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Welcome home

Bishop Medley greets a young parishioner of the newly-dedicated St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Todd County on Dec. 9, 2017.

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Seminarian Christopher Grief retrieves lost Frisbees from the lake during a disc golf tournament hosted by St. Meinrad Seminary in fall 2017. Grief says he enjoys the community and prayer life in seminary. **Page 28**

(Photo courtesy of Corey Bruns.)



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Front page photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

To submit stories and articles

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

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

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

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

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

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A Word from Bishop Medley

In just the last few months, hardly a day passes that some prominent man in business, politics, or the media has not faced a very public accusation of sexual harassment or exploitation. In most of these high-profile cases, a first accusation has been followed by more accusations, in some cases dozens. Scores of high-profile public men have hurt their families and damaged their careers. A social media movement arose, #MeToo, which has found hundreds of thousands of women (and some men) stepping forward to say publicly that they have been victimized by unwanted sexual advances. The price these victims have paid can be calculated over lifetimes.

This is an important and vital issue for our culture and our time. No one – man, woman or child – should ever be subjected to unwanted touch or innuendo by another person. Why? Because every human being has been created in the image and likeness of God and endowed with human dignity. Human dignity demands respect and autonomy. To violate that dignity is terribly evil and sinful and leaves wounded trust and broken lives.

The Catholic Church has been slow to address this recent awakening in today's culture. Perhaps some caution is due as just a few years ago our beloved Church was exposed for too often having turned a blind eye to children and young people who had been abused and exploited by priests and others in the Church. One can rightfully criticize the Church's voice. But much has happened since 2002 when the U.S. Church faced this crisis. We have instigated vast and effective reforms to do everything in our power to assure the safety of all who should trust the Catholic Church. We have learned the painful lessons that in failure and crisis there is no substitute for transparency and honesty.

The very media that today waves flags of outcry often ridicule the traditional boundaries of human sexuality that the Christian churches teach as fundamental to human dignity. Let's be clear that the current-day crisis in our culture is addressing "unwanted" advances and is a conversation too long overdue. Is it just too prudish, though, to reference the Ten Commandments and the Church's teaching that sexual expression finds its holy and moral place in a marriage between a man and a woman? Thus, that even some consensual adult relationships may be sinful and unworthy of our dignity as children of God? Is it too radical to say that even consensual relationships before and outside of marriage have created a culture of disregard and disrespect for human persons? I have been a confessor long enough to know that consensual and voluntary violations of the sixth and ninth commandments too often leave men and women feeling worthless and unloved. Adultery, divorce, children growing up with absent parents, abortion, alcoholism, and an epidemic of loneliness are just some of the products of a time and culture that has forgotten that God is the author

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BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR ● JANUARY 2018

JAN 7-10	Region V Bishops' Retreat – New Orleans, LA
JAN 11	5:00 p.m. ● Mass for Bishop-Elect Mark Spalding – Louisville
JAN 13	4:00 p.m. ● Confirmation – St. Martin, Rome
JAN 15	10:00 a.m. ● Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center (MCC) 3:00 p.m. ● Priests' Council Meeting – St. Meinrad
JAN 15-18	Diocesan Priests' Convocation – St. Meinrad
JAN 18	6:00 p.m. ● Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – MCC
JAN 20	3:45 p.m. ● Confirmation Retreat – St. Stephen Cathedral
JAN 22-25	Bishops' Workshop – Orlando, FL
JAN 27	1:00 p.m. ● Encuentro of Families – SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville 5:00 p.m. ● Confirmation – St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield
JAN 29	8:00 a.m. ● Catholic Schools Week Mass – Holy Name School, Henderson 5:00 p.m. ● Mass – St. Meinrad
JAN 30	9:30 a.m. ● Catholic Schools Week Mass – St. Mary High School, Paducah
JAN 31	9:00 a.m. ● Catholic Schools Week Mass – Christ the King, Madisonville 6:00 p.m. ● Diocesan Review Board Meeting



A Word from Bishop Medley continued from page 3

of human life, that God has provided an order for human relationship.

So, what is a compassionate response to victims of sexual harassment and assault? And far more difficult, what is a compassionate response to those who have been victimizing others? Pope Francis may well provide the answers in his oft-repeated calls that we “accompany” one another. We accompany those hurt and wounded by exploitation and disrespect to restore their pride and self-worth. We accompany those who have sinned in harming others, help them

see the effects of their behavior, to make amends, to respect human dignity and to reflect human dignity. In doing so, we encourage them to pursue their own dignity as children of God. ■



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Considering Adoption?

Catholic Charities of Owensboro serves pregnant women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and couples who wish to adopt. To learn more, call 270-852-8328 or visit KyCaringConnection.org.

St. Gerard Life Home

Providing housing and services to pregnant women and their babies

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis or unplanned pregnancy, call us at 270-852-8328 or toll-free at 1-877-803-5064.

To Report Allegations of Sexual Abuse

Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1; 1-877-597-2331). In addition, to report to the diocese abuse by church personnel (paid or volunteer) either past or present, please call the Pastoral Assistance Coordinator at this confidential phone line: 270-852-8380. The Diocese of Owensboro revised its sexual abuse policy, effective July 1, 2014 and it is available at parishes and also on the diocesan website (owensborodiocese.org/safe). The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian.

**Please consider supporting the Disciples Response Fund.
Gifts made through June 30, 2018 count toward this year's appeal.**

2018 Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky

February 17, 2018 | RiverPark Center, Owensboro, KY

The Catholic Men's Conference is pleased to welcome Christopher West and Doug Barry as the keynote speakers for the upcoming conference.

Conference and ticket information available at kycatholic.com.



Christopher West



Doug Barry

Catholic faith makes us ‘family,’ says Burmese refugee



Catholic Burmese refugees living in Malaysia gather for weekly group prayer, sponsored by a refugee community services center. Photo courtesy of Lam Naing.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When he was growing up in Myanmar, Lam Naing’s mother always told him, “My son: pray, pray, pray.”

Lam Naing, who with his wife and three children belong to Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, said he would joke about his mother’s insistence on con-

stant prayer.

But she would tell him, “My son, without prayer, you’re not going to survive.”

Lam Naing finally understood her words many years later when he was forced to escape out of Myanmar, after the country’s government turmoil –

and his standing up for education rights – caused him to fear for his life.

“The hardship that I had come through made me pray hard,” said Lam Naing in a Nov. 7 interview with *The Western Kentucky Catholic*. “Through this, God showed me he is with me, he loves me and he cares about me.”

Trouble

Lam Naing’s troubles began when he sought to improve the education of youth in his hometown of Mindat – “situated on the hill among the pine trees” – in the southern Chin State of Myanmar, also known as Burma.

“I used to try to educate and encourage the young people to open their eyes to see the truth and do their best for their future,” said Lam Naing, who received his teaching degree from a university in Yangon. “I had to speak out on the truth of educational issues, basic human rights, religious freedom and discrimination.”

Unfortunately, the authorities said he was politicizing and breaking laws.

Lam Naing knew others like him had been falsely accused and “jailed for life” after getting on the wrong side of the authorities.

To make matters worse, Lam Naing is Catholic.

Christianity, with a small percentage being Catholicism, is a minority religion in Myanmar. It is closely watched by authorities “because they know that the Church promotes not only the spiritual life but peoples’ living conditions and education,” said Lam Naing.

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Burmese Refugee continued from page 5

Lam Naing, who with his wife was raising two small children at the time, did not initially plan to leave the country.

But within a few months he realized the authorities were trying to find any way to put him in jail.

“Finally, all my relatives and my friends told me, ‘You’re going to need to run away from here,’” he said.

Harrowing journey

Lam Naing made the desperate decision to use the services of human smugglers to escape into Malaysia.

“We ran at night, in the jungle – you can’t see anything,” he said. “The (human smuggler) had torchlight, a small light, and just like the Three Kings following the star... I could see the torchlight, and I had to follow it.”

Upon arriving in Malaysia, Lam Naing had suffered bruises, abrasions and fatigue from the journey. He connected with some fellow Burmese, who took care of his injuries.

Finding work was difficult. Lam Naing told the WKC that the Malaysian government categorizes refugees as illegal immigrants.

He said if a refugee did find a job, they risked abuse from the business owners and being paid inconsistently. If a refugee worker complained, “they call the police – you’re arrested – you’re in jail,” he said.

‘Please, God’

After several months, Lam Naing found work and sent money home to his wife via a friend who served as a middleman.



The Catholic Doctors Association in Malaysia provides healthcare services for Burmese refugees. Photo courtesy of Lam Naing.

“I never contacted them directly,” he said of his family. “That was a hard time, the hardest time for me. And I missed my kids a lot.”

After a year, he connected with the same human smugglers and worked out a way to bring his family to Malaysia – “without harm.”

His wife and two children journeyed so far, but were arrested and jailed while passing through Thailand. Upon hearing the news, Lam Naing had little hope that his family would be treated well, considering the jail’s unsanitary, rough conditions.

He prayed, “Please, God, let all of the police taking care of the jail feed my family and take care of my family.”

Miraculously, his family was released and eventually made it to Malaysia, where he was reunited with them.

“How God works – it is amazing,” he said. He also learned that although his wife and one of the children had gotten sick, the jail had taken care of them and provided them with food.

“God blessed me so much,” said Lam Naing. “It was a great blessing to be united with my family.”

‘Are we Catholic?’

Back together in Malaysia, Lam Naing worked hard at achieving official refugee status for himself and his family – which would mean the opportunity to resettle in a safer country. This complex process can take years, which proved true for his situation.

Despite his personal hardships, Lam Naing wanted to help his fellow refugees who lacked basic healthcare, education for their children, and mental health resources – among many other things.

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Burmese Refugee continued from page 6



Burmese children in Malaysia participate in class activities through a refugee community services center. Photo courtesy of Lam Naing.

“The churches in Malaysia were afraid of getting involved with refugees because of the Malaysian government’s pressure,” he told the WKC.

So he and a fellow refugee started a refugee-assisting community services center.

Lam Naing approached the local Catholic churches to see if they would participate: “But they did not welcome me because of the government situation.”

“At first I was very angry with them,” he said. “Who went and died on the cross? Are we Catholic?”

But he understood the churches’ difficult position.

One day a refugee was hit by a motorcycle. Lam Naing begged the local St. Vincent de Paul Society to go visit the man in the hospital. Eventually, they did.


“That’s how God works,” said Lam Naing.

Over time, other local church ministries began to help, too. The community services center grew to provide children’s education, adult mother’s education, healthcare through the Catholic Doctors Association of Malaysia, and spiritual support in weekly prayer groups.

Building trust

After many years of limbo in Malaysia, Lam Naing and his family received refugee status and were resettled in Bowling Green, Ky., in May 2013.

Their transition to the United States was assisted by the International Center of Kentucky, located in Bowling Green, as well as a number of new friends and fellow Catholics who welcomed them to the area. The family joined Holy Spirit Parish, and a



Encountering Jesus in the stranger

Jan. 14, 2018 is the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. In his message for this day, Pope Francis wrote, “Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age (Matthew 25:35-43). The Lord entrusts to the Church’s motherly love every person forced to leave their homeland in search of a better future.”

third child was later born to them.

“We find that Bowling Green is a very peaceful and beautiful place and we love it,” said Lam Naing.

Lam Naing explained that in the Church’s eyes, a refugee is no different from anyone else.

His experience with discrimination against migrants in Malaysia gives him strength when facing discrimination in the U.S.

“There is a lot of misunderstanding because we don’t know each other,” he said. “If we can build trust, the community will get a lot of good benefits. Trust will bring kindness and understanding.”

Lam Naing said that “outsiders” should be viewed through the lens of the Catholic faith.

If people do this, “you will feel God’s blessing,” he said. “They’re my brothers! They’re my family!” ■

‘Happy to be home’

St. Francis of Assisi Parish dedicated on Dec. 9



The new church and fellowship hall of St. Francis of Assisi Parish on Dec. 9, 2017. Photo by Laura Clarke/WKC.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The line of people processing from St. Francis of Assisi Parish’s fellowship hall into the new church building on Dec. 9, 2017 just kept coming – until the church was filled to capacity, with standing room only.

However, the several hundred parishioners and friends of the newly-built Todd County church did not seem to mind the close quarters.

They were gathered with Bishop William F.

Medley to begin the dedication Mass of their new church, in what one parishioner called “your own church home.”

“It feels good to finally be in our church home,” said Mark Isaac, a parishioner interviewed by The Western Kentucky Catholic after the liturgy.

Isaac said it was a “joyous feeling” because for the longest time, “we felt we’d never come to this day.”

“The turnout was amazing,” he said. “My hope and prayers are that we continue to grow and expand. It’s amazing; I love it.”

St. Francis of Assisi Parish had been established in March 2016, through merging the parishes of St. Susan in Elkton and SS. Mary and James in Guthrie.

Several years ago, both parishes had been wondering how to address the slowly-but-surely growing Catholic demographic, largely due to the many Latino families moving to the area. The communities were all but outgrowing their respective parish churches.

Then, SS. Mary and James’ church and parish hall tragically burned down in an electrical fire in 2015.

Because both parishes already shared many resources – as well as a priest, Fr. Frank Ruff, GHM – they began discussing building a brand-new church for both communities to become one.

The property for the new church was donated by parishioners Ed and Dorothy Slack, and the groundbreaking took place on Dec. 8, 2016 – exactly a year and one day ago from the Dec. 9, 2017 dedication.

The sense of two parishes becoming one new family was apparent in the dedication Mass being bilingual, with ample involvement from both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking parishioners.

Bishop Medley gave his homily in English, with Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, diocesan director of Hispanic ministry, standing beside him as Spanish interpreter.

“To approach the altar for sacrifice is to draw near to God,” said the bishop. “The altar is a symbol of great communion with God.”

After the bishop’s homily and after the recitation of the Nicene Creed, the choir sang the Litany of the Saints as all knelt in prayer.

Bishop Medley then anointed the altar with sacred chrism, a blessed oil made of olive oil and Bal-

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(Left) A young girl leads the responsorial psalm at the Dec. 9, 2017 dedication Mass of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. (Right) Parishioners kneel in prayer during the Litany of the Saints at the Dec. 9 dedication Mass. Photos by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

St. Francis of Assisi continued from page 8

sam-scented oil and used for specific occasions such as ordinations and baptisms. The walls of the church were also anointed with the chrism.

“We now anoint this altar and building,” prayed the bishop. “May God in his power make them holy, visible signs of the mystery of Christ and his Church.”

The church was then incensed as the bishop prayed that “as this building is filled with fragrance so may your Church fill the world with the fragrance of Christ.”

Deacon Heriberto Rodriguez, the parish life coordinator, set the brand-new Paschal Candle before the baptismal font. The church, which had been in partial darkness until this point, was illuminated

as all of the church’s lights were turned on and the sanctuary candles were lit.

At the conclusion of Mass, the bishop told the parish community to continue spreading the Gospel.

“You are the living stones upon which the Body of Christ continues to be built,” said the bishop.

A celebration in the fellowship hall followed the Mass, and the meal was served by members of the local Mennonite community.

The Rev. Buck Tidwell, pastor of nearby Tiny Town Baptist Church, was also present at the Mass and celebration afterwards. Rev. Tidwell’s congregation had opened their church doors to the local Catholics, after the 2015 fire left the latter without a place to celebrate Mass.

The many Christian communities in Todd Coun-

ty have had a strong history of collaboration to serve the greater area. But the relationship between Tiny Town Baptist and St. Francis of Assisi blossomed even more during the two years of sharing a building.

Rev. Tidwell told the WKC that the day was bittersweet, as they had spent “over 120 weeks together.”

“It is a great thing for them to have their own church,” he said, but “we’ve made friends and memories together. It’s good, but also a little sad.”

Fortunately, their relationship will continue, even if the two do not share a building. They will continue “helping the community together,” along with their fellow Christian communities, he said.

Deacon Rodriguez told the WKC in a Dec. 13 follow-up interview that the day was certainly one of

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mixed emotions.

“We have a strong relationship (with Tiny Town),” he said. “We cannot forget the years they helped and supported us.”

At the same time, “we are happy that we are in our new home,” said Deacon Rodriguez. “It looks great, and it feels like home, and it feels like community.” ■



Bishop William F. Medley anoints the altar with sacred chrism during the Dec. 9 dedication Mass. Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

Help from friends: A Todd County story

Deacon Heriberto Rodriguez told The Western Kentucky Catholic that the new church’s altar, which was a focus of the dedication, had a memorable story behind its arrival.

The base of the altar had been placed in the sanctuary earlier in the week, but the heavy granite top of the altar needed a forklift to bring it inside and place it on the base.

Unfortunately, the available forklift was too tall to enter the church.

Ed Slack, who lived next door and had donated the property for the new church, said “let me talk to my Mennonite friends.”

At least 12 Mennonite men arrived, and thanks to them, several Hispanic parishioners and others, “we moved that 1,021-pound piece of granite,” said Deacon Rodriguez.

The Mennonite men lifted the granite – “they took that like it was a baby,” said Deacon Rodriguez – and set it on the base.

Deacon Rodriguez said several of the Mennonite men who had helped were those who arrived at the 2015 fire, and with the Catholics and other Christians rescued as many items from the church as possible.

“Once again, the community came together,” he said.

St. Francis meets Catholic Extension challenge; receives matching grant

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In November 2016, Catholic Extension issued a “challenge grant” to help a Catholic community in Todd County, Ky., achieve their dream of building a new church.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish accepted the challenge, which stated that until Dec. 1, 2017, Catholic Extension would match on a 1:1 basis up to \$50,000 any funds raised and received in cash toward the project.

Donors across western Kentucky rose to the challenge, and the parish reached \$50,000 in time to meet the December deadline.

“I know many churches came together to give us money for the matching grant,” said Deacon Heriberto Rodriguez, parish life coordinator at St. Francis. “We are thankful for these people.”

Rob D. Anderson, senior director of mission at Catholic Extension, said they were “thrilled” to be a part of this project for St. Francis of Assisi.

“Catholic Extension has a long tradition of supporting church construction in the Diocese of Owensboro, including earlier grants to help build both St. Susan and SS. Mary and James parishes,” said Anderson of the two parish communities that converged to create St. Francis.

Anderson said this was a “great opportunity” to continue Catholic Extension’s connection with the Catholics in this region.

“We were hopeful the challenge grant would help provide a great incentive to get more people involved so that they could finish the project, and were excited to hear about their success!” he said.

Catholic Extension, founded in 1905, is an organization that assists the Catholic Church in rural and isolated areas of the United States. To learn more, visit catholicextension.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Are you preparing for Confirmation?

Join us for a Confirmation Retreat Day

Saturday, March 17, 2018
9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Sister Michael Marie



Presenter: Sister Michael Marie Friedman, OSU

Plan your Confirmation retreat now at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Attend a day in preparation for Confirmation. Together with others, you will talk about prayer, your relationship with God and the sacrament of Confirmation. Explore values, trust, cooperation, prayer and service, and celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation.

All parishes are invited.

The \$25 fee includes lunch.

To register, call (270) 229-0206
kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
 Please register by Feb. 17.



Mount Saint Joseph
 Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
 Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356
 270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

NEW! A Contemplative Weekend



February 9-11, 2018

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

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

This weekend away allows personal time with God and with self. Spiritual direction is available for those who wish it.

All are welcome.

Cost: \$180 which includes meals and accommodations.
Take 10% off if paid in full by Jan. 9, 2018.

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



Mount Saint Joseph
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www.ursulinesmsj.org

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

JANUARY

- 2 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: New Year's Resolution**
- 5-7 Yarn Spinners Retreat Weekend**
- 11 "Focus on Faith" Mary 101 Book Study**
- 12-14 Retrouvaille Weekend
- 13 Diocese of Owensboro Deacons Meeting
- 20-26 St. Meinrad Retreat Week

FEBRUARY

- 3 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program
- 3-4 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 6 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Jesus the Bridegroom**
- 8 "Focus on Faith" New Book Study**
- 9-11 New: A Contemplative Weekend**
- 17 Once More With Love
- 23-25 Scrapbooking Memories
- 25 Cursillo Team Formation
- 25-28 Quilting Friends

MARCH

- 1-4 Men's Cursillo
- 6 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: New Evangelization**
- 8 "Focus on Faith" Book Study**
- 8-11 Women's Cursillo
- 9-10 ICSC Confirmation Retreat
- 10 Diocese of Owensboro Deacons Meeting
- 16-18 "Martha and Mary" Women's Retreat**
- 17 Confirmation Retreat Day**
- 23-25 Yarn Spinners Retreat**
- 24 Living Water

Center-sponsored programs are **BOLD**. Please call to register. Also call to schedule an event. **270-229-0206**

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org
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Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56



Mount Saint Joseph
 Conference and Retreat Center

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

JANUARY 2018 BULLETIN BOARD

■ **Bishop Barron Bible study at Blessed Mother**

Blessed Mother Church will host a Bible Study from Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire, "David the King." This 7-week study is from Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018 through March 21, 2018, not in session for Ash Wednesday, and with additional dates for snow days or optional discussion included. There are two sessions that run concurrently each Wednesday at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. for your convenience. Details about the program can be found at <http://david.wordonfire.org>. Study guide books will cost \$24.95. Please let us know if you will be attending, and we will order the books. Make checks payable to Blessed Mother Church. Please register by contacting the office at 270-683-8444.

■ **Actor Frank Runyeon speaking in Owensboro**

Blessed Mother Church's 2018 Speaker Series will feature Frank Runyeon, actor with a degree in Religion from Princeton University. Frank Runyeon has won national acclaim for his work as a translator and performer of Biblical texts over the past 25 years, but is still best known for his many roles on television. He was recently nominated for a Daytime Emmy for his guest-starring role as Angel on "The Young & the Restless." The first presentation, Thursday, March 15 @ 7 p.m. will be Signs: The Gospel of John. Friday, March 16 @ 7 p.m. will be the Sermon on the Mount. Saturday, March 17 will be Hollywood vs Faith. These different talks will include storytelling as well as audience participation. There will be fellowship in the Parish Hall to follow each evening. This event is free. Donations are welcome to help cover expenses. Tickets are not needed. Blessed Mother Church is located at 601 East 23rd Street, Owensboro, KY. Please check out our website at blessedmotherchurch.com, our Facebook page, or contact the office at 270-683-8444 for more information.

■ **Gennesaret Retreat**

Friday-Sunday, April 20-22, 2018 at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Those who have a chronic or serious health issue could be a candidate for the Gennesaret retreat, designed for persons whose medical conditions would otherwise hinder them from attending a weekend overnight retreat. To find out more, contact Tom or Amy Payne of Owensboro: 270-686-7739.

■ **'A scout is reverent'**

Our Religious Emblems Mass with Bishop Medley will be Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 2 p.m. at St. Stephen Cathedral. Now is the time to begin working on religious emblems for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Webelos and Cub Scouts. Please see owensborodiocese.org/scouting for more details.

■ **Immaculate offers study of Ephesians**

Immaculate Parish, Owensboro will be hosting an 8-week study on the Book of Ephesians through Ascension Press Jan. 29 through March 19 (the Monday before Holy Week). Participants may choose from Monday morning sessions (10am-12noon) or Monday evenings sessions (6:30pm-8:30pm). Paul's letter to the Ephesians reveals many remarkable gifts that we as Christians are given in the Church. This letter tells us about the nature of the Church – as a body, as a household, as a mystery, as a communion, as a bride, and as an army. It shows us the great inheritance that awaits us as sons and daughters, adopted fully into the family of God. It reveals how God's great love for us can transform our daily lives if we allow it. Ephesians will enrich your faith—and show you how to live it out. Discover what it means to be a son or daughter of God—an heir to all he has to give. To sign up for the class, please contact Diane Willis at Immaculate 270-683-0689.

■ **Evening with an Ursuline Dinner/Presentation**

Jan. 2 – Sr. Cheryl Clemons - New Year's Resolution and a Better Life
Feb. 6: Sr. Pat Rhoten - Jesus the Bridegroom
First Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The \$20 fee includes dinner in the Center dining room. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

■ **Trip to Savannah, Jekyll Island & Charleston, SC**

Join the Bunkobabes on this 6 day, 5 night trip April 30-May 5. Cost is \$565 pp with a \$75 deposit due upon signing. Enjoy Motorcoach transportation, 8 meals, a guided trolley tour of Savannah, a visit to historic Charleston, SC and a harbor cruise in Charleston, SC, a guided tour of St. Simons Island and a tram tour of Jekyll Island plus much more!

Contact Barbara Sue Wilson at 270-623-6990 or Judy Thomas at 270-623-8462.

■ **December Alzheimer's education programs**

Registration required for all programs. For location information & to register call 1.800.272.3900.

Memory Café Social Engagement group: Designed for people with memory loss and their caregivers, please no professionals. The Memory Café takes place the second Wednesday of every month. Jan. 10, 2-3:30 p.m., Evansville

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research: \$5 donation suggested, \$15 fee for professionals. Jan. 18, 10-11:30 a.m., Hopkinsville. Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Owensboro. At the Owensboro location, lunch will be provided by an OMHS grant. Deadline to register is Jan. 23.

Living with Alzheimer's: For People with Alzheimer's: \$5 donation suggested. Designed for people with Alzheimer's and their care partners; please no professionals. This is a 6 week class beginning Jan. 17th, 10-11:30 a.m., Evansville

■ **Confirmation candidates invited to the cathedral on Jan. 20**

Bishop Medley invites the Confirmation candidates of the Diocese of Owensboro to come see him and tour the St. Stephen Cathedral, the Mother Church of the diocese. When: Jan. 20, 2018; 12:30-5 p.m. (Mass at 5 p.m. with Bishop Medley). Registration begins at noon.

Where: Fr. John Vaughan Community Center (Former Cathedral Undercroft)

Who: Confirmation candidates (Reservation required; limit of 150 candidates)

Parish Confirmation coordinators: Please contact Donna Biggs at 270-852-8324 or donna.biggs@pastoral.org to reserve your spots. You will be informed immediately if we have filled our limit. Parish responsible for meeting Safe Environment guidelines.

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

'Bluegrass on Beshear – Pickin' Life' Music Fest raises more than \$10,000 for pro-life pregnancy care centers



Fr. David Kennedy, pastor of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, presents a \$3,573 check to Mack Wells, executive director of Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center in Madisonville on Nov. 23, 2017. The check completes distribution of \$10,719 raised at this year's "Bluegrass on Beshear - Pickin' Life" music fest to three area pro-life pregnancy care centers. Also pictured is Door of Hope communications director April Johnson. Door of Hope supports men and women involved in crisis pregnancies from Hopkins, Mclean and Webster counties. Photo courtesy of Jeff Smith.

BY JEFF SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Five Knights of Columbus Councils joined forces to support the fourth annual "Bluegrass on Beshear – Pickin' Life" music fest, held on Oct. 8, 2017 on the shore of Lake Beshear, near Dawson Springs, KY. The Blessed Trinity Council (Princeton/Dawson Springs/Eddyville) partnered with Msgr. James Willett Council (Hopkinsville) to host the event. K of C councils in Madisonville, Sebree and Calvert

City all made significant monetary contributions as sponsors. The KY State Council also made a large donation from its Culture of Life Fund for the Owensboro Diocese.

Five bands and three solo artists volunteered their talent to perform at the family-friendly concert. The Knights of Columbus raised money through sponsorships, donations, sales of food and t-shirts and a raffle on the day of the event. Bluegrass on Beshear has grown steadily during its four-year history. In 2014, the first "Pickin' Life" music fest raised \$2,500 and earned the state-level Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Service Award. In 2015, the event raised \$6,000, followed by \$8,400 in 2016.

Despite tropical storm weather on the day of this year's music fest, Bluegrass on Beshear raised an event-record \$10,719. Event creator Laura (Mills) Smith was gratified by the results.

"We're blessed to have very talented performers and loyal, generous fans who braved the bad weather," she said. "They enjoyed a wide variety of great music in an intimate setting on the porch and under canopies. Everyone had a great time!"

All funds raised were divided equally and distributed to the faith-based pro-life pregnancy care centers Door of Hope (Madisonville), H.O.P.E. Clinic (Benton) and Alpha Alternative (Hopkinsville).

In August 2017, H.O.P.E. Clinic of Benton opened a satellite clinic in Eddyville.

Lisa Holland, H.O.P.E.'s Executive Director, said, "We're grateful for the attention that Blue-

grass on Beshear brought to our Eddyville clinic. It's helped raise community awareness and funding. Through the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative, we're now positioned to raise enough money to purchase an ultrasound machine. This will enable us to offer a full array of life-affirming services to our clients at Eddyville."

Next year's Bluegrass on Beshear – Pickin' Life music fest will be on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018. Planning for the 2018 event is underway, with high expectations for continued growth under its motto, "Together in Christ, we are pickin' life!" ■

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Day of Prayer and Witness draws 355, kicks off four-year evangelization plan

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Nearing the end of his Dec. 6, 2017 keynote at the Diocese of Owensboro's Day of Prayer and Witness at the Owensboro Convention Center, Bishop William F. Medley intoned an old hymn from his days as a pastor of an African-American parish in Louisville.

"It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer," sang the bishop, giving his address to the 355 participants comprised of parish, Catholic school and diocesan staff members gathered for the official kick-off of the diocese's four-year Living as Missionary Disciples initiative.

Seventy-one of the diocese's 78 parishes were represented.

Speaking to the participants gathered at tables organized by deanery, the bishop explained: "Meeting Jesus changes everything."

"The human response to good news is to share that good news," he said, saying that the initial encounter with others is the first step to introducing Jesus Christ.

The initiative was launched through the Office of Evangelization, which was formed in 2017 with director Joe Bland at the helm.

The initiative will have varied but related themes over the four years.

Year One's theme is "Encounter." The following three years will have themes of "Accompany," "Community" and "Send," respectively.

Year One technically began on Dec. 3, 2017, with

the start of Advent, and therefore the start of the new liturgical year. The bishop had encouraged the 78 parishes across the diocese to host a holy hour that Sunday to provide a prayerful start to the year.

A series of reflections about the state of today's Church was given by Ann Flaherty, superintendent of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Owensboro; Charlie Hardesty, director of youth and young adult ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro; Ben Warrell, director of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center; and Sr. Darlene Presley, mother superior of the Glenmary Sisters in Owensboro.

"Christ has to be our focus every day, or we don't make it," said Warrell. "We don't work for the diocese, we don't work for the parish - we work for God."

Participants were encouraged to follow the reflections with discussions within their groups.

After lunch, a series of witness talks were given on the topic of "encounter."

This included Lori Lewis of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green; Mike Clark of Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro; and Quinn and Emily Cowan, missionaries with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) at Western Kentucky University's Catholic campus ministry.

The day closed with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Fr. Jason McClure, director of the diocese's Office of Vocations and vicar for clergy. ■



St. Charles parishioners Cinda Wilson, Mallory and Joseph Wilson package Boxes of Joy. Photo courtesy of Lori Wilson.

Sharing joy through Box of Joy

Lori Wilson, chair of St. Jerome Parish's social concerns committee, writes: "St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm, Ky., along with St. Charles Parish in Bardwell, Ky., joined together in the Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy Project. Volunteers helped assemble boxes and members of parish filled boxes with gifts. We collected 254 boxes. The boxes collected were loaded on a truck and taken to South Florida to the Cross Catholic Outreach Distribution Center. They will be sent to the poverty-stricken countries of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Nicaragua. For more information on how your parish can be a part of the Box of Joy Project you can go to www.crosscatholic.org/boxofjoy or call 800-914-2420 ext. 142." ■

St. Stephen Parish participates in fourth annual Sounds of the Season Community Advent Choral Service



The St. Henry and St. Stephen Choirs. Photo courtesy of Stephen Washer.

BY STEPHEN WASHER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Dec. 12, 2017 St. Stephen Parish in Cadiz hosted the fourth annual “Sounds of the Season Community Advent Choral Service.”

The service was started when Betty Sue Howard approached Fr. Greg Trawick with the concept of the service that she attended at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Burke, Virginia where she lived. At

that point invitations were sent to church choirs in Trigg County.

The first and second years of the service were held at St. Stephen with four choirs participating the first year, and grew to eight in the second year. The third service had 12 choirs participating and was held at the Cadiz United Methodist Church because St. Stephen church was under renovation.

The move turned out to be good since 400 people showed up and St. Stephen seats just over 200. This year's service was moved to the Trigg County Schools Cafeteria because the Cadiz United Methodist Church was filled last year and just in case the attendance was over 400. The service had 21 churches represented by pastors and or choirs. Choirs participating were Cadiz Baptist Church, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Cadiz Christian Church, Cadiz United Methodist Church, Roaring Spring Christian Church, Cave Spring Baptist Church, Cerulean Baptist Church, Community Choir, Delmont Baptist Church, Ponderosa Baptist Church, St. Henry Catholic Church, and St. Stephen Catholic Church.



Fr. Greg Trawick leads the choirs in at the start of the service. Photo courtesy of Stephen Washer.

Each choir sang a song and in between the choirs' ministers from the churches led the audience in prayer and scripture, as well as the audience singing verses of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” At the end of the service, the lights were turned off and all in attendance, approximately 300, sang “Silent Night” by candlelight. After the service there was a time for fellowship and cookies that were provided by St. Stephen parishioners. ■

Stephen Washer belongs to St. Stephen Parish in Cadiz.

St. Michael in Sebree celebrates 40 years

On Nov. 19, 2017, St. Michael Parish in Sebree celebrated 40 years. The celebration's theme was: “Honoring the Past with Gratitude, Looking Toward the Future with Hope.” The Mass was bilingual and a celebration followed the liturgy. Photos compiled from 40 years of parish life were displayed at the celebration. ■



Parishioners who helped found St. Michael's stand during the homily at Mass. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Glenn.

St. Jude Parish brings 'pope' to Christmas parade

St. Jude Parish participated in Arlington's Christmas Around the Block Parade on Dec. 2, 2017. The parade honored the area churches. Photos courtesy of St. Jude Parish.



(Above) "Pope FranScruffy" and "Sister Sadie" waiting to be picked up by the "PopeMobile" for the Christmas parade.



(Above) Assisted by altar server Kathryn Stahr, "Pope FranScruffy" and "Sister Sadie" ride on St. Jude Parish's "PopeMobile" for the Dec. 2, 2017 Christmas parade.

Msgr. Bernard Powers says to seek quiet time with God



(Left) Msgr. Bernard Powers leads the Advent Day of Prayer at the Mount on Dec. 9, 2017. Photo courtesy of Mount St. Joseph.

On Dec. 9, 2017, at the Advent Day of Prayer at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center in Maple Mount, Msgr. Bernard Powers advised the more than 20 participants to find quiet time with God during Advent.

"Advent should make us ask, 'What is my greatest desire in my being?'" said Msgr. Powers, who arrived in Maple Mount in 1967 to serve as chaplain for the Ursuline Sisters, and to teach religion at Mount St. Joseph Academy. He turned 91 earlier this year and has been a priest for 65 years. ■

Join us for the Spring Women's Retreat...

What Martha and Mary Can Teach Us

Weekend of March 16-18, 2018

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU



While most discussions of these two gospel women focus on the frazzled worker Martha compared to her quiet prayerful sister Mary, retreat participants will be invited to consider these stories from a different approach. During presentations that peel back the layers of the gospel stories, quiet reflection, group sharing, and the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, we will explore the links between Mary and Martha and our own lives.

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. 16.

A limited number of scholarships are available.

Contact Sister Mary Matthias Ward: 270-229-0200



Sister Cheryl

To register, call (270) 229-0206 • kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

 Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org

Una Palabra del Obispo Medley

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

En los últimos meses, parece que ni un día pasa sin que haya otra acusación pública de acoso o explotación sexual por parte de algún hombre de negocio, político o los medios de comunicación. En la mayoría de estos casos de perfiles altos, la primera acusación es seguida de más acusaciones, en algunos casos de docenas más. Numerosos hombres de gran influencia han perdido familias y sus carreras. Un movimiento ha surgido en las redes sociales, #YoTambien, lo cual ha encontrado a cientos de miles de mujeres (y algunos hombres) quienes han tomado el paso de denunciar que ellos han sido victimizados por avances (acoso) sexuales no deseados. El precio que las víctimas han pagado se calcula de toda la vida.

Es un asunto importante y fundamental para nuestra cultura y nuestro tiempo. Nadie – ni hombre, mujer o niño – debe ser sujeto a ser tocado o sufrir insinuación no solicitada de otra persona. ¿Por qué? Porque cada persona humana fue creada a imagen y semejanza de Dios y recibió la dignidad humana. La dignidad humana demanda respeto y autonomía. Violar aquella dignidad es un mal terrible y pecaminoso que causa se hiera la confianza y se rompan vidas.

La Iglesia Católica ha sido lenta en tratar el asunto de estas acusaciones recientes. Tal vez es por tener precaución debido a que hace algunos años nuestra Iglesia querida fue descubierta por haberse hecho de la vista gorda demasiadas veces hacia los niños y adolescentes que habían sido abusados y explotados por sacerdotes y otros en la Iglesia. Uno podría criticar la voz de la Iglesia con razón. Pero mucho ha sucedido desde el 2002, cuando la Iglesia de los EEUU enfrentó esta crisis. Hemos implementado reformas extensas y efectivas haciendo todo lo que está bajo nuestro poder y asegurarnos de que la seguridad de todos los que deberían poder confiar en la Iglesia Católica. Hemos aprendido la lección dolorosa de que en el fracaso y la crisis lo más importante es la transparencia y la honestidad.

Los mismos medios de comunicación que ahora protestan, muchas veces se burla de los límites tradicionales de la sexualidad humana que las iglesias cristianas enseñan como fundamentales para la dignidad humana. Quiero ser claro. La crisis actual en nuestra cultura está tratando los avances no solicitados y es una conversión tan esperada. ¿Es tener demasiado pudor, sin embargo, mencionar los Diez Mandamientos y la enseñanza de la Iglesia que la expresión sexual encuentra su lugar santo y moral en el matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer? ¿Y así expresar que aún algunas relaciones

EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA ENERO 2018:

ENERO 7-10	Retiro de los Obispos de la Región V – Nueva Orleans
ENERO 11	5:00 PM ● Misa por el Obispo-Electo Mark Spalding, Louisville
ENERO 13	4:00 PM ● Confirmación – San Martín, Rome
ENERO 15	10:00 AM ● Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith 3:00 PM ● Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – San Meinrad
ENERO 15-18	Convocación de Sacerdotes Diocesanos – San Meinrad
ENERO 18	6:00 PM ● Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith
ENERO 20	3:45 PM ● Retiro de Confirmación – Catedral de San Esteban
ENERO 22-25	Taller de Obispos – Orlando
ENERO 27	1:00 PM ● Encuentro de Familias – Parroquia Sts. Pedro & Pablo, Hopkinsville 5:00 PM ● Confirmación – Parroquia San José, Mayfield
ENERO 29	8:00 AM ● Misa de la Semana de Escuelas Católicas – Escuela del Santo Nombre, Henderson 5:00 PM ● Misa – San Meinrad
ENERO 30	9:30 AM ● Misa de la Semana de Escuelas Católicas – Escuela Preparatoria de Santa María, Paducah
ENERO 31	9:00 AM ● Misa de la Semana de Escuelas Católicas – Escuela de Cristo Rey, Madisonville 6:00 PM ● Reunión de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana



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consensuales entre adultos pueden ser pecaminosas e indignos de nuestra dignidad como hijos de Dios? ¿Es demasiado radical decir que aún las relaciones consensuales antes y fuera del matrimonio han creado una cultura de desprecio y violaciones voluntarias del sexto y noveno mandamientos y así muchas veces los hombres y las mujeres se sienten sin valor y no amados? El adulterio, el divorcio, los niños que crecen con padres y madres ausentes, el aborto, el alcoholismo y la epidemia de soledad son algunas consecuencias de un tiempo y una cultura que se ha olvidado que Dios es el autor de la vida humana, que Dios ha proveído una orden para la relación humana.

Entonces, ¿Cuál es la respuesta compasiva a las víctimas del acoso y abuso sexual? Y más difícil todavía, ¿Cuál es la respuesta compasiva a los que han victimizado a otros? El Papa Francisco tal vez tiene las respuestas en su llamado

tan frecuente a que “acompañemos” unos a otros. Acompañamos a los que están heridos por la explotación y falta de respeto para restaurar su orgullo de si mismo y autoestima. Acompañamos a los que han pecado en dañar a otros, ayudándoles ver las consecuencias de su comportamiento, reparar el daño, respetar la dignidad humana y reflejar la dignidad humana. Y así los animamos a buscar su propia dignidad como hijos de Dios. ■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

San Francisco logra su meta con Catholic Extension; reciben una donación paralela

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

En noviembre del 2016, Catholic Extensión ofreció una “donación de desafío” para ayudar a la comunidad católica en el Condado de Todd, KY, y lograr su sueño de construir una nueva iglesia.

La Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís aceptó el desafío, lo cual especificó que ellos igualarían en donaciones la misma cantidad de todas las donaciones recibidas en efectivo para el proyecto antes del 1 de diciembre del 2017 menos de \$50,000.

Personas donaron dinero de a través de Kentucky occidental y la parroquia recibió \$50,000 antes de la fecha tope en diciembre.

“Yo sé que muchas iglesias se juntaron para donar

dinero para la donación paralela,” dijo el Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez, coordinador de la vida parroquial de San Francisco. “Estamos agradecidos con estas personas.”

Rob D. Anderson, director ejecutivo de las misiones del Catholic Extension, dijo que estaban “muy emocionados” de poder ser parte del proyecto de San Francisco de Asís.

“Catholic Extension tiene una larga tradición de apoyar la construcción de iglesias en la Diócesis de Owensboro, incluyendo las donaciones de hace tiempo para asistir en la construcción de ambas parroquias Santa Susana y Sts. María y Santiago,” dijo

Anderson hablando de las dos comunidades parroquiales que se han juntado para crear San Francisco.

Anderson dijo que fue “una gran oportunidad” para continuar la conexión de Catholic Extension con los católicos en esta región.

“Esperamos que la donación paralela podría proveer un gran motivo para que más personas se involucraran y podrían terminar el proyecto, y ¡estuvimos emocionados de escuchar de su éxito!” dijo.

Catholic Extension, fundada en 1905, es una organización que ayuda a la Iglesia Católica en lugares rurales y aislados de los Estados Unidos. Para aprender más, visita catholicextension.org. ■

‘Felices de estar en casa’

La Parroquia San Francisco de Asís fue dedicada el 9 de diciembre

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL



La nueva iglesia y salón parroquial de la Parroquia San Francisco de Asís el 9 de diciembre del 2017. Foto por Laura Clarke/WKC.

La fila de gente en procesión desde el Salón Parroquial hacia la nueva iglesia de San Francisco de Asís el 9 de diciembre del 2017 seguía y seguía – hasta se llenó la iglesia a su capacidad, y ya no había donde sentarse.

Sin embargo, los cientos de parroquianos y amigos de la iglesia recién construida del Condado de Todd parecían no molestarse por estar apretados.

Se congregaron con el Obispo William F. Medley para empezar la Misa de dedicación de su nueva iglesia, en lo que un parroquiano llamó “su propia iglesia hogar.”

“Se siente bien por fin estar en nuestra iglesia hogar,” dijo Mark Isaac, un parroquiano entrevistado por el Católico de Kentucky Occidental después de la liturgia.

Isaac dijo que fue “un sentido de alegría” porque por tanto tiempo, “hemos sentido que nunca lle-

garíamos a este día.”

“La asistencia fue increíble,” dijo. “Mi esperanza y oración es que sigamos creciendo y expandiendo. Es increíble y me encanta.”

La Parroquia San Francisco de Asís fue establecida en marzo del 2016 con la combinación de las parroquias Santa Susana en Elkton y Sts. María y Santiago en Guthrie.

Hace varios años, las dos parroquias estaban preguntándose como abordar el crecimiento lento pero seguro de la población católica, mayormente debido a las muchas familias latinas que estaban llegando al área. Las comunidades ya estaban creciendo casi más de sus iglesias parroquiales.

Luego, la iglesia y salón parroquial de Sts. María y Santiago se quemaron trágicamente en incendio eléctrico en 2015.

Puesto que las dos parroquias ya compartían muchos recursos – y también un sacerdote, P. Frank Ruff, GHM – empezaron a discutir la posibilidad de construir una iglesia nueva para unir las dos comunidades.

La propiedad para la nueva iglesia fue donada por parroquianos Ed y Dorothy Slack, y iniciaron la construcción el 8 de diciembre del 2016 – exactamente un año y un día antes de la dedicación el 9 de diciembre del 2017.

El sentido de las dos parroquias uniéndose para formar una sola familia fue evidente durante la Misa de dedicación. Fue bilingüe con bastante partici-

pación tanto de los parroquianos de habla inglesa como de habla española.

El Obispo Medley dio su homilía en inglés, con el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director diocesano del ministerio hispano a su lado como intérprete al español.

“Acercarnos al altar para el sacrificio es acercarnos a Dios,” dijo el obispo. “El altar es un símbolo de grande comunicación con Dios.”

Después de la homilía del obispo y la recitación del Credo Niceno, el coro cantó la Letanía de los Santos y todos se pusieron de rodillas en oración.

Entonces el Obispo Medley ungió el altar con



Una niña dirige el salmo responsorial en la Misa de dedicación de la Parroquia San Francisco de Asís el 9 de diciembre del 2017. Foto por Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

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Los cleros, incluyendo al P. Julio Barrera de la Parroquia Sts. José y Pablo, el P. John Thomas de la Parroquia Santo Espíritu y el moderador sacerdotal de la Parroquia San Francisco de Asís, el Diácono Roberto Cruz y el P. Basilio Az Cuc de la Parroquia Sts. Pedro y Pablo, y el P. Jerry Riney de la Catedral de San Esteban salen en procesión al final de la Misa. Foto por Laura Clarke/WKC.

el santo crisma, un óleo sagrado hecho de aceite de olivo y aceite con aroma a bálsamo y se usa para ocasiones especiales como las ordenaciones y bautizos. Las paredes de la iglesia también fueron ungidas con el crisma.

“Ahora unguimos a este altar y este edificio,” rezó el obispo. “Que Dios en su poder los haga signos santos y visibles del misterio de Cristo y su Iglesia.”

La iglesia entonces fue incensada mientras el obispo rezaba que “mientras se llena este edificio con fragancia que tu Iglesia también llene el mundo con la fragancia de Cristo.”

El Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez, el coordinador de la vida parroquial, colocó el nuevo Cirio Pascual en frente de la pila bautismal. La iglesia, que hasta este momento había sido parcialmente alumbrada no más, fue iluminada totalmente por todas las luces de la iglesia y las velas del santuario que fueron encendidas.

Al concluir la Misa, el obispo le dijo a la comu-

nidad parroquial seguir compartiendo el evangelio.

“Ustedes son las piedras vivientes en las cuales el Cuerpo de Cristo sigue siendo construido,” dijo el obispo.

Siguiendo la Misa hubo una celebración en el salón parroquial y la comida fue servida por parte de la comunidad local de Menonitas.

El Rev. Buck Tidwell, párroco de la Iglesia Bautista de Tiny Town cerca de allí, también estuvo presente durante la Misa y la celebración después. La congregación del Rev. Tidwell abrió sus puertas a los católicos locales después del incendio en 2015 que los dejó sin un lugar para la misa.

Las varias comunidades cristianas en el Condado de Todd tienen una fuerte historia de colaboración para servir a la comunidad en general. Pero la relación entre la Iglesia Bautista de Tiny Town y San Francisco de Asís ha florecido durante los dos años que compartieron un solo edificio.

El Rev. Tidwell dijo al WKC que el día de la cel-

ebración agri dulce, porque habían pasado “más de 120 semanas juntos.”

“Es algo muy bueno que tengan su propia iglesia,” dijo, pero “hemos creado amistades y recuerdos juntos. Es bueno, pero también es triste.”

Afortunadamente, su relación continuará, aunque ya no comparten el edificio. Van a seguir “ayudando a la comunidad juntos,” en colaboración que las demás comunidades cristianas, comentó.

El Diácono Rodríguez contó al WKC en una entrevista el 13 de diciembre que ese día fue lleno de diferentes emociones.

“Tenemos una fuerte relación (con Tiny Town),” dijo. “No podemos olvidar los años que nos han ayudado y apoyado.”

Ahora, “estamos felices estar en nuestro propio hogar,” dijo el Diácono Rodríguez. “Se ve muy bien, nos sentimos en casa, y en comunidad.” ■



El Obispo William F. Medley unge al altar con el santo crisma durante la Misa de dedicación el 9 de diciembre. Foto por Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

La adoración ayudó al seminarista a sentir el ‘tirón’ en su corazón para discernir

POR CHRISTOPHER GRIEF, ESPECIAL AL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

¡Hola! Mi nombre es Christopher E. Grief y soy seminarista de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Actualmente estoy en mi primer año de Filosofía en la Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad. Mi parroquia hogar, San Juan Evangelista en Paducah ha sido una parte integral de mi discernimiento. La comunidad en mi parroquia, siempre ha apoyado mucho a hombres y mujeres discerniendo el llamado, ya sea al sacerdocio o la vida religiosa. En 2009 me gradué de la Universidad Estatal de Murray con una Licenciatura en Administración de Negocios. Después de recibir mi licenciatura, regresé para completar una Maestría en Comunicación Organizacional en el 2011.

Mis padres, David y Alesia Grief de Paducah tienen tres hijos y yo soy el mayor. Cuando regreso a casa, siempre me gusta pasar tiempo con mi hermano Joshua y mi hermana Brooke. Algunas veces vamos a caminar, quizás vamos de cacería, montar a caballo o simplemente sentarnos en la entrada de la casa con un vaso de te dulce, siempre nos lo pasamos bien cuando estamos juntos.

Comencé mi discernimiento al sacerdocio cuando estaba más joven, pero tenía miedo comentarle a alguien. Sin embargo, con el apoyo de los sacerdotes locales y mi tiempo ante el Santísimo en Adoración, sentí ese “tirón” en mi corazón más fuerte con el tiempo. Por fin empecé a hablar con el director vocacional, P. Jason McClure, quien me animó a discernir plenamente con entrar al seminario. Estoy agradecido por todos los individuos en mi vida que me ayudaron

a llegar a este punto.

Efesios 4:32 es una cita bíblica que me recuerda a mi difunta abuela, Alberta: “Por el contrario, sean mutuamente buenos y compasivos, perdonándose los unos a los otros como Dios los ha perdonado en Cristo.” Trato de vivir este versículo porque “Nan” fue muy especial para mí. Muy lista y siempre alegre, mi abuelita preparaba el mejor pollo frito, lo cual todavía es mi comida favorita, ¡sin duda!

En San Meinrad hay un grupo diverso de hombres y mujeres que vienen de diferentes países y culturas. Cada estudiante aquí es una parte integral de la comunidad. Una de mis cosas favoritas aquí es cuando cada día nos congregamos en comunidad para rezar. Me ha fascinado el adoptar una vida de oración más frecuente aquí y trato de siempre de rezar el rosario cada mañana antes de empezar mi día.

Para los que están contemplando el sacerdocio, les pido que empiecen una conversación con su sacerdote local en la parroquia. ¡No tengan miedo de decir sí! Les aseguro que la paz que les llenará apagará cualquier inseguridad que talvez tengan.

Me gustaría agradecer a cada uno de ustedes que han ofrecido oraciones, cartas, tarjetas, llamadas y visitas de sorpresa aquí. Su apoyo realmente nos impulsa a echarle ganas cada día. Yo sé que tengo un largo caminar todavía, pero hay una paz al saber que estás donde el Señor te quiere. Espero poder servir algún día en la diócesis como sacerdote. Que Dios los siga bendiciendo abundantemente, cada día. ■



El discernimiento y espiritualidad de Christopher Grief son inspirados por su difunta abuela, Alberta; él dice que Efesios 4:32 le recuerda a ella. Foto por cortesía de Christopher Grief.



Christopher Grief (el monaguillo a la izquierda), ayuda en la adoración eucarística. Foto por cortesía de Corey Bruns.

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, nuestra inspiración, guía y compañera

POR PATTI GUTIÉRREZ, ASISTENTE DE PASTORAL, SAN MIGUEL, SEBREE

Al comienzo de nuestro esfuerzo enfocado en la Nueva Evangelización en nuestra diócesis, Viviendo como Discípulos Misioneros – llevando el mensaje de Jesucristo a otros – podemos volver nuestra mirada a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe como nuestra inspiración, nuestra guía y nuestra compañera.

Nuestra inspiración: Cuando la Virgen se le apareció al hombre indígena Juan Diego, había mucha división entre los que llegaron a conquistar a México y las personas nativas de México. El pueblo indígena no confiaba en los misioneros ya que se parecían y se escuchaban como los violentos conquistadores españoles. El mensaje y la imagen misma de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe provocaron masivas conversiones. La historia nos relata que, en tan solo un lapso de 10 años, 10 millones de personas indígenas se convirtieron y fueron bautizadas y la tradición Azteca de sacrificios humanos había terminado. Que aprendamos pues a escuchar del dolor de los que no han escuchado, o que necesitan escuchar de nuevo, esa Buena Nueva de Jesucristo. Que el ejemplo de María nos inspire a la esperanza de que Dios puede remover cualquier obstáculo a la Evangelización.

Nuestra guía: Igual como las estrellas sirven como guía en el mar, Nuestra Señora, Estrella de la Evangelización, sirve como guía cuando “remamos mar adentro” para ser pescadores de hombres. Nuestra Señora se apareció a San Juan Diego no solamente hablando en su lengua nativa de los Aztecas, sino también su misma imagen les comunicó mucho. Por ejemplo, está

parada frente al sol, que para ellos significaba que Ella era más grande que su dios del sol, sin embargo está en una postura de oración, entonces ella no es Dios y existe alguien más grande que ella. La cinta que lleva es símbolo de la maternidad, la flor de cuatro pétalos justo debajo de la cinta era un símbolo de la divinidad y tiene su pelo suelto como una joven virgen india. Todo eso sin necesidad de palabras les dice que es la Virgen, Madre del Dios único verdadero. Que podamos encontrarnos con la gente allí mismo donde están y hablarles en un “lenguaje” que puedan entender. Que vean en nosotros, aún sin palabras, el amor de Cristo.

Nuestra compañera: Nuestra Señora siempre va delante de nosotros y nunca nos abandona. Que invoquemos la intercesión de María cuando nos esforzamos en llevar el Evangelio a los que más lo necesitan. Como dijo San Juan Pablo II cuando concluía su visita a México en 1999, “quiero dirigir mi pensamiento hacia el Tepeyac, a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Estrella de la primera y de la nueva Evangelización de América. A ella encomiendo la Iglesia que peregrina en México y en el Continente americano, y le pido ardientemente que acompañe a sus hijos a entrar con fe y esperanza en el tercer milenio.” (JP II, homilía 1/24/99)

Para más información sobre Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, su historia, su imagen y su santuario aquí en los EEUU, visita: <http://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/en-espanol>.

Patti es la Asistente de Pastoral en la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree y tiene una página web sobre el ministerio y la vida familiar a patticc.com. ■



Carmelo Jiménez, párroco de la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree, bendice a una estatua nueva de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe donada a la parroquia durante la misa del 12 de diciembre. Foto por cortesía de Jennifer Glenn.



La Parroquia San José adornó esta estatua bonita de Nuestra Señora, haciéndola más bonita todavía con arreglos de flores. Foto por cortesía de la Parroquia San José.



La Parroquia San Leo en Murray, celebró la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe con oración y comida; ambos nutrieron nuestros cuerpos y almas. Foto por cortesía de la Parroquia San Leo.

355 personas del personal diocesano y parroquial se juntan para un Día de Oración y Testimonio

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Casi al final de su discurso el 6 de diciembre del 2017 en el Día de Oración y Testimonio de la Diócesis de Owensboro que tuvo lugar en el Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro, el Obispo William F. Medley cantó una parte de un himno tradicional que recuerda de sus días cuando fue párroco de una parroquia mayormente afroamericano en Louisville.

“Soy yo, soy yo, soy yo Señor, aquí estoy y necesito oraciones,” cantó el obispo. Estaba dirigiéndose a los 355 participantes que eran miembros del personal de las parroquias, escuelas católicas y de la diócesis que se congregaron para el lanzamiento de la iniciativa diocesana de cuatro años: Viviendo como Discípulos Misioneros.

Setenta y una de las 78 parroquias fueron representadas.

Dirigiéndose a los participantes que estaban sentados en mesas agrupados por decanato, el obispo explicó: “Conocer a Jesús cambia todo.”

“La respuesta humana a las buenas noticias es compartir estas buenas noticias,” comentó, explicando que el primer encuentro con otros es el primer paso en presentarles a Jesucristo.

La iniciativa fue promulgada por la Oficina de Evangelización, la cual fue formada en el 2017 dirigido por el director Joe Bland.

La iniciativa incluye temas variados pero que se relacionan para el proceso de los cuatro años.

El tema del Primer Año es “Encuentro.” Los

siguientes tres años tienen temas de “Acompañar,” “Comunidad” y “Envío” en esta orden.

El Primer Año técnicamente empezó el 3 de diciembre del 2017, con el comienzo de Adviento, y entonces el comienzo del nuevo año litúrgico. El obispo animó a las 78 parroquias a través de la diócesis tener una hora santa aquel domingo para proveer un comienzo del año en oración.

Las siguientes personas presentaron sus reflexiones personales sobre la iglesia hoy en día: Ann Flaherty, superintendente de las escuelas católicas en la Diócesis de Owensboro; Charlie Hardesty, director del ministerio de adolescentes y jóvenes en la Diócesis de Owensboro; Ben Warrell, director del Campamento Católico Juvenil y Centro de Retiros de Gasper River; y la Hna. Darlene Presley, Madre Superiora de las Hermanas de Glenmary en Owensboro.

“Cristo tiene que ser nuestro enfoque todos los días, o no podemos seguir,” dijo Warrell. “No trabajamos para la diócesis, no trabajamos para la parroquia – trabajamos para Dios.”

Animaron a los participantes a seguir las reflexiones con conversaciones en sus propios grupos.

Después del almuerzo, hubo una serie de pláticas sobre el tema de “encuentro.”

Esto incluyó a Lori Lewis de la Parroquia de Santo Espíritu en Bowling Green; Mike Clark de la Parroquia Santísima Madre en Owensboro y la pare-

ja Quinn y Emily Cowan, misioneros de FOCUS (Fraternidad de Estudiantes Universitarios Católicos) en la pastoral en la Universidad de Kentucky Occidental.

El día se cerró con Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento, guiado por el P. Jason McClure, director de la Oficina Diocesana de Vocaciones y el Vicario del Clero. ■



¿Le interesa el sacerdocio o la vida religiosa?

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

Aprenda más en owensborodiocese.org/vocations

Parroquias con Misas en Español

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

13th & Madison Streets, Beaver Dam, KY 42320
Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (270) 903-8070

Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green Jueves – 6:30 p.m. Sábados – 7:00 p.m. Domingos – 12:30 p.m.

434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101
Contacto: Sra. Gina Holmes (270) 777-5925

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

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

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Elkton Domingos – 12:00 p.m.

221 Allensville Street, Elkton, KY 42220
Contacto: Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez (302) 438-7335

Parroquia de Santa María, Franklin Domingos – 1:30 p.m.

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

Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson Domingos – 1:00 p.m.

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

Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville Domingos – 2:00 p.m. y 10:30 p.m. Jueves – 5:30 p.m.

902 East 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
Contacto: Padre Basilio Az Cuc (270) 885-8522 o Mayra Tirado (270) 498-6456

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

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

Parroquia de San José, Mayfield Domingos – 12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray Sábados – 5:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parroquia Cristo Rey, Scottsville Cada Primer Martes de Mes – 7:00 p.m.

298 Bluegrass Drive, Scottsville, KY 42164
Contacto: Padre Daniel Dillard (270) 586-4515

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

57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455
Contacto: Patti Gutiérrez (270) 302-2782 o Padre Carmelo Jiménez (270) 881-7737

La Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree celebró sus 40 años como parroquia



Los parroquianos quienes ayudaron a fundar la Parroquia San Miguel se paran durante la homilía en la misa bilingüe celebrando el 40 aniversario de la parroquia el 19 de noviembre del 2017. Foto por cortesía de Jennifer Glenn.

El 19 de Noviembre del 2017, la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree celebró sus 40 años como parroquia. El tema de la celebración fue: “Honrando el Pasado con Gratitude, Mirando al Futuro con Esperanza.” La misa fue bilingüe y fue seguida por una celebración. En la celebración había fotos mostrando la vida parroquial de los 40 años.

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Cualquier persona que sepa de un abuso de un menor de dieciocho años es obligado por ley informarles a las autoridades estatales apropiadas: policía local o la línea

dedicada para el Abuso Infantil de Kentucky (gratis: 1-877-KYSAFE1; 1-877-597-2331).

Además, para informar a la Diócesis sobre el abuso por parte de algún personal (pagado o voluntario) de la Iglesia, en el pasado o presente, favor de llamar a la Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral a esta línea

confidencial: 270-852-8380. La Diócesis de Owensboro acaba de revisar su reglamento sobre el abuso sexual, efectivo el 1 de Julio del 2014 y está disponible en todas las parroquias y también en el sitio web diocesano (owensborodiocese.org/safe). La seguridad de nuestros niños es la responsabilidad de cada Cristiano.

An evangelistic block party success story from Our Lady of Lourdes

BY HELEN BENNETT, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Our Lady of Lourdes (OLL) hosted a block party on Oct. 22, 2017. This first annual evangelistic block party provided the parish an opportunity to reach out to our international neighbors. Members of the parish and neighborhood congregated, many wearing costumes, on the church lawn for food and activities, including: hot dogs, popcorn, face painting, balloon animals, soccer, kick ball, corn hole, and oodles of candy.

I asked Fr. Pat Reynolds, pastor of OLL, what inspired him and the parish to host this first block party? Fr. Pat shared the following response:

“When I moved to Lourdes Parish in 2015, I noticed that my neighbors on the southside of church looked like a ‘United Nations assembly.’ Apartment dwellers were from Mexico and Central America and from Asian and African countries. I noticed some teenaged girls from Somalia wearing the hijab (head scarf) as they walked down the block. I met a Muslim neighbor at our parish picnic (who couldn’t eat during daylight hours since it was Ramadan). I often heard mariachi music from speakers across the way. I was working in my rectory garden one day and looked up and saw five middle school boys sitting on the limbs of a large tree outside the yard. They told me they were from Thailand (likely Burmese who had spent most of their youth in Thai resettlement camps). Their English was quite good and they told

me about school. I asked if they went to church anywhere – and they said the Baptist Church sent the bus to pick them up on Sunday. I told them they would also be welcome at Lourdes if they ever chose to come. It seemed to shock them that they would be welcome here. That’s when I knew it was time to do some neighborly outreach and have a ‘block party.’ Evangelization begins with basic human interaction – sharing time, conversation and food. Those are the initial ways of ‘preaching the Gospel.’”

Many of the parish families and organizations sponsored tables at the block party. The tables were decorated with faith messages, fall decorations and of course, candy was heaped and piled on all the tables for trick and treating. There was a “Welcome” table where everyone received a special blue OLL bag to hold their goodies and an invitation with Mass schedules was provided and available in several different languages. An array of holy cards and prayer cards in different languages were also distributed.

As you can see from the pictures we share from the event, it was a beautiful day in our neighborhood. Certainly, we look forward to hosting our second event in the fall of 2018. ■

Helen Bennett belongs to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro.



Children, including a child dressed as Batgirl, participate in the Oct. 22 block party at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro. Photo courtesy of Helen Bennett.



Several Lourdes youth run a “Growing in Our Faith” table at the Oct. 22 block party. Photo courtesy of Helen Bennett.



A little boy plays ring toss at the Oct. 22 block party at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro. Photo courtesy of Helen Bennett.

Come to the water

BY KELLEY WHEATLEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

As I prepare this article, the 2017 liturgical year has elapsed and we are quickly beginning the 2018 year. The first Sunday of Advent has elapsed and many are anticipating December 25, the birth of Jesus Christ, with great excitement. Not only are we excited and anticipating Christmas, here in the Cursillo community we also with great enthusiasm, are awaiting our first formation for our up and coming Men's and Women's Cursillo weekends. The Cursillo community has been preparing for this since the 2017 weekends. We have left behind a wonderful facility at Immaculate Conception Parish in Hawesville and are moving forward to Mount St. Joseph at Maple Mount, Ky. Many men and women will be gathering for four formations throughout January and February in preparation for these weekends. These men and women truly understand the meaning of Christmas (to give with the possibility of nothing in return). They dedicate their time and talents to try to bring you and others closer to Christ, Jesus. Come to the water. March 1-4 will be the men's weekend and March 8-11 will be the women's weekend at Mount St. Joseph.

Yours faithfully, Kelley Wheatley.

Apply or Learn More

For more information please contact:

Felicia Elliott, Lay Director, 270-929-1524 or cursillofe5930@mail.com

Kelley Wheatley, 270-316-5609 or wheatleysdd@att.net

Or www.cursillo-owensboro.org



Diocesan men attend annual St. Louis men's retreat

On Oct. 9-12, 2017 more than 30 men from the Diocese of Owensboro attended the annual Men's Retreat at the Jesuit White House Retreat Center in St. Louis. Retreat members came from parishes in Paducah, Fancy Farm, Henderson, Morganfield, Owensboro and Beaver Dam. This retreat, designated for Diocese of Owensboro men, has taken place for more than 50 years. Pictured: (front row) Keith Elliott, Mike Coomes, Larry Denton, Rudy Elliott, Denis Wilson, Leo Thomas, Lanny Wilson, Randal Elder; (second row) Ron Cook, Eddie Coomes, Marvin Hancock, Gerald Coomes, John Carrico, Donald Elder, Ernie Taliaferro; (third row) Larry Higdon, Dean Thomas, Wayne Wilson, Joe Hobbs, Tom Ballard, Ed Pendel; (back row) Don Speaks, Laddie Pendel, Leo Pendel, Kyle Thomas, Chris Denton, Ben Teer, Mike Ismert, Richard Remp-Morris. Not pictured: Ernie Mitchell, Skippy Grief, Jim McIntyre, Frank Burch. Photo courtesy of Ernie Taliaferro.

Youth Ministry Volunteer Training Workshop

— CALLED TO —

ACCOMPANY

Saturday, March 24, 2018

St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm, KY

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, KY

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Our Lady of Guadalupe, our inspiration, guide, companion

BY PATTI GUTIÉRREZ, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

As we embark on a more intentional effort of New Evangelization in our diocese, Living as Missionary Disciples – reaching others with the message of Jesus Christ – we can look to Our Lady of Guadalupe as our inspiration, our guide and our companion.

Our inspiration: When Our Lady appeared to the indigenous man Juan Diego, there was a deep divide between those who had come to colonize Mexico and the native peoples of Mexico. There was distrust of the missionaries who looked and sounded like the violent Spanish rulers. The message and image of Our Lady of Guadalupe led to massive conversions. Historians say that within 10 years, 10 million indigenous people were converted and baptized and the Aztec tradition of human sacrifice had ended. May we learn to listen to the pain of those who have not heard, or need to hear again, the Good News of Jesus Christ. May her example inspire hope in us that God can overcome whatever obstacle stands in the way of Evangelization.

Our guide: Just as the stars serve as a guide when at sea, Our Lady, Star of Evangelization, serves as a guide as we “put out into the deep” to be fishers of men. Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego not only speaking his Aztec language, but also her very image spoke volumes. The image is a pictograph, easily interpreted by the Aztecs. For example, she stands in front of the sun, meaning she is greater than their Sun god, yet she is in a position of prayer meaning

she is not God and there is someone greater than her. The ribbon around her waist is a maternity band, the four-petal flower right below the ribbon is a sign of the divine and she wears her hair as a young Indian maiden. All of these combine to tell them without words that she is the Virgen, Mother of the one, true God. May we meet people where they are and speak in a “language” they can understand. May they see in us, even without words, the love of Christ.

Our companion: Our Lady goes before us, walks with us and never abandons us. May we invoke Mary’s intercession as we strive to bring the Gospel to those who need to hear it most. As John Paul II said at the end of his visit to Mexico in 1999, “To conclude, I would like to turn my thoughts to Tepeyac, to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the first and the new evangelization of America. To her I entrust the pilgrim Church in Mexico and the American continent, and I fervently ask her to guide her children, so that they will enter the third millennium with faith and hope.” (JP II, homily 1/24/99)

For more information about Our Lady of Guadalupe, her history, her image and her shrine here in the U.S., visit: www.guadalupe Shrine.org. ■

Patti Gutiérrez is the pastoral associate at St. Michael Parish in Sebree and blogs about ministry and family life at patticc.com.



St. Joseph Parish decorated this beautiful statue of Our Lady, adorning it with flower arrangements for the Dec. 12 feast day. Photo courtesy of St. Joseph Parish.

Adoration helped seminarian feel the ‘tug’ on his heart to discern; credits support from priests as well



Christopher Grief's discernment and spirituality is inspired by his late grandmother, Alberta; he says Ephesians 4:32 reminds him of her. Photo courtesy of Christopher Grief.

BY CHRISTOPHER GRIEF, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Hello! My name is Christopher E. Grief and I am a seminarian for the Diocese of Owensboro. I am currently in my first year of Philosophy at St. Meinrad School of Theology. My home parish, St. John the Evangelist in Paducah has been an integral part of my discernment. The community there has always

been so supportive of men and women discerning the call to the priesthood/religious life. I am a 2009 Graduate of Murray State University with a B.S.B. in Business Administration. After receiving my undergraduate degree, I went back to complete a M.S. in Organizational Communication in 2011.

My parents, David and Alesia Grief of Paducah have three children of which I am the oldest. Whenever I am home, I always look forward to spending time with my brother, Joshua and sister, Brooke. Whether it is hiking, hunting, horseback riding or sitting on the front porch with a glass of sweet tea, we always have a good time when we are together.

I began my discernment to the priesthood when I was younger but was scared to mention it to anyone. However, by the support of local priests and my time before the Eucharist at Adoration, I felt the tug on my heart growing ever stronger. I finally began speaking with the vocations director, Fr. Jason McClure, who encouraged me to fully discern by entering seminary. I am thankful for all the individuals in my life that helped me get to this point.

Ephesians 4:32 is a Bible verse that reminds me of my late Grandmother, Alberta: “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” I keep this verse as “Nan” meant so much to me. Quick-witted and ever joyful, my grandmother fixed the best fried chicken, which still remains my favorite food to this day, hands down!

St. Meinrad is comprised of a diverse group of men and women coming from different countries

and backgrounds. Each student here is an integral part of the community. One of my favorite things here is when the community, each day, comes together for prayer. I have really enjoyed embracing such an increased prayer life here and make a point to pray the rosary each morning before beginning



Christopher Grief, (server on the left), assists at a Knights of Columbus holy hour for vocations at St. Boniface in Fulda, Ind. Photo courtesy of Corey Bruns.

Continues on page 29


Christopher Grief continued from page 28

my day.


For those who may be thinking about the priesthood, I ask you to begin a conversation with your local parish priest. Do not be afraid to say yes! I assure you the amount of peace that you will be filled with will quell any uncertainty you may have.

I would like to thank each of you that have offered prayers, cards, letters, phone calls and surprise visits here. Your support really helps us get through each day. I know I have a long journey ahead of me but there is something calming knowing where the Lord wants you to be. I look forward to one day serving within the diocese as a priest. May God continue to richly bless you, each day. ■

Contact our Office of Vocations

 (270) 683-1545

 owensborovocations.com

 jason.mcclure@pastoral.org
fred.litke@pastoral.org

 [Facebook.com/owensborovocations](https://www.facebook.com/owensborovocations)

Fr. Jamie Dennis celebrates NYC St. Lucy Mass for second time



Assisted by seminarian Chris Kight and St. Stephen Cathedral parishioner Brenda Clark, Fr. Jamie Dennis distributes Holy Communion to those attending the Dec. 13, 2017 St. Lucy feast day Mass. Photo courtesy of Donald Salvato.



Fr. Jamie Dennis celebrates Mass in the Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on Dec. 13, 2017. Photo courtesy of Donald Salvato.

BY WKC STAFF

On Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017, approximately 80 people filled the Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City to standing-room only. They were gathered to attend a special Mass in honor of the day's feast of St. Lucy, an early Christian martyr who is patroness of those who are blind or have eye conditions. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jamie Dennis, parochial vicar of St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, who himself is blind.

This was the second year that Fr. Dennis celebrated this Mass, which was hosted by the Xavier Society for the Blind. Fr. Dennis later shared with the WKC: "It was really nice to visit with people after Mass who I had met last year, especially a couple of children, who I could definitely tell had grown a little bit since I had met them. I even met a few new people this time, and a couple more service dogs as well. There was definitely a sense of community and bonding that took place at this celebration. The other nice thing was that there were at least five parishes represented from our diocese at the celebration. Several people at the celebration remembered seminarian Chris Kight and were glad to have him there as well. They were very thankful for his presence, and it gave some of them hope, because unfortunately, a lot of blind people don't have sighted friends, or people who understand how to work with them."

Fr. Dennis added, "Some of these people at the celebration don't have as much of a loving or accepting parish to return home to, like I do. We have to hold each other up and all of us, rely on the grace, mercy and peace that only Jesus can give."

The Xavier Society provides free resources to blind and visually-impaired Catholics; to learn more, visit xaviersocietyfortheblind.org. For audio of Fr. Dennis' homily that day, visit <https://youtu.be/6exvFTC3qFE>.

Through 'Christ-Creativity-Curriculum,' Cathedral Preschool in Owensboro receives five-star rating

BY BONNIE STUART, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC



Pictured left to right: Ann-Marie Mattingly, Catie Ruth Miles, Sutton Ford, Elsie Hancock, the "angels" in the Christmas Program, participated in "Christmas in our Jammies," presented by Cathedral Preschool in December 2017. Photo courtesy of Cathedral Preschool.

"Hear the Sheep, Baa Baa Baa. Hear us sing, Fa-la-la-la-la. Hear us cheer, Rha, Rha, Rha! Jesus the Savior is born!" Thus began "Christmas in Our Jammies," presented by our 4 and 5-year-olds for their families on the evening of Dec. 5, 2017 at St. Stephen Cathedral. It was an evening to remember as 74 children's voices filled the church singing about

the true meaning of Christmas.

A lot of exciting things happened as we finished the first semester, getting ready for our Christmas Break. One very important announcement came from the State of Kentucky awarding Cathedral Preschool with a five-star rating in curriculum and policies as required by the Kentucky All STARS. The teachers and staff were rewarded for the many hours of preparation and dedication it takes to achieve that level of recognition.

For over 30 years Cathedral Preschool has served the families of Owensboro and surrounding areas with a focus on "Christ-Creativity-Curriculum" and we look forward to many years to come fulfilling that mission.

Registration will begin very soon for the next school year. Any child who will be 3, 4, or 5-years old by August 1, 2018 is eligible to attend preschool. Requests for registration materials can be placed by calling (270) 926-1652 or logging on the website: cathedralpreschool.com and downloading the forms.

We welcome you to come see what our five-star preschool program offers and plan to register for next year! ■

Bonnie Stuart works at Cathedral Preschool in Owensboro.



Photo courtesy of Paul Abell.

St. Mary's promotes reading during Christmas break

To encourage youth to maintain their reading over the Christmas break from school, St. Mary Catholic Church in Franklin held a book give-away where each child was able to personally select one book. Fr. Daniel Dillard dressed like the "Cat in the Hat" for the special event.

January Wedding Anniversaries

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

Christ the King, Madisonville

Jonathan & Laura Adamson, 10

Christ the King, Scottsville

Jim & Sue Kreicher, 50

Holy Guardian Angel, Irvington

Ted & Barbara Brown, 60

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Fred & Cleo Brown, 52
James & Sharon Drury, 56
Fred & Sue Hagan, 51

Guy & Frances Hogan, 56
Jerry & Charlotte Hopf, 59
Darrell & Tonia Liles, 40
Wayne & Sondra Mitchell, 50

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Beh Reh & Nga Meh, 5
Michael & Mickeye Murphy, 40
Tom & Rita Parrott, 50
Joann & Basil Jones, 57
Constance & Harry Largen, 58
George & Barbara Powers, 58

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Bobby & Theresa May, 64

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

John R. Betty Brown, 56

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

George & Beverly Hendrix, 50
Ken & Charlene Ackerman, 59
William & Suzanne Blandford, 55

James P. & Connie Hayden, 59
Anthony & Mae Kamalich, 64
Joseph R. & Frances Millay, 57
James & Lillian Bowlds, 59

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Nathan & Mariah Stallings, 5
Phillip & June D. Bell, 57
Gary & Mary Carol Jackson, 54
Melvin & Lois Connor, 61
Jack & Wanda Hufnagel, 69
John W. & Barbara

Montgomery, 64
George & Marsha Ballard, 53
Hal & Eleanor Renshaw, 61

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Doug & Betty Howard, 63
Dan & Melody Chelstrom, 5
Larry & Rhonda Logsdon, 25
Ryan & Ali Crowe, 5
Brent & Natalie Davis, 5
James & Evelyn Mattingly, 65
Mike & Cloa Thompson, 58

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

David & Linda Stiles, 58

John & Roslin Dumas, 54

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Hamel & Rose Floyd, 65
Marty & Marilyn Greenwell, 51

Henry & Kathy Hancock, 10

Tommy & Joycelyn Hagan, 50

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

David & Sharon Thompson, 53

St. Ambrose, Henshaw

Joseph & Joan Sheffer, 60

St. Ann, Morganfield

Kenny & Teresa Lee Thomas, 52

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Norbert & Helen Rose Smith, 57

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Jerry & Brenda Stevens, 52

Don Ed & Miki Wright, 50

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Francis M. & Judith Taylor, 54

Keith & Judy Walker, 58

Michael J. & Esther Shoulta, 58

W. J. & Norma Word, 67

St. Henry, Aurora

Paul & Roberta Herman, 55

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Joseph & Pearl Stahr, 61

Charles & Shirley Rowe, 60

Conrad & Rozella Spalding, 62

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Michael & Shirley Poat, 53
David & Betty Roper, 25
Albert & Joyce Wurth, 58

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Clayton & Holly Shuffett, 10
Robert & Sandra Gasperetti, 52

Frank & Patricia Royal, 50

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Andy & Nicole Taylor, 10

Bob & Shirley Higbee, 25

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Denny & Nancy Hargrove, 54

James & Frankie Riley, 58

St. Mary, Franklin

Frank & Marie Farmer, 59

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

John & Mary Ann Ebelhar, 50

Gary & Jane Bratcher, 25

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Harold & Jan Clements, 59

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Bill & Katie Christian, 58

Dan & Sue Howard, 59

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Kenneth & Martha Pendleton, 57

James & Patty Settles, 58

Eddie & Jeanette Smith, 50

Jerome & Bonnie Blair, 51

William & Lillian Young, 64

Jimmie & Mary Keller, 61

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

George & Rita Gayle Nelson, 59

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Derwood & Pat Doyle, 58

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Leon & Cecilia Aud, 55

Francis & Betty Haynes, 55

Francis & Mary Howard, 65

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Mark & LaDonna Hazelwood, 5

Mack & Dolores Mattingly, 59

Jimmy & Mary Rita Whitworth, 59

Logan & Judy Tivitt, 53

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Bill & Bonnie Hawkins, 54

Randell & Geraldine Brown, 50

St. Stephen, Cadiz

William & Maxine Hobbs, 57

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Audie & Sue Cooper, 53
J. C. & Barbara Knott, 51
Donald & Carol Ralph, 52
J. Richard & Mary Ann Clouse, 58

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Tim & Stephanie Sheppard, 10
George & Becky Hanrahan, 51

St. William, Knottsville

Steve & Tonya Millay, 25

Patrick & Rose Meserve, 52

SS. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Jude & Mary Ruth Steele, 25

SS. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

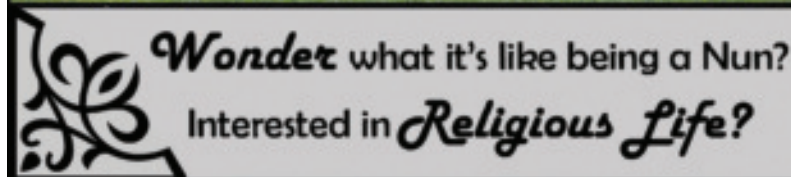
Levi & Margaret Peterson, 59

William & Maxine Hobbs, 57

Steven & Victorina Kinnard, 25



Photo Courtesy of Lolek Productions



Passionist Vocation Retreats

Open to Single, Catholic
women ages 17-30

March 23-25, 2018

June 22-24, 2018

October 12-14, 2018

Interested? Contact us:

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



Diocesan Archives launches first online collections catalog

BY HEIDI TAYLOR-CAUDILL, ARCHIVIST, DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

The Diocese of Owensboro Archives has launched its first online collections catalog highlighting rare and historic documents and artifacts from the diocesan collections.

As with most archives, the Diocese of Owensboro Archives faces the challenge of making historical information from our collections more accessible while preserving materials that are unique, fragile, and irreplaceable. We hold thousands of items that document the history of the Diocese and the Catholic Church in western Kentucky. Many of these items have never been adequately described, and so significant amounts of archival material are unknown to, and unused by, researchers.

In 2016, we started gathering information about researcher needs. Based on statistics from the reference requests received each year, we realized that most requests were coming to us from researchers who could not visit the archives in person. Our small staff was spending an increasing amount of time on answering “distance” requests, which involves not only the time spent looking through the collections, but also scanning materials and formatting and sending digital copies to the researcher. As the time spent on reference requests increased, the time we could spend on organizing, describing, and preserving collections decreased. We needed to find a balance.

One solution was to share our collections online. In 2016, we purchased PastPerfect, collection management software designed to manage information about archival and museum collections. With this software, we could better manage our collections by creating records and reports as well as storing digitized images, audio, and video content with the re-



1923 prayer book from the James Gerth Meyer Prayer Book Collection. Photo courtesy of the Diocesan Archives.

cords.

In 2017, we took another step forward by building the Online Collections Catalog. For the first time, visitors will be able to search and browse selected items from our collections from anywhere via any device. More than 30 highlighted objects and documents from the Archives collections can now be viewed within the catalog, including selections from the St. Bonifacius Cemetery records, correspondence on the rebuilding of St. Joseph Church in Owensboro, a photograph of the 1943 graduating class of St. Joseph High School, a collection of early 20th century prayer books, and records for all the family histories and genealogies in our reference collection.

What is available on the site now is only a small part of the many thousands of items in the archives, and new content will be added each month. To view the online collections catalog, visit <http://owensboro.pastperfectonline.com>. ■