

THE WESTERN
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Catholic

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Better facilities for better community

Mother John Mary Reed, CP, watches construction on the new roof of St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville on Aug. 4, 2021. This is part of a larger renovation project to repair and enhance the home of western Kentucky's only community of cloistered Passionist nuns. [Page 12](#)



Love and service

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'Bee' kind

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Women of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green use towels to absorb excess chrism after the new altar was dedicated by Bishop William F. Medley on Aug. 21, 2021, following the completion of the parish's restoration project. **Page 8**

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Front page photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

Submissions

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

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

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

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A Word From Bishop Medley

Let us treat one another with respect

Just a very few weeks ago I thought it safe to assume that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic had been turned back in the United States. Infection rates and hospitalizations had been declining for months and people were seeking vaccinations in good, if not ideal, numbers. Of course, in the larger picture we knew that the virus was still raging in parts of the world where vaccinations remained scarce.

Then we began to hear with ever-escalating frequency about variants that seem to be spreading more easily than the initial virus, which was itself highly contagious.

So here we are in September, 18 months since our lives and our society were upended in ways we could never have imagined, and we may feel like we are back where we began. The good news is that nationwide more than 50% of the U.S. population has been vaccinated and while that provides no guarantee of total immunity, it does appear that the vaccinated, if infected, are experiencing far milder symptoms. The bad news is that nearly 50% of the population has not been vaccinated and that the new Delta variant is far more contagious than previously thought – and thus infection rates and hospitalizations are soaring again.

As I often do with time sensitive subjects, I caution you that it is very possible that by the time you read this around the first of September the whole picture may be different – much better or much worse.

Schools are reopening in-person across the Com-

monwealth of Kentucky. Our Catholic schools last year had in-person classes most of the year. Some public districts are returning to classrooms for the first time in 18 months. I never thought I would be in a position to be talking again about requiring masking in classrooms again. But here we are.

Trust me, I know how upsetting this is to some parents. Let me say again that our goal is to have in-person learning and to ensure the safety of children, teachers, and staff. We pulled this off very effectively last year and can again.

We have implemented again some cautionary restriction regarding our worship. I hesitate to articulate these here because it is very likely they will be adapted often.

It is disheartening to see reactions sparking such hostility around the country to renewed restrictions. As Church, I would hope that we can find a way to model respectful discourse and disagreement that avoids shouting and questioning other peoples' motives.

I have echoed before what many others have said that we should act in these matters with an abundance of caution. To that I have encouraged that we act even more so with an abundance of charity. When the day comes that the whole pandemic nightmare has ended around the world, it might be that we will see that our caution was excessive in some matters. But it is unimaginable that we would ever say that our charity was excessive.

Let us treat one another with respect. Most especially, please treat those burdened with making

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2021

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

SEPT 8	8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting
SEPT 9-10	Presbyteral Days – Lake Barkley
SEPT 11	9 a.m. Rite of Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
SEPT 12	9:15 a.m. Confirmation – Holy Trinity Parish, Morgantown
SEPT 16	11 a.m. Mass – Brescia University, Owensboro 3 p.m. Zoom Meeting with Priests
SEPT 20-23	Catholic Extension Mission Bishops Conference – Chicago
SEPT 26	10 a.m. Confirmation – St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley
SEPT 27	9 a.m. Opening Mass for the Brescia University Ursuline Education Network Conference – Brescia University Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Owensboro
SEPT 28	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Paducah Office Hours – Lourdes Hospital, Paducah
SEPT 29-30	Ordination of the Bishop of Covington, Kentucky

Happy anniversary to our priests!

In September we celebrate the anniversary of:

Fr. John Okoro | Ordained 9/9/1995
Pastor St. Ambrose Parish, Morganfield;
St. Francis Borgia Parish, Sturgis; and St. William Parish, Marion

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decisions about the pandemic with respect. Though I do not agree with every decision or restriction that I hear of, from what I observe leaders are striving to serve the Common Good. They deserve our gratitude even if at the same time we offer them respectful challenges.

In our lifetimes we have seen the world endure colossal wars, famines, natural disasters of immense scale, terrorism and many other abominations – yet, in all that, we hear the words of Jesus assuring us of his promise to be with us and that we need not be afraid. ■

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

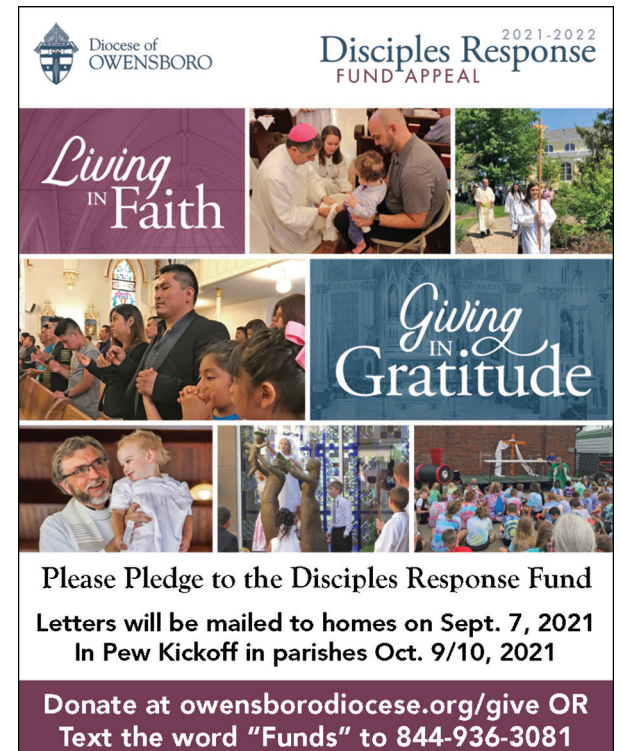
Diocese of Owensboro Updated Priest Assignments

Clark, Rev. Ray: Chaplain at Carmel Home in Owensboro, effective September 1, 2021. (*Fr. Richard Cash will continue as the Coordinator of Catholic Pastoral Care at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital.*)

Clark, Rev. Gary: Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, effective September 28, 2021.

Howard, Rev. Randy: Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, effective September 28, 2021.

McCarty, Rev. Bruce: Pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Uniontown, effective September 28, 2021.



Please Pledge to the Disciples Response Fund
Letters will be mailed to homes on Sept. 7, 2021
In Pew Kickoff in parishes Oct. 9/10, 2021
Donate at owensborodiocese.org/give OR
Text the word "Funds" to 844-936-3081

Created for this from the beginning

Family of Sr. Elizabeth Grace Rhodes celebrates her final vows

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Sr. Elizabeth Grace Rhodes, SV, is “sincere in her desire to serve the Lord,” said Fr. Mike Williams in his Aug. 14, 2021 homily at St. Stephen Cathedral during a friends and family celebration of the religious sister’s profession of final vows, which took place Aug. 6 in New York.

The local celebration included Mass – celebrated by Fr. Williams and concelebrated by Fr. Daniel Dillard and Fr. Corey D. Bruns – and a reception in the cathedral undercroft downstairs after the liturgy.

Fr. Williams, who knew the sister back when she was Megan Rhodes growing up on her family’s farm in Whitesville, said she has always been “humble, generous and kind.”

He urged Sr. Elizabeth Grace, who belongs to the Sisters of Life religious order based in New York, to remain humble in her vocation, and believe “that everything we do comes from the power and grace of the Holy Spirit.”

“Once the devil convinces us that this is about us, he’s got us,” said Fr. Williams.

Fr. Williams reminded those gathered that it is

their responsibility to pray for the sister, that she will “serve God completely and sincerely.”

Following the Mass, Sr. Elizabeth Grace’s mother, Monica Rhodes, told The Western Kentucky Catholic that she is “truly thankful for all God has done for us.”

“We were told that when she (entered the Sisters of Life) that abundant graces would follow, and they certainly have,” said Rhodes, who with her husband, Russell, raised nine children – of whom Sr. Elizabeth Grace is the third – attending St. Lawrence Parish in Philpot.

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COURTESY OF THE SISTERS OF LIFE

Sr. Elizabeth Grace Rhodes, SV, professing her final vows to Mother Agnes Mary, SV, on Aug. 6, 2021 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

In fact, Sr. Elizabeth Grace's younger sister, Molly, now known by her religious name of Sr. Felicidad, recently professed perpetual vows with the Hijas del Amor Misericordioso ("Daughters of Merciful Love") in Madrid, Spain.

"It's been so wonderful," said Rhodes.

For her part, Sr. Elizabeth Grace told the WKC she is filled with gratitude "to God and everyone who's made an impact in my life," on the occasion of professing her final vows.

