral.

Alimentados por la caridad y una visión de la fe, la unión espiritual del obispo y de cada sacerdote que tiene con Dios trabajara para el bien de toda la Iglesia. "De esta manera, los trabajos apostólicos de los sacerdotes serán más fructíferos, ya que su unión de la voluntad y de intención con el obispo profundiza su unión con Cristo, que continúa su ministerio como la cabeza invisible de la Iglesia que actúa a través de la jerarquía visible".

Los documentos de la Iglesia sobre las órdenes sagradas piden del obispo a ser "padre, hermano y amigo" de los sacerdotes. Es un ideal espiritual y noble. Llegar a ser obispo en medio de un presbiterio local, como lo hice en el 2009, representa un desafío para volver estas identidades en realidad. ¿Cómo se puede presumir de ser un padre a hombres que ya eran sacerdotes antes de que yo hubiera nacido? O ser hermano a sacerdotes de la misma edad? ¿Cómo se

llega a ser un verdadero amigo de hombres de más de treinta años más joven que uno mismo?

No puedo comenzar a sugerir que ya lo logre ahora, ni lo llegare hacer y cumplir en esta vida, a la perfección. Pero para mí y para los excelentes sacerdotes que sirven a la Diócesis de Owensboro estas relaciones de gracia siempre presentarán un ideal. □ Yo celebro el Día de mi quinto Año Nuevo como obispo, aunque yo no fui ordenado e instalado hasta el 10 de febrero del 2010, y estoy en paz que cada año uno de mis propósitos de año nuevo será el de aspirar cada vez más plenamente a ser padre, hermano y amigo a los sacerdotes.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos.

+ Mons. William F. Medley
Obispo de Owensboro

Full-time Ministry position Available

St. Francis de Sales Church, 600 families in Paducah, Ky., is currently accepting resumes for a full-time Catholic Youth Minister. Candidates must have a heart for Catholic Youth, relational ministry, and be able to work with core teams of adult volunteers. Position requires a minimum of a Bachelor degree in Religious Education, Theology or related field or be willing to pursue the proper certification/education/training. Resumes and inquiries should be directed to the Pastor at frbrian@vci.net or by mail to Fr. Brian J. Roby, 116 S. 6th St., Paducah, Ky. 42001

Puesto de tiempo completo en el Ministerio Disponible

Iglesia San Francisco de Sales, 600 familias en Paducah, Kentucky, está aceptando hojas de vida para un Ministro de Jóvenes de tiempo completo. Los candidatos deben tener un corazón para la Juventud Católica, el ministerio relación, y ser capaz de trabajar con los equipos de base de voluntarios adultos. La posición requiere un mínimo de una licenciatura en Educación Religiosa, Teología o campo relacionado, o estar dispuesto a perseguir la certificación / educación / formación adecuada. Hojas de vida y preguntas deben ser dirigidas al Pastor a frbrian@vci.net o por correo a Fr. Brian J. Roby, 116 S. 6th St., Paducah, Kentucky 42001

¿Está buscando una aventura increíble este verano?

Aplique para un puesto de personal de verano en Gasper River Campamento Católico de Jóvenes en Bowling Green. Si usted tiene más de 18 años y un año mínimo de haber salido de la escuela secundaria visite nuestro sitio web www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org para más información sobre el Link de Empleo. ¡Venga ayudarnos hacer una diferencia en la vida de un joven!

Are you looking for an incredible adventure this summer?

Then apply for a summer staff position at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp in Bowling Green. If you are over 18 and at least one year removed from high school then go to our website www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org for more information on the Jobs Link. Come help make a difference in a young person's life!

Calendario del Obispo Medley para enero 2014:

Enero 3-5		Cumbre de Liderazgo FOCUS, Dallas, TX
Enero 5-9		Retiro de Obispos de la región V, New Orleans, LA
Enero 13 - 16		Convocatoria Sacerdotal, Saint Meinrad, IN
Enero 20	9:45 a.m.	Reunión de la Directiva del Personal Sacerdotal, CPC
	1:30 p.m.	Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal, CPC
Enero 21 - 22		Marcha para la vida, Washington DC
Enero 26	10:00 a.m.	Confirmación, Sts. José y Pablo, Owensboro
	2:00 p.m.	Formación de Fe del Decanato del Oeste de Owensboro, St. Stephen Catedral
Enero 27	9:00 a.m.	Misa de la Semana de Escuelas Católicas, Holy Name of Jesús, Henderson
Enero 28	10:00 a.m.	Misa de la Semana de Escuelas Católicas, St. Mary School System, Paducah
	12-3:00 p.m.	Oficina de Paducah
Enero 29	8:00 a.m.	Misa de la Semana de Escuelas Católicas, St. Ann, Morganfield
Enero 31	8:00 a.m.	Misa de la semana de Escuelas Católicas, Christ the King, Madisonville

Owensboro Serra Club le invita Adoptar un Sacerdote



El club Serra de Owensboro ha puesto en marcha un programa para brindar apoyo en la oración por los sacerdotes de nuestra Diócesis llamados ADOPTE UN SACERDOTE.

Un perno de la solapa se ha diseñado como se muestra. Las iniciales del sacerdote y su fecha de la ordenación ha sido grabado en el reverso de cada pin. Junto con cada pin, se incluirá una tarjeta y el sobre, diseñados especialmente para ser enviados por el usuario al sacerdote adoptado.

El Serra Club está pidiendo que oren diariamente por su sacerdote adoptado. Los nombres de los sacerdotes son asignados al azar.

Para pedir un alfiler, envíe un cheque o giro postal por \$ 15.00 a: Serra Club of Owensboro 4213 Banco Spring Drive Owensboro, KY 42303

Celebracion a la Virgen Maria de Guadalupe. Dic. 12, 2013

En nuestras parroquias con comunidad Hispana, se han iniciado la celebración de la Novena especialmente para prepararnos y llegar a la gran celebración el día 12 de Diciembre.

La Virgen Morena de Guadalupe, es la Imagen, de todo habitante del continente americano, en ella se refleja, la sencillez, la ternura de Dios para con sus hijos. Para todos nosotros los Latinoamericanos desde que apareció la Virgen de Guadalupe a nuestro hermano Santo Juan Diego, esta tan real su presencia en cada uno de los habitantes del Continente Americano, Las características de un Latino o Latina, es la Humildad, la sencillez, pero también la firmeza de ser fuerte, en el trabajo, en el trato que recibimos alrededor nuestro, que como Latino muchas veces no caemos bien a todos.

Esta Imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe, se encuentra en la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la diócesis. Esto es signo de Fe. Que toda actividad que se realiza con todas las personas, es por amor a Dios. bajo el amparo de la Virgen Maria de Guadalupe, cuando nos dice. "Acaso no estoy yo aqui?"

La Virgen esta en una de nuestras hermanas que sufren la discriminación, la marginación por su color, por su lengua y por su origen. Esta es la realidad de la mujer el día de hoy en todas las sociedades, no solo en Estados Unidos se discrimina a la mujer, en todas partes del mundo, existe el problema, que no valoramos lo que la mujer significa para nuestra comunidad.

En las Novenas que rezamos, todos pedimos a ella como nuestra Madre, mucha Fe, Esperanza y mucho amor para reconocer a las mujeres que luchan por el pan de cada día para sus hijos. Muchas mammas hacen de Papá y Mamá, educando a sus hijos día y noche porque papá esta ausente.

Sabemos que somos muy devotos a la Virgen María de Guadalupe, y



le pedimos el Milagro, por el Respeto a la Vida de tantas mujeres en todo el mundo. Recordemos que debemos de pedir no solo por nosotros mismos sino de otros que necesitan de Dios y sentir a Dios como nuestro Padre y la Virgen como Madre.

NAVIDAD

A la par de las Novenas a la Virgen, también se celebraron las posadas. Tradición que ha venido por varios años, como parte de la preparación que hacemos para la Noche Buena.

En la posada como bien saben que, pedimos pasada para el Nacimiento de Jesus, como Hijo de Dios Hecho hombre entre nosotros los seres humanos, sigue enseñándonos a vivir nuestras vidas más sencillos, imitando a El, pobre entre los pobres. Hoy día se repite la misma historia, porque el materialismo ha consumido al ser humano, la celebración de la Navidad de hoy día es más comercio que la fe en la venida de nuestro salvador. Jesus hoy día está pidiendo lugar en nuestro corazón, por lo tanto debemos de liberarnos de tantas cosas materiales y retomar lo que significa para nosotros la Navidad. En el presente tiempo el materialismo ha deshumanizado la sociedad, pero viene la celebración del cumpleaños del Hijo de Dios (Emmanuel). El tiempo del Adviento es para prepararnos para ese recibimiento, al decir que Dios viene a nosotros significa que Dios nos ama tanto que baja a nosotros en forma humana para poder verlo y seguir sus enseñanzas, A Dios Gracias por darnos la Salvación, esperamos que en esta Navidad recién pasada nos haya dejado una enseñanza para mejorar nuestras relaciones humanas en la tierra y acercarnos más a Dios para el bien de la humanidad. Conclusión: Que Dios lo bendiga al inicio de este año sea una bendición para todos y para usted querido lector. Feliz Año Nuevo a usted y a su familia.