"I'm only able to say 'yes' because of all those people who have given of themselves," she said of her friends and family, many of whom were present at the Aug. 14 celebration. "It is a gift to see, visibly, all



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Sr. Elizabeth Grace Rhodes, SV, bows her head in prayer after receiving Communion at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro on Aug. 14, 2021, during a family and friends celebration of her Aug. 6 profession of final vows.

these people I hold in my heart."

Sr. Elizabeth Grace will help open a new mission this fall at St. Agnes Convent in Phoenix, Ariz., where she will participate in university evangelization at Arizona State University and accompany vulnerable pregnant women.

"I am one of five sisters going out there," she said, explaining that they will serve as "little mothers to the college kids."

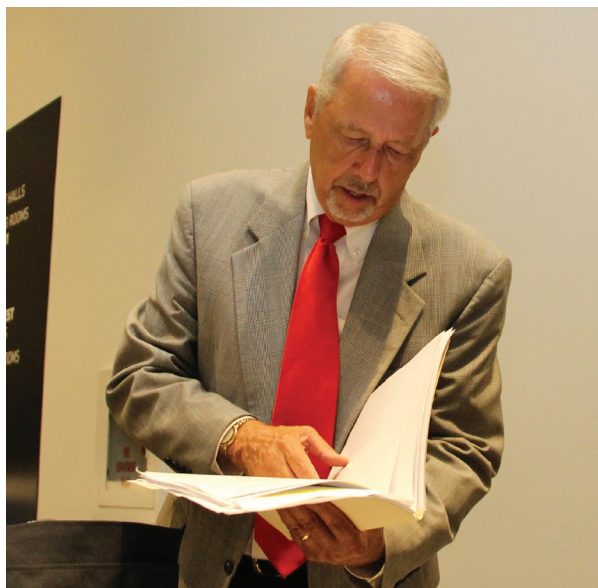
The sister turned 33 on Aug. 6 - the day of her profession of final vows, as well as the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord - and remarked how "hugely a grace" it was to "lay down my life on my birthday."

She said she was struck by the realization that God had planned this for her life from the beginning; speaking to God, she said "From all eternity, knowing you created me for this - and I am so happy to give this to you." ■

Learn about the Sisters of Life

- The Sisters of Life are a Catholic religious community of women consecrated for the protection of human life.
- To learn more about their ministry, visit sistersoflife.org.

Diocese's first associate director of vocations pioneered way for today's vocations office



MEL HOWARD | WKC | FILE PHOTO
Dr. Fred Litke looks over the agenda for *Vocare* 2014, the Diocese of Owensboro's first annual vocations celebration at the Owensboro Convention Center.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Retiring after serving as associate director of vocations for the Diocese of Owensboro for 10 years, Dr. Fred Litke says he has “thoroughly enjoyed the work.”

Dr. Litke was already retired from his optometry practice when Bishop William F. Medley asked him to come on board as the diocese's first associate director of vocations.

“Fr. Andy Garner was the vocations director at the time and we were really close,” said Dr. Litke. He explained that Fr. Garner originally served in this capacity full-time, but was later put in charge of a

parish as well.

“Fr. Andy said, ‘I’m going to need some help,’” said Dr. Litke. Fr. Garner and Kevin Kauffeld, then-diocesan chancellor, suggested Dr. Litke to the bishop.

“The bishop asked me and I said sure!” said Dr. Litke.

He created his own job description based on other dioceses' vocations offices, and also attended an NCDVD (National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors) convention. Fortunately, they happened to offer training for new vocations directors.

“I got a tremendous amount of information to get me started,” he said.

Over the years, Dr. Litke said working with the seminarians has been the most rewarding part of his ministry – “to see them start that adventure.”

He said Fr. Corey D. Bruns, who was ordained this spring, was in formation for the 10 years that Dr. Litke served as associate director of vocations, “so it was really rewarding to see him along all the steps of the way.”

He is also grateful for the success of the Office of Vocations' annual *Vocare* celebration, which he along with then-vocations director Fr. Jason McClure established as a celebration of vocations and a fundraiser for seminarian education. (*Vocare* has been suspended for the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

As a layperson, Dr. Litke had a unique perspective when serving in vocations ministry. In fact, he emphasized how much laypeople should care about

and support vocations.

He quoted Pope St. John Paul II's words in his 1996 book, “Gift and Mystery: On the Fiftieth Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination,” that “There can be no Eucharist without the priesthood, just as there can be no priesthood without the Eucharist.”

“That's always rung in my ears because we don't have sacraments without priests,” he said. “It's vital. It's necessary. There are no two ways about it.”

Dr. Litke admitted that seeing seminarians discern out of seminary was always a challenge.

But, “the whole goal of seminary is to find out if you're called to the priesthood – it's not to make you a priest!” he said.

“The process works,” he said, explaining that seminary is a time to “find out if he's called,” which is a joint effort between the seminarian and all who teach and guide him along his formation process.

Dr. Litke said another challenge across the board for today's vocations ministries is the priest and seminarian shortage.

He said he was once talking with his son – Fr. Austin Litke, OP; a Dominican priest based in Washington, D.C. – and rhetorically asked “Why is God not calling anyone anymore?”

His son responded that “He is – they just aren't listening.”

Admittedly, in this media-saturated culture, young men may never hear God's voice over the noise, said Dr. Litke.

“I do think they miss out and the Church misses out when they don't hear the call,” he said.

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However, he says one of the biggest blessings and inspirations for his ministry in fostering vocations was the gift of his son's priestly vocation.

"I can truly say he's the happiest person I know on earth," said Dr. Litke. "He just exudes joy. His life isn't a bed of roses but following his vocation

has been a total joy to him – that he's truly following what he's supposed to be doing."

Following his retirement, Dr. Litke and his wife, Nancy, are moving to Florida, but plan to return and visit their friends and family in Kentucky. ■

'It has to be what we are about' School fundraiser helps vocations

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Penny Challenge at John Paul II Catholic School in Morganfield is "one of the most exciting times of the whole school year," according to Beth Hendrickson, the school's principal.

Hendrickson explained that the challenge, which takes place every Lent, consists in every classroom having a bucket – which the students race to fill with change and dollar bills.

Once the challenge has concluded, the money raised is divided among different local charities.

For Lent 2021, during which the school raised \$2,000, JP II donated to the American Red Cross and Ben's Place Adult Day Health Care in Morganfield, and provided funds to assemble annual Easter food baskets for local families.

The school also sent a \$200 donation for Vocare – the Diocese of Owensboro's annual fundraiser celebration for vocations. The fundraised money assists the diocese's seminarian education fund, since the diocese covers their education costs.

Hendrickson enclosed the following note with the check: "Good morning! John Paul II Catholic

School is excited to be able to share a portion of our Lenten Penny Challenge Proceeds to assist Vocare. Please accept this check and use it where it is most needed," wrote Hendrickson in the May 26, 2021 note.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances, Vocare will not take place this year. But that didn't mean putting a stop to vocations support.

In fact, vocations awareness is more important than ever as priests minister to those suffering physically, emotionally and spiritually amid the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Hendrickson said vocations ministry is crucial, and she relates to it especially since a priest was ordained from her parish of St. Ann in Morganfield just this year: Fr. Corey D. Bruns, who was ordained in May 2021.

"We are a Catholic school and we talk about vocations," she said, adding that "anything we can do to support vocations, we're planting a seed for them."

"This is part of our duty while at the school," she said. "It has to be what we are about." ■

Priesthood Sunday is September 26, 2021!

How will you celebrate your priest this year?



Help support seminarian education

Vocare, the Diocese of Owensboro's annual celebration of vocations, will not take place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, those wishing to financially support seminarian education are encouraged to visit owensborodiocese.org/vocare to learn how they can give. We also ask that you continue to pray for vocations, that more young people will answer God's call in their lives.

Renewed: Historic St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green restored to original splendor



COURTESY OF JAMES KENNEY

(Left) The faithful gather in newly-restored St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green as Bishop William F. Medley dedicates the church on Aug. 21, 2021. (Right) Bishop William F. Medley consecrates the new altar at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green on Aug. 21, 2021.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Growing up non-Catholic, Lori Million would often walk past St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green.

It was always there as a familiar, faithful landmark, even though it was not her church.

Years later, she came full circle not only by joining the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian

Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program at St. Joseph's, but by helping to lead the restoration project for the historic church building.

"I always had a history with (St. Joseph Parish); I just didn't know where it was going to take me," said Lori Million, who serves as the parish's director of finance.

On Aug. 21, 2021, following more than a year of

fundraising, construction work and prayer, Bishop William F. Medley consecrated the new altar and blessed the new church, which had been restored to the original glory of its 1889 founding.

The church had been in need of significant repairs to the exterior brickwork, water-damaged plaster, worn carpet and more – which was made all more serious by the fact that St. Joseph Parish is list-

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ed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“Structural engineers went over every aspect to see what we needed to fix,” said Bayne Million, Lori Million’s husband and the president of St. Joseph’s finance council. “These old churches – if you don’t restore them, they have the potential to crumble into dust.”

Under a campaign titled “Renew,” the people of St. Joseph’s set out to restore the historic building, which Bayne Million said is more than just a building to them.

“The project is called ‘Renew,’ since this is where we come to be renewed and restored,” said Bayne Million, pointing out that just as people care for their homes, this has been an opportunity to care for their spiritual home.

Fr. Ryan Harpole, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, said they wanted to have something lasting: which the next few generations will not “need to worry about.”

The work done includes restoration of the original exterior bricks; repairs to the original stained glass windows (“The frames were custom made for the windows,” said Fr. Harpole); roof, gutter and downspout repair; interior plaster repairs; updated restrooms; restored main floor and crawlspace; various improvements to the interior design, and various miscellaneous repairs and refurbishments.

The project also featured a full renovation of the parish hall (including its restrooms and kitchen), a brand-new Reconciliation Room for the priests to hear confessions, and, notably, the restoration of the original lily designs on the ceiling of the church.

Bayne Million said that at the beginning of the project, parishioner poll results indicated that they wanted those lilies to be returned to the ceiling and for two historic angel statues to be returned to the sides of the altar.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

(Left) An artist restores an angel statue at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green on Aug. 17, 2021. The angel is one of a pair that will hold electric lights in the completed church. (Right) Contractors work on the marble center aisle of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green on Aug. 17, 2021.

Many parishioners “have been here since their childhoods and wanted those key things back,” said Bayne Million.

Both of these aspects have been restored, made easier by the unexpected discovery of the original lilies’ design under layers of paint.

The old carpet on the main church floor has now been replaced with gleaming wood floors, courtesy of Conrad Floors, a local business operated by Dcn. Larry Conrad, who also serves in St. Joseph’s parish leadership as a deacon.

“It’s my church and I want to take care of it,” said Dcn. Conrad, who has belonged to the parish for 30 years and was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2017.

And the new marble-tiled center aisle, said Fr. Harpole, “emphasizes its purpose as a focal point directing your attention to the altar – to the Eucharist.”

Bayne Million said he credits the parishioners for the success of the project, which cost \$4,358,140.

Fr. Harpole said it was helpful that “we were transparent” throughout the Renew process, always being available to answer parishioners’ questions and telling them exactly how their money was being used.

“It has been a humbling experience to see the beautification of the church,” said Bayne Million.

Lori Million agreed.

“To see it like this, it’s like nothing I’ve ever imagined,” she said. ■

Moving forward together

New Hispanic/Latino pastoral plan inspires ‘missionary spirit,’ addresses ‘needs and challenges’



TINA KASEY | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley with “Matachine” dancers from Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson, following the June 26, 2021 promulgation of “Called to be Missionary Disciples: Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry 2021-2026” at a diocesan Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Many people who only speak Spanish “often feel without a voice” in English-dominant regions, says Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez, but thanks to a recently-released pastoral plan for Hispanic/Latino ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro, it doesn’t have to remain this way.

Bishop William F. Medley promulgated “Called to be Missionary Disciples: Diocesan Pastoral Plan

for Hispanic/Latino Ministry 2021-2026” at a diocesan Mass on June 26, 2021 at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

Dcn. Gutiérrez told The Western Kentucky Catholic in an Aug. 3, 2021 interview that the pastoral plan was the result of a year of research, discussions and writing, but that the plan has a wider foundation in the national, four-year process of the V Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry that took place between 2017 and 2020.

“As the Hispanic Catholic population grows in this country, there was a need for renewal and to study the signs of the times,” said Dcn. Gutiérrez, who has served as the diocese’s director of Hispanic/Latino ministry since 2014.

The Diocese of Owensboro’s last pastoral plan for Hispanic/Latino ministry expired in 2011, but Dcn. Gutiérrez said there was no immediate follow-up since much of the plan continued to be usable for years afterward.

But then the V Encuentro “started to stir things up,” he said.

He explained that through the V Encuentro process, dioceses began to recognize the need for updated Hispanic/Latino ministry initiatives “from the grassroots up,” – not, as has been done in the past, from a “top-down” mentality.

V Encuentro served to “celebrate, study, and consult with the whole Hispanic Catholic population in the United States,” said Dcn. Gutiérrez, while the

parish and diocesan level conversations served “to study our own and to discern in the Diocese of Owensboro based on our own reality.”

Since each region in the United States presents its own set of unique challenges for Hispanic/Latino ministry, Dcn. Gutiérrez said it was crucial to form a plan dedicated to the needs of western Kentuckians.

Every one of the diocese’s 14 parishes offering Hispanic/Latino ministry had at least one representative to collaborate on the pastoral plan.

Dcn. Gutiérrez said the representatives for the pastoral plan “could express their experience of Church in the Diocese of Owensboro. They could express what they feel are needs and challenges for the future – and we took note of that.”

“We had to discern and decide the focus for our diocese,” said Dcn. Gutiérrez, explaining that in some parish communities there is a need to “form Hispanic/Latino leaders in all sorts of areas,” while other communities must concentrate on “new arrivals of folks who need basic services.”

As a result, “the plan shows different strategic priorities” depending on what the parish communities deem most important, he said. “It empowered Spanish-speaking Catholic leaders to share what we should focus on.”

Dcn. Gutiérrez said the pastoral plan introduced four regions across western Kentucky to provide improved and streamlined resources to Hispanic/Latino ministry parishes.

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The regions are Our Lady of Guadalupe Region (with Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson, St. Michael Parish in Sebree, Christ the King Parish in Madisonville, and Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam), Our Lady of Fatima Region (with St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield and St. Leo Parish in Murray), Our Lady of Mount Carmel Region (with Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Todd County and Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville), and Our Lady of the Rosary Region (with St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, Holy Trinity Parish in Morgantown and St. Mary Parish in Franklin).

“That focus by region will help my office be more effective,” said Dcn. Gutiérrez. “And it will help the other diocesan offices (when working with Hispanic/Latino ministry) too.”

He also plans to create an advisory committee of representatives from each of the regions. These people will not necessarily be the person designated as the parish’s resident Hispanic minister, since many other parishioners have gifts they are willing to share, just not in an official parish-level capacity.

Dcn. Gutiérrez said a positive side effect of collaborating with Hispanic/Latino representatives on the pastoral plan was the opportunity to delve more deeply into Pope Francis’s call for missionary discipleship.

This included studying “*Evangelii Gaudium*,” Pope Francis’s 2013 apostolic exhortation on the joy of the Gospel.

“Our discussions included ‘What is he asking for? What is he calling for the universal Church?’” said Dcn. Gutiérrez. He said this was a useful tool to help in understanding the pontificate of Pope Francis, which has “injected an enthusiasm for a mission-

ary spirit” among Hispanic and Latino Catholics.

Furthermore, Dcn. Gutiérrez said the contributors to the pastoral plan were careful that the tone “synchronized with the four evangelization priorities for our diocese, which are Encounter, Accompany, Community, and Send.”

“This allowed all of us to stay on the same page,” he said.

Dcn. Gutiérrez said he had been nervous when embarking on this project because they had to start their meetings on Zoom due to the pandemic.

“But people kept showing up,” he said. “For which I am grateful.”

He also expressed his gratitude to his wife, Patti Gutiérrez, the pastoral plan’s facilitator and writer, and Tina Kasey, the diocese’s director of communications, for their contributions to the project.

Dcn. Gutiérrez said he expects the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will begin an updated national pastoral plan – which is also incredibly outdated – sometime next year.

Their plan will draw from the Hispanic/Latino ministry pastoral plans made by individual dioceses and archdioceses, since every time a new one is completed it is sent to the USCCB “so they can study the realities in our different locations,” said Dcn. Gutiérrez.

This, he said, shows the mark of “synodality” which Pope Francis regularly emphasizes in his leadership.

“I have to give the Holy Father a lot of credit,” said Dcn. Gutiérrez of this trend of synodality. “It’s about erasing the heavy mark of clericalism in the Church.”

He said the “pyramid is inverted now,” in contrast to outdated top-down approaches, explaining that the pope “wants the laity to have participation,



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez, seen in this May 5, 2021 photo, is the Diocese of Owensboro’s director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

from the grassroots up.”

Dcn. Gutiérrez added that non-Hispanic leaders should continue to work toward greater sharing and collaboration with Hispanic leaders, “or else integration will always be an illusion.”

“We keep moving forward and keep trying and I think God will show us the way,” he said. “It keeps us moving forward, together, and not in isolation.” ■

Explore the pastoral plan

To learn more and read the Diocese of Owensboro’s Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry in 2021-2026, visit these links:

- <https://owensborodiocese.org/plan-pastoral/> (Spanish)
- <https://owensborodiocese.org/hispanic-pastoral-plan/> (English)

‘If God wants it, it will happen’

Passionists’ renovation campaign focuses on both practicality and beauty



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Kyle Cook (left), and Greg “Trey” Dooley (right), both of Helming Brothers, Inc. show Mother John Mary Reed, CP, how to load the clay tiles onto the conveyor to the monastery roof on Aug. 4, 2021.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When Mother John Mary Reed, CP, requested a visitation to assess the needs of the Passionist Nuns at St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, she never dreamed of setting a plan into motion to massively renovate the monastery itself.

Mother John Mary had become mother superior of the community in 2016, and invited Nashville Dominican Sr. Ann Marie Karlovic, OP – formerly the Dominicans’ prioress general – to spend a period of time living with the Passionists in their cloister.

Sr. Ann Marie came in 2018 and gave a thorough recommendation based on feedback from the nuns.

“Through living with us and meeting with each sister one-on-one, there was a thread for needing better spaces in the community and refectory area,” said Mother John Mary in an Aug. 4, 2021 interview with *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

But the Dominican sister’s recommendations went far beyond needing to update those two spaces.

She raised multiple points about the sustainability of a healthy atmosphere for the nuns, who had relocated from Owensboro to Whitesville in 1995, and had built a new monastery from the ground up.

The Whitesville monastery had provided a good home for the Passionists, but time takes its toll on any building.

In fact, Sr. Ann Marie’s assessment of the state of the monastery was, “Mother John Mary, this is ghastly.”

Mother John Mary took this to prayer and discernment – and the thought popped into her head: “Build.”

She replied, “Ok, Lord...”

And that was the beginning.

Work to be done

The Passionists started to develop plans for a renovation campaign in May and June 2019. At that point, they were not even thinking of a new roof.

But contractors had repeatedly tried to fix the clay tiles for more than 20 years – while the roof continued to develop major leaks and mold. The nuns realized that if they were to do a renovation, the roof would need to be part of the goal.

In February 2020, right before the COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm, they added the roof to the plan.

Mother John Mary told the WKC that early on, she was unsure if all of the nuns would be comfortable with the idea of such a large-scale renovation campaign.

However, “that has been a great blessing, that the whole community is on board,” she said, expressing her gratitude for the excitement of the youngest sisters and the blessing of the eldest sisters.

“The older sisters have been longing to be able to do this,” said Mother John Mary, and said this

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Passionists' renovation continued from page 12

campaign is happening “for the sake of our current sisters as well as our future sisters. We’re building on what our needs are.”

The plans

The campaign, which has been named Cherish the Flame, includes a new roof, a brand-new wing (called the Holy Family Wing) and some much-needed renovation to various spaces, such as expanding the refectory and kitchen.

They hope to add cloister walks (covered spaces around the courtyard to facilitate prayer and outdoor recreation; this is where cloisters get their name), a new community room (where the nuns spend their “family time,” explained Mother John Mary), an exercise room (to care for their bodies, minds and spirits), and a storage room (since empty bedrooms are currently being used for storage, creating a problem when guests visit and new sisters enter the monastery).

The Passionists also plan to finally build a Chapter Room, which Mother John Mary said is “an extension of the chapel” in a monastery.

In the monastery’s original building plans, both the cloister walks and the Chapter Room had to be nixed due to budget constraints. Over the years, the nuns have unsuccessfully tried to soundproof their parlor to serve the role of a Chapter Room.

“The Chapter Room is a sacred confidential space where the Monastic Chapter (nuns in perpetual vows) gather before God in order to discern and discuss important decisions that affect the life of the community such as voting on the entrance of new members and the various stages of commitment, and a space where a woman is vested in the holy habit,” said Mother John Mary.

Mother John Mary said the room also includes

decisions about “temporal matters and the running of the monastery,” which she described as essentially being a little city. “It will also be a space where classes and conferences will be held for the nuns.”

The renovations will also take into account the needs of the sisters who are elderly or are less mobile, providing wheelchair-accessible doors and acoustical treatment of rooms for those with hearing difficulties.

Trusting St. Joseph

Mother John Mary told the WKC that the total cost of the renovations is \$3.85 million; they have currently raised \$1.88 million.

Since their monastery is named after St. Joseph, Mother John Mary said they would love to reach the remaining amount before the conclusion of the Year of St. Joseph in December.

Work has already started on the roof, thanks to their roofing contractors, Helming Brothers, Inc., of Jasper, Ind. In order that the new roof will be more sustainable than their old roof, a waterproof underlayment is being placed before the roof receives its new layer of Ludowici clay tiles.

Aside from the practical needs of the monastery, the nuns look forward to making their home a more beautiful space – which will hopefully even invite new vocations.

“We know that beauty attracts because God is beauty, truth, and goodness,” said Mother John Mary.

Sr. Cecilia Maria Wynn, CP, said she is excited about “the process of renewal.”

“It’s a grace for the whole community,” she said. “Beyond the construction and the roof, it reminds us of the vitality and grace of the community. It is such a sign of hope in the future of exciting things



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Mother John Mary Reed, CP, (left), and Sr. Mary Elizabeth Sauer, CP, (right), sit by St. Joseph Monastery’s current recreation room, which is cramped, badly-lit and has poor acoustics. The Cherish the Flame Campaign hopes to build a brand-new recreation room in the new wing.

happening in the community.”

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Sauer, CP, credits Mother John Mary’s “prompting to start the process for the future.”

“God’s been with us since we started,” she said. “God’s goodness provides for us in so many ways.”

Mother John Mary said St. Joseph monastery is the only contemplative community in the Diocese of Owensboro. A contemplative community focuses on intercessory prayer for the world; the cloistered Passionists’ charism is specifically to pray at the foot of the cross with Our Lady of Sorrows, united with Jesus in his great act of redemption for all humanity.

As such, they hope their improved monastery home will foster a greater space for prayer for the world, which is suffering from the pandemic, global conflict and so much more.

Though the pandemic has slowed their progress,

Continues on page 14

Vaccination is an act of love, pope says in ad campaign

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - When each individual makes a small act of charity, like getting the COVID-19 vaccine, every gesture added together can transform the world, Pope Francis said in a global ad campaign. "Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love – love for oneself, love for one's family and friends, love for all people," he said in a public service announcement released Aug. 18 in Rome. The video message was part of a global effort by the U.S.-based nonpartisan, nonprofit Ad Council and the COVID Collaborative's "It's Up To You" campaign to increase people's confidence in COVID-19 vaccines by reminding them that the vaccines are safe, effective and save people's lives. The Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development also cooperated with the educational initiative. The three-minute video in Spanish with English, Spanish and Portuguese subtitles features Pope Francis and six cardinals and archbishops from North and South America. Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is among them. The "It's Up To You" campaign has been inviting "trusted messengers" to deliver "fact-based and life-saving information to populations hesitant about the COVID-19 vaccines, helping them to make informed decisions for themselves and their families," it said in a joint news release with the Ad Council.

IN BRIEF

FROM CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

U.S. Catholics urged to give to efforts helping Haitians recover from quake

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked bishops across the country to take up a voluntary collection to help Haiti recover from a recent pair of natural disasters. Saying that Haitians are likely to experience continuing hardships from an Aug. 14 earthquake and a tropical storm that swept through the ravaged southwestern part of the country days later, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles made the request in a letter to bishops. The magnitude 7.2 earthquake devastated communities in southwestern Haiti. Nearly 2,200 people died, more than 12,000 were injured and hundreds more were missing Aug. 20. Money collected will be funneled to the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund and will be used to support the pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Haitian Catholic Church as well as efforts of Catholic Relief Services and possibly Catholic Charities USA. The USCCB said in a news release Aug. 20 that if the money collected cannot be distributed in Haiti, funding will be used for other emergency relief where it is needed most as determined by the bishops' Committee on National Collections.

Make sure evacuated kids will be reunited with parents, Vatican paper says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Heartbreaking images of mothers and fathers handing their infants and toddlers to U.S. soldiers during the evacuation of Kabul were like seeing the desperation of Jochebed, Moses' mother, as she put him in a basket in the Nile River to save him, said an editorial in the Vatican newspaper. Headlined "Afghan Moses," the front-page article reflected on how those scenes represented, for Moses and the Afghan children, "a traumatic separation" caused by "violence and oppression" as mothers and fathers "abandon" their children in order to save them. "We have to find the courage to stand before the waters of the Nile, which carry away the basket with a child inside, while his sister Miriam tries to see what will become of her brother," said the Aug. 25 editorial, written by Father Luigi Maria Epicoco, a 40-year-old theologian, philosopher and contributor to the paper. "In our powerlessness we could, however, become like Miriam and feel responsible" for what happens to these children and find a way, like Miriam did, for them to be happily reunited again, the priest wrote. The Vatican has expressed deep concern over the evolving crisis in Afghanistan. Msgr. John Putzer, chargé d'affaires of the Holy See's Permanent Mission for Geneva-based U.N. agencies, repeated Pope Francis' appeal from Aug. 15, asking that "solutions can be found at the table of dialogue." ■

Passionists continued from page 13

Cherish the Flame has still received a great deal of donations, which Mother John Mary said "shows how many friends we have."

"I never dreamed anything like this would hap-

pen when I was elected superior," she said.

Mother John Mary said that when the project began she knew nothing about construction or fundraising: "This project continually pushes me beyond my comfort zone."

"Every morning I turn the details over to St. Joseph trusting that if God wants it, it will happen!" she said. ■

To learn more or donate to Cherish the Flame, visit www.passionistnuns.org/cherish-the-flame.

With a ‘spirit of love and service,’ Lourdes comes together to support family

BY MARY LASLEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Jordan Allison, Thomas Hutchison, and members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro lived out those words by organizing a rummage sale to raise funds for the Aaron Igleheart family.

Aaron Igleheart died on July 4, 2021 unexpectedly after a brief illness. He left behind Lisa, his wife, and four children, Lily, Nolan, Jack and Frank. Jordan Allison and Thomas Hutchison, whose wives are sisters, knew Aaron. The children of all three families attended school and played together. Jordan and Thomas had a strong desire to help and decided to head up a rummage sale with all proceeds from the sale going to the Igleheart family. They contacted Fr. Pat Reynolds and the parish council for the use of the parish hall as well as donations of items from members of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The parish got behind the effort with enthusiasm. The Knights of Columbus Council #14290 cooked hamburgers and hot dogs to sell during the sale with all proceeds going to the family. Thomas Hutchison’s daughters ran a lemonade stand asking only for donations. Lourdes Ladies of Service helped collect, sort, and price the donated items. The La-



COURTESY OF MARY LASLEY

(Left) Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners participate in the Aug. 7, 2021 fundraiser for the Aaron Igleheart family. (Right) Children run a lemonade stand asking only for donations during the Aug. 7, 2021 fundraiser for the Aaron Igleheart family at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro.

dies worked two days before the sale as items came into the hall, and then on the day of the sale (Aug. 7, 2021), they helped to straighten and pack up after the sale concluded.

On the day of the sale the hall was full not only with items donated by Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners, but with a spirit of love and service. In addition to purchasing items, monetary donations to the family were accepted. Everyone involved in the day

wanted to show support to the Aaron Igleheart family and encourage them as they are going through this very difficult time.

If anyone wishes to make a donation, please send it to the Aaron Igleheart Family, c/o Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 4029 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301. ■

Mary Lasley belongs to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro.

Precious Blood Parish honors Sister Rosanne Spalding for 60 years of serving the Church



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Sister Rosanne with the 13 other Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph who were present for Mass. From left are Sisters Betsy Moyer, Ann McGrew, Amelia Stenger, Laurita Spalding (Sister Rosanne's sister), Rosanne, Monica Seaton, Margaret Ann Aull, Judith Nell Riney, Cheryl Clemons, Barbara Jean Head, Suzanne Sims, Nancy Murphy, Julia Head and Mary Timothy Bland. Sister Julia and Sister Nancy were Sister Rosanne's classmates and are also celebrating 60 years this year.

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In September 1960, Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro was blessed as the newest church in the Diocese of Owensboro. The next day, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph opened the school there.

That same week, a young woman named Elizabeth Rose Spalding departed her home in Springfield, Ky., for the three-hour drive to Maple Mount,

where she planned to become an Ursuline Sister like the teachers she had in high school.

On Aug. 14, 2021 – almost 61 years later – the Precious Blood community gathered for Mass to celebrate both their church home and the woman known as Sister Rosanne Spalding, who is celebrating her 60th jubilee of becoming an Ursuline novice in 1961. Nearly half of her 60 years have been spent at Precious Blood, first with five years as a teacher or principal, and the past 23 years as pastoral associate

and director of religious education.

During Mass, she renewed her vows as an Ursuline in front of the congregation, which included members of her family, 13 Ursuline Sisters and her nephew Mark Spalding – better known as the Most Rev. J. Mark Spalding, bishop of Nashville since 2018.

Afterward, she recalled her father asking her on that September 1960 journey why she was joining a community so far away, when there were three religious communities in central Kentucky within 15 minutes of her home.

“I guess this is where the Lord wants me,” she replied.

On this evening celebrating the feast of the Assumption, Sister Rosanne found some more words of her father's that were prophetic. He had told her on a visit that the door was always open if she wanted to come back home.

“I think that God the father says that to us,” Sister Rosanne told the congregation. “The door is always open.”

Bishop Spalding – whose appearance to celebrate Mass was a surprise to Sister Rosanne – said his aunt gave her life to the Church, and specifically to Precious Blood Church.

“When we celebrate anniversaries, it's a way to remember promises made and promises kept,” Bishop Spalding said. “When we make certain promises in life, it makes God's dreams come true.”

Bishop Spalding said the Ursuline Sisters have been Christ to so many people.

Continues on page 17

Zach Ault receives 2021 catechetical leader award

BY WKC STAFF

On Aug. 5, 2021, Zach Ault, the pastoral minister at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, received the 2021 Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award.

He was presented with the award at a gathering for diocesan youth ministers, directors of religious education and others in parish catechetical leadership, which was held at Pennyryle Forest State Resort Park.

“It is clear from reading the 17 recommendations received from people that know you well, that you have made an incredible impact at St. Francis de Sales Parish,” said Dr. Jeff Andrini, director of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Office of Evangelization and Discipleship.

The award was presented by Bishop William F. Medley.

In his remarks, Dr. Andrini shared that Ault became Catholic about 15 years ago, and that Ault was called into parish ministry 14 years ago – leaving behind a lucrative engineering job when God called.

Dr. Andrini said that he had the opportunity to work with Ault on several occasions, most recently being the diocese’s virtual Easter Series, during which Ault shared his faith journey and witnessed to God’s love and power throughout his life.

Dr. Andrini read several selections from the 17 recommendations received for Ault – which Dr. Andrini added is 16 more than his office receives for one person.

These excerpts included: “He is a great family man;” “Zach is a very devout, kind and servant hearted person;” “He leads the RCIA, bible studies, helps grieving families as they prepare for a funeral and leads many in spiritual enrichment and growth opportunities;” “Consistently in a good mood and never a negative word;” and “Works well with others and is a great asset to our parish staff.”

“I would simply add that in my experience of you, you have a deep faith, a



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

Bishop William F. Medley presents Zach Ault with the 2021 Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award. Ault is the pastoral minister at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah.

love for Jesus and his Church and the fruit of your discipleship is evident in how you live and love others,” said Dr. Andrini.

The Offices of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry present this award annually to honor an outstanding parish catechetical leader. According to the award criteria, the recipient of the award is a role model as an outstanding human being; committed to diocesan, parish and community service; shows a deep sense of spirituality; is knowledgeable, and committed to continuing their intellectual, spiritual and collaborative growth. ■

60 year jubilee continued from page 16

“When we point to Christ, we bring others along,” he said. “That’s our job.”

The pastor of Precious Blood, Father Suneesh Mathew, and Bishop Spalding presented Sister

Rosanne with a plaque honoring her 60 years of service. Near the end of Mass, Ray Jones, the music minister at Precious Blood, led the choir in a special song for Sister Rosanne, “O God, You Search Me.”

Afterward, all those present were invited to dinner in the parish hall. ■

Originally published on Aug. 15, 2021 on ursulinesmsj.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming 2021 parish picnics in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: Parish picnics and cooking teams are a longstanding tradition in the parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike gather to celebrate with food, games and community during the warmest months of the year. All questions about the individual picnics should be directed to the parishes; contact information may be accessed via owensborodiocese.org/find-a-parish.

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

DATE	SERVING TIME	PARISH
SEPTEMBER 11	Serving at 5 p.m.	St. Agnes, Uniontown
SEPTEMBER 18	Serving from 4-8 p.m.	Christ the King, Madisonville
SEPTEMBER 18	Serving at 4 p.m.; drive-thru only	Blessed Mother, Owensboro
SEPTEMBER 19	Serving at 11 a.m.	Mary Carrico Catholic School Picnic, St. Lawrence picnic grounds, Philpot
SEPTEMBER 25	Serving from 1-3 p.m., drive-thru only	Immaculate, Owensboro
SEPTEMBER 25	Serving from 10:30-4 p.m.; carryout available	Honeyfest Meal & Silent Auction, St. Elizabeth, Clarkson
SEPTEMBER 26	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Lazarus Retreat November 19-21, 2021 St. Jerome Catholic Church, Fancy Farm

Open to ALL high school youth!

\$50 | Limited to only 20 boys/20 girls | Deadline: November 1

Journey through the story of the raising of Lazarus and see what it truly means to be dead in this world and called to life in Jesus.

**Questions? Contact the Office of Youth Ministry
(270) 683-1545 | robin.tomes@pastoral.org**

FINDING GOD EVERYWHERE

Finding God Everywhere: Insights from the Bible

People hungry for a deeper life with God and more ease in praying with the Bible can find nourishment in this program that explores what the Bible can tell us about how to “find” the God who is everywhere. In truth, the matter is less our human “finding” and more of a recognizing that pervasive presence of God within which, as St. Paul quoted, “we live and move and have our being.” This online session will explore—all within the context of prayer—how to find/recognize God within our deepest self, our neighbor, and creation. The challenge of finding/recognizing God in times of suffering or hardship will also be considered. We will include quiet prayer/reflection and small-group sharing.

**Thursday, Sept. 23 • 6:30-8 p.m.
Online Zoom presentation**

Led by Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU

Fee: \$15

To register or for more information:
270-229-0206
retreatcenter@maplemount.org
<https://ursulinesmsj.org/finding-god/>



**Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center**

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

SEPTEMBER 2021 BULLETIN BOARD

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

Owensboro area and St. Pius X Catholic young adult co-ed/pick-up softball

Thursday nights 7:30-9 p.m. on Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Each week we will divide up in teams, have a short prayer, and play ball! No experience required, it's all for fun. Located at Field #5 (one with lights) behind St. Pius X Parish, 3536 E. 8th St. Owensboro. Please bring a glove, bat, and any other equipment you have. Learn more at Facebook.com/OwensboroYoungAdult.

Belonging to Love: Prayer and Conversations" online Sept. 9

Do you want to deepen your experience of God's presence and action in your life? If so, consider joining in the prayer and conversations with Ursuline Sister Lorraine Lauter, executive director of Water with Blessings, Louisville, and Maryann Joyce, director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount. Over the past several months, we have created a sacred space to express our questions about prayer and longings for the Divine. We will continue this as we share in Lectio Divina with the Sunday reading and experience silent contemplative prayer together. These are free online Zoom presentations -- donations are appreciated. Our next program is on Thursday, Sept. 9 from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CST. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/> Save these dates for future Belonging programs: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9.

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School fall festival

Holy Name will have its annual Fall Festival Sept. 24th and 25th. Carnival rides, food booths, game booths, live auction, raffle tickets, and haunted house. Something for everyone! To learn more call (270) 827-3425.

Online retreat for adult children from broken homes

Are your parents divorced, separated, or otherwise not together? Are you struggling with the effects of that and looking for guidance? Life-Giving Wounds, a Catholic apostolate dedicated to supporting adults from broken homes, is running an online retreat from Sept. 30 to Nov. 11. During seven Thursday evening sessions, retreatants will meet others who "get" the pain of having your parents split up, and will hear from fellow adult children of divorce or separation on dealing with anger, anxiety, family boundaries, forgiveness, and more. You are not alone! Cost (which includes a Retreat Guide and journal): \$150 early-bird, \$225 after Sept. 20; \$75 early-bird college students/consecrated, \$100 after Sept. 20. More information and registration here: <https://www.lifegivingwounds.org/>

onlineretreat. For more marriage and family life resources, feel free to visit the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Marriage and Family Life at owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life.

31st Marian Congress Oct. 17

Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021, 2-4 p.m. St. Joseph Parish Center, 434 Church Ave., Bowling Green, KY, 42101. (270) 842.2525. Theme: Mary and Joseph Refuge Of Our Time. Presented by: Fr. Ricardo Pineda, CPM. Program: Confession & Reconciliation, Crowning of Mary Statue, Talk by Fr. Ricardo Pineda, CPM, Procession, Mass

Day of Peace and Renewal for Police Officers Sept. 25

Join us for a day created just for law enforcement. On Saturday, Sept. 25 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., a retreat for police officers will be held in the Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). Together we will reflect on the resilience required for police officers and create space in our hearts to lean into light and hope. We will learn important skills for self-care as we recognize the effect of daily trauma on our bodies, minds, and hearts. Enjoy lunch and a chance to walk the beautiful grounds of the Mount Saint Joseph campus. There will be two presentations: "Recognizing Darkness, Leaning into the Light" by Chaplain Mike Humble, and "Navigating Trauma and Embodying Resilience" by Kate Hartman, a somatic integration practitioner who specializes in trauma and the nervous system. Humble has served for many years as Police and Fire Chaplain and as a volunteer chaplain in Kentucky correctional facilities. There is a \$25 fee for the day, which is sponsored in part by the Fraternal Order of Police Ky. Lodge 16. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/day-of-peace-and-renewal/>

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Rome

Mark your calendars for a 12-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome, Feb. 7-18, 2022 with Fr. Bruce Fogle, pastor at St. John the Evangelist in Paducah. The cost is \$4,799 per person and includes round-trip airfare from Nashville, land transportation, hotel, breakfast and dinner, airport taxes and surcharges, daily Mass, and a protection plan for medical. For more information, please contact Fr. Bruce at 270-554-3810 or fr.bruce.fogle@comcast.net.

"Fall into Fun" Cancer Survivor Celebration Sept. 27

Please join us for "Fall into Fun—A Cancer Survivor Celebration" for cancer survivors and their loved ones who have been affected by cancer. We will come together for fun and fellowship in the presence of friends and God's love. The event will take place on Monday, Sept. 27 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount. The \$15 fee includes lunch, a free gift for each participant and a

chance to win door prizes. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/fall-into-fun/>

Free Natural Family Planning opportunity

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

Book for trauma survivors

A message from the Office of Safe Environment: Liturgical Press has a book titled You Have Set Us Free: Scriptural Reflections for Trauma Survivors, by Kenneth W. Schmidt. It is a well-written book of spiritual reflections for trauma survivors. It pulls together Jesus's suffering, the pain of trauma survivors and the scriptures in a wonderful way. To learn more, contact the Office of Safe Environment at owensborodiocese.org/safe, or email Janice Hendricks at janice.hendricks@pastoral.org. The book may be purchased at <https://litpress.org/Products/4712/You-Have-Set-Us-Free>.



Permanent Diaconate Program
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

APPLY TODAY

Deadline is November 30, 2021
We're extending the application period!



Fr. Ken Mikulcik, Director of Formation
ken.mikulcik@pastoral.org

Deacon Tony Anthony
tony.anthony@pastoral.org

owensborodiocese.org/permanent-diaconate

Is 'evangelization' a Catholic word?

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Evangelization.

The word often conjures up images of the TV evangelist or someone forcing their understanding of faith on you. But push past those feelings and see how important this invitation is to our world today.

What is the mission of the Catholic Church? We have a 2,000-year history and the mission has taken different paths throughout the centuries. At times, we have wandered from the original mission. When moving to this diocese three years ago, I was impressed when speaking with Bishop Medley when he said, "Our mission is the same mission that Jesus gave to his early disciples." He referenced Matthew 28:19, "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples."

How do we make someone a disciple? In high school, my beloved pastor said, "The longest journey in life is 12 inches, from your head to your heart." His insight was profound. It is not enough to know about Jesus, we must acknowledge accept God's invitation to be in relationship. Pope Francis went right to the heart of it in his first encyclical titled, "The Joy of the Gospel." He said, "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord'. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards

Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms" (paragraph 3).

Pope Paul VI said nearly 50 years ago, "The Church exists to evangelize." We make disciples by helping people encounter the love and mercy of God. When they come to the Church, this love and mercy must be what people experience in the people of the parish - and by our love and example they come to see we have something they want. Then we accompany them into understanding how they too can receive the love and mercy of God!

Here is a definition of evangelization from my mentor, Frank Mercadante, "Evangelization is the process of invitation for individuals, societies and cultures to embrace for the first time, again, or more deeply the Good News of salvation through Jesus."

Evangelization needs to become more natural and normal in our parishes as we seek to be missionary disciples of Jesus and to lead others into a living relationship with God. This relationship leads us to an experience of the "abundant life" that Jesus offers to all humanity! Let us renew our own discipleship by living in union with God daily and the fruit of this union will be felt in our families, parishes, and wider communities. We will be places of welcome, alive in Christ, and witnessing to a joy-filled way of life that works!

Peace in Christ,
Jeff ■

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



Office of Evangelization
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

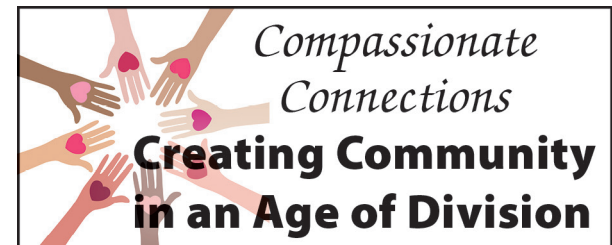
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Being a catechist is to be a disciple...

BY DEACON JAY W. VANHOOSIER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC



This Sept. 19 is Catechetical Sunday. It is a day that is intended to honor those people who give of their time and talent in sharing the faith with the people of their parishes. Hopefully, you will see the priests of the diocese commission these people for this

very important ministry.

To catechize is to literally teach by word of mouth. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, the chief catechists at the parish level were priests, religious brothers or sisters. Since the late 20th century, particularly in Europe and the Americas, the role of the parish catechist has been undertaken by the Catholic laity. And this is important to point out – without dedicated lay persons, formal teaching of the faith would not happen. The Church needs well-formed catechists!

If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this very important ministry. I can tell you from experience that it is so rewarding. Helping all ages understand that God loves each one of them infinitely and that they are to share that very same love with each

other is what discipleship is all about!

At the end of 2014, the Vatican held a Catechetical Congress. Thousands of catechists attended and Pope Francis said some things worth pondering that I'd like to share:

1. Being a catechist “begins with Christ.”
2. “The first thing, for a disciple, is to be with the Master: to listen to and learn from Him. This is always the case, and it is a way that lasts a lifetime!”
3. “In the heart of the catechist, there always lives this ‘systolic- diastolic’ movement: union with Jesus; encounter with the other, if one of these two movements is no longer beating, then you do not live.”
4. “Be careful. I have not said to do the work of a catechist, but rather to be one, because it involves all your life. It means guiding towards the encounter with Jesus with words and with life, with your witness.”

Volumes could be written about each of these statements but for now I encourage you to ponder them. Do any of them speak to you? Is Christ calling you to share him with others in this way? ■

Dcn. Jay W. VanHoosier is the Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Owensboro. For more information visit owensborodiocese.org/faith-formation, email jay.vanhoosier@pastoral.org or call (270) 852-8324.



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September Wedding Anniversaries

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

Please send any anniversary updates or corrections to Charlotte Hedges, Office of Marriage & Family Life, at charlotte.hedges@pastoral.org.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro
Mike & Jeanne Pointer, 25

Christ the King, Madisonville
Joseph & Daisy Rocha, 55
Jorge & Beverly Soria, 50

Holy Guardian Angel, Irvington
Charles E. & Betty Smith, 56

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson
Dean & Janice Arnold, 51
Patrick & Jessica Beaven, 10
Terry & Judy Berrong, 51
Tony & Bonnie Drury, 25
Carroll & Margaret Fulkerson, 58
Mike & Katrina Greenwell, 50
Harold & Lucy Hargis, 52
Ronald & Joan Hockey, 62
James & Rita Mills, 50
Seth & Kathryn Sutton, 10
Raymond & Joan Wawrin, 54

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
Rickson Liwi & Romaleen Siliwer, 5
Joseph & Caitlin Davis, 10
Michael & Nan O'Leary, 40
Stephen & Wanda Baka, 51
Steve & Sandy Stahl, 51
Dean & Colleen Wing, 54
Joe & Sally Liles, 58
James & Veronica Diemer, 59

Holy Trinity, Morgantown

Richard & Peggy Seiler, 60
Immaculate Conception, Hawesville
Charles & Peggy Howard, 52
Dale & Marcia Reddin, 51
David & Marcella Henderson, 40
Kenneth & Mary Woodward, 25
Mark & Amy O'Bryan, 25
Vic & Barbara Hagman, 56

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
Garrett & Jennifer Booth, 5
Louis & Jenny Hayes, 10
David & Stephanie Abrams, 25
John & Pat Kelley, 61
Michael & Suzanne Worth, 51
Carl & Marie Hamilton, 50

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro
Joe Bill & Sherma Clark, 66
Barney & Pat Dickens, 63
Nick & Ashley Edge, 10
Neel & Sarah Ford, 10
Louis & Mary Alice Weise, 65

Precious Blood, Owensboro
William & Susan Wedding, 52
Larry & Gail Glenn, 53
John & Patricia Kramer, 51

Resurrection, Dawson Springs
Mike & Linda Randolph, 56

St. Agnes, Uniontown
James & Kay Greenwell, 50
Dorris & Joyce Collins, 61

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
Frank & Linda Hayden, 25
Tony & Patsy Hayden, 25

David & Debbie Coomes, 50
St. Ann, Morganfield
Jim & Carol Hosman, 55
William & Janet Robertson, 61
Leon & Eva Clara Hendrickson, 65

St. Anthony the Abbot, Hardinsburg
Narvin & Leverne Whitworth, 61

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers
Steve & Linda Wilkes, 50

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs
Vince & Sondra Gavieres, 10

St. Augustine, Reed
Robert & Vickie Lacer, 55
Sonny & Linda Evans, 56

St. Charles, Bardwell
Danny & Bonnie Henderson, 50

St. Columba, Lewisport
Jacob & Sasha Bolin, 5

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
Thomas & Lisa Longo, 25
Larry & Joyce Coleman, 52
Bob & Shirley Coleman, 52
T. L. & Yvonne Maddux, 40

St. Henry, Aurora
Jack & Janice Faust, 54

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Michael & Gayla Elliott, 40
Timothy & Tammy Carrico, 40
Sam & Becca Higdon, 50
Glenn & Barbara Sue Wilson, 55
Marvin & Martha Byrd, 59
Howard & Jackie Elliott, 62

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Richard & Betty Wurth, 59
Paul & Jerri Durbin, 69
Lawrence R. & Geraldine Durbin, 56
Lawrence T. & Dorothy Durbin, 53
Robert & Yolanda Neihoff, 58
Paul & Ellen Carrico, 63

St. Joseph, Bowling Green
Michael & Hannah Murphy, 5
José & Margarita Umanzor, 10
Peter & Charlotte Smith, 25
Bob & Katherine Colley, 52
Hubert & Linda Richardson, 52
George & Judith Martin, 55
Bruce & Teresa Updegraff, 59

St. Joseph, Leitchfield
Jimmy & Sue Kipper, 55
James & Laura Ray, 25
Jed & Sandy Johnson, 53

St. Joseph, Mayfield
Robert & Jean Carrico, 54
Charles & Gay Willett, 50

St. Lawrence, Philpot
Doug & Doris Williams, 40
Joseph & Nancy Payne, 61

St. Leo, Murray
James & Joan Carden, 57

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
Bobby & Terry Knott, 61
Danny & Sharon Ebelhar, 51
Daniel & Margaret Lawson, 10
Josh & Brittany Clouse, 5

St. Martin, Rome
Jack & Dolores Beyke, 55
William & Judy Peak, 55

St. Mary, Franklin
Jim & Gail Briley, 60

St. Mary, LaCenter
Sylvio & Rita Mayolo, 62

Continues on page 23

ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries continued from page 22

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Andrè & Jane Chustz, 61

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Daniel & Bernice Knott, 54
Jerry & Vickie Morris, 40
Steve & Lori Haynes, 25
Michael & Ashlyn Morris, 10
Brad & Lindsey Aud, 10
Clayton & Frances Mills, 5

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Larry & Geneva Pawley, 54
Joseph Dale & Anna Jean Clark, 50

Michael & Joyce Whitfill, 53
James R. & Helen Gawarecki, 59

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

Cecil Pierce & Carolyn Sztapka, 5
Leslie & Martha Gibswon, 51

St. Pius X, Calvert City

John & Dolly Bardsley, 59

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Thomas & Jane Blair, 50
Norman & Doris Johnson, 55
Larry & Patricia Hicks, 50
Ronald & Beverly Powers, 40
Robert & Peggy Castlen, 52
Ronald & Mary Strehl, 57

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Timmy & Chasity Clark, 5
David & Tabetha Walz, 25
Chuck & Joellen McGary, 56
Dustin & Natalie Taul, 10
Donald & Alice Bland, 62

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

William & Purification Houctchen, 50
Kelley & Carrie Wheatley, 25
Thomas & Leigh Ora Flood, 74

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Mike & Tana Dickens, 50
James & Sally Vollmer, 54
James & Betty McVey, 64
Stan & Fran Kostrzebski, 58

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

John & Michelle Lyon, 25
Joe & Vicky Connor, 40
Arthur & Nancy Hodde, 50
Howard & Louise Brown, 54
Norman & Joan Froehlich, 57
Pat & Donna McNulty, 56
John & Patsy Clayton, 64

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Bradley & April Shoulta, 10
Sean & Jennifer Hansrote, 10
Shannon & Mari Lurtz, 25
Phil & Betty Higdon, 57
Robert & Judy Milford, 55

Tom & Barbara Clinton, 53
Gary & Janie Lamb, 56

St. William, Knottsville

Joseph Carl & Dorothy Payne, 10
Charles O. & Joyce Mills, 64
Darrell & Mary Lou Payne, 52

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Frank & Joanne Mason, 50
Jack & Rose King, 68
Bobby E. & Theresa Pedley, 57
Ralph & Emilee Ward, 55

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Jack & Melanie Hudson, 5
William & Ann Farrell, 51
James & Maria Creighton, 52
Gregory & Anita Jones, 52
Andrew & Annette Mongeon, 69

A DAY OF JOY

Celebrating the Gifts of our Later Years

Join in a day of inspiration, humor, music, prayer and fellowship as we consider God's invitation to see aging as an adventure for our body, mind and soul.

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Register: owensborodiocese.org/day-of-joy
or 270-229-0200 | Cost: \$10, includes lunch



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TRIVIA

Saturday, Sept. 11

6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Blessed Mother Parish Hall

601 E. 23rd St., Owensboro

Enjoy snacks, drinks, beer, wine.

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place teams. \$25 per person.

Don't forget to buy your \$5 raffle tickets!

Drawing is Sept. 12 at 4 p.m.

Bigger cash prizes this year!

Get your \$5 tickets for a chance to win \$10,000!

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Order tickets online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/mountraffle>

For more information, contact Carol Braden-Clarke
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QUILT BINGO

Sunday, Sept. 12

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium

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Enjoy lunch and drinks.

\$25 per person. One bingo game card provided. After that, \$1 games for small quilt prize and \$2 games for large quilt prize.



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OCHS-bound, Holy Name grad places third in national essay contest on historic Boston Massacre



COURTESY OF HAUKE FAMILY

Patrick Hauke, who graduated from Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson in spring 2021 and will be a freshman at Owensboro Catholic High School in Owensboro in fall 2021, recently received third place in a Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In writing his essay, which placed third in a national essay contest, Patrick Hauke sought to “put on the shoes of someone who experienced not only the Boston Massacre but someone who was really influenced by it,” said Patrick.

Patrick, who graduated eighth grade from Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson in spring 2021, wrote “The Boston Massacre: The Effect on my Family,” for the Daughters of the Amer-

ican Revolution essay project, which was open to grades sixth through eighth.

His essay tells a fictional, albeit sobering, account of a colonial era journalist who witnessed the increasing tension caused by British oversight among the colonies and the resulting Boston Massacre tragedy.

“These victims from the Boston Massacre did not die in vain but are as heroic as those who fought in Saratoga or Bunker Hill,” Patrick wrote in the persona of the journalist.

He initially won the local competition – judged by the Samuel Hopkins chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, located in the Henderson area – in January.

In March, when he was anticipating the results of the district competition, Patrick was told in class before all his classmates: “Patrick, you won state!”

“That was a surprise for me because I thought this was just for district,” said Patrick.

Patrick’s mother, Deborah Hauke, said she was “so proud of him” when he came home from school that day and shared the good news.

He received word in the mail in June when he won first place in the East Central division, and also received word by mail in July that he had placed third in the national competition.

He and his family were thrilled.

“It was a neat surprise to receive in the mail!” said Deborah.

Jeff Hauke, Patrick’s father, said that Patrick is their youngest and that “he has been following in

the footsteps of his older siblings.”

Patrick said he had learned about the contest from his teacher at Holy Name, Emma Bridges. It was entirely voluntary and something students would do on their own.

“I said sure and got to work right away,” said Patrick.

He said the contest wasn’t restricted to descendants of those who were involved in the Revolutionary War; to his knowledge he does not have any American Revolution ancestors.

“I would sit and do research,” said Patrick, who said the essay took him somewhere between three weeks to a month to complete.

Initially he wrote one essay, but then he thought to himself “I could do better than that.” So he tossed the first draft and then “wrote it from scratch.”

“In total I spent probably 10-20 hours fact-checking,” said Patrick.

This fall, Patrick will continue on the path of Catholic education as he enters Owensboro Catholic High School in Owensboro as a freshman.

“I think it’ll be a great high school experience,” he said. “I’m really excited to continue learning the Catholic faith and learning in general.”

His parents agree.

“We’re super proud of Patrick; he’s really excelling in whatever he does and we’re so proud of him,” said Deborah. ■

Read Patrick’s essay at westernkycatholic.com/2021/08/25/holy-name-grad-places-third-in-national-essay-contest

'Stay-Cation Mission Trip' for St. Francis de Sales youth

BY MARIA KORTE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

This summer, as things were starting to open back up, our youth group at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah started looking for a "Stay-Cation Mission Trip" as we were not yet allowed to load up in big vans and haul lots of friends just yet. We called St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store of Paducah/McCracken County (they are connected to the church through the Diocese of Owensboro) and they were happy to have us come work. I spoke with Norma Cox, the store's manager, and we started to dream up ideas!

The plan was to freshen up the storefront, and did we ever! From Monday, June 15, through Saturday June 19, more than 20 kids and three adult volunteers popped in and out each day working through super-hot days and painting! We painted the poles, the car parking bumpers, cleaned windows, swept the parking lot, unloaded cars full of donations, and organized shelves in the store among many other small projects.

The big project that we completed through the week was a huge eight-window-pane hand painted mural. The message of the mural was "Bee Kind" (with two Es because they added bees to the message.) The message is clear: be kind, be happy! The window is bright and cheery. I designed the images and dreamed up the plan, Norma supplied the paint and the youth painted many coats of beautiful paint for each image and added some of their own creativity to the windows. Come by and see it at 2025 Cairo Rd. in Paducah. They really do so much for the community through your shopping and donations to the



COURTESY OF MARIA KORTE
Alex Siebert adds details on the window mural at St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store of Paducah/McCracken County during St. Francis de Sales youth group's June 15-19, 2021 "Stay-Cation Mission Trip."

budget store. They provide food and help people in our local area pay bills. Lots of people you know are one paycheck away from needing help and St. Vincent's will always be there to rescue those in need! ■

Maria Korte is the youth minister and director of sacramental preparations at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah.

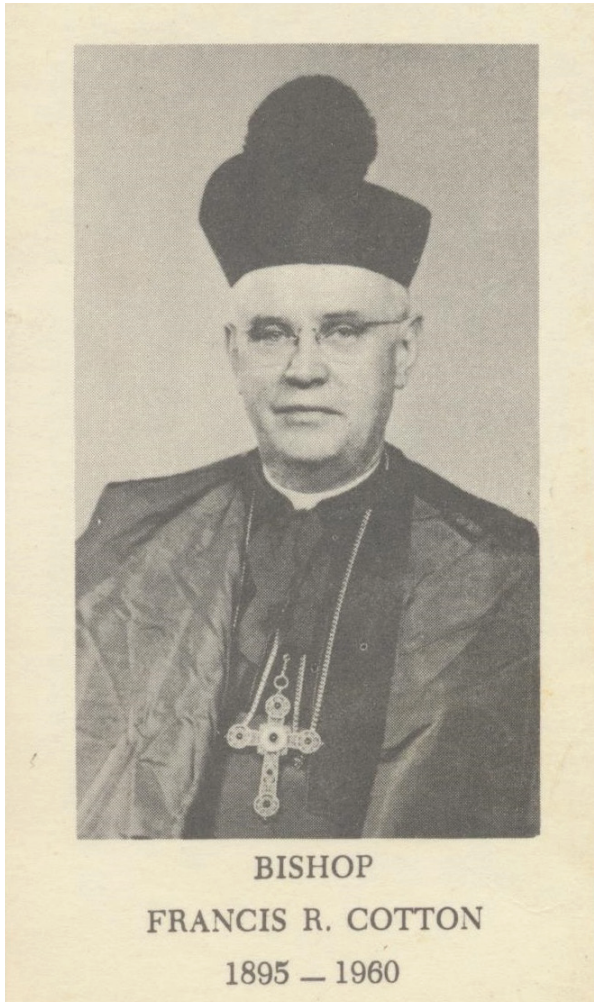


COURTESY OF MARIA KORTE
Corina Klepeis and daughter Brisa painting details on the "Bee Kind" window mural at St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store of Paducah/McCracken County during St. Francis de Sales youth group's June 15-19, 2021 "Stay-Cation Mission Trip."



COURTESY OF MARIA KORTE
Hunter Korte, Matthew Henderson, Ty Swoope, Corina Klepeis, Sophia Klepeis, Brisa Klepeis, Kendall Shaw, Sydney Siebert, Maria Korte and Josh Kuntz with the completed window at St. Vincent de Paul Budget Store of Paducah/McCracken County in June 2021.

Letter addresses and dispels perhaps the oldest rumor in the history of our diocese



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Pictured is a commemorative funerary card for Bishop Francis R. Cotton, who died in 1960.

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

September is a month that holds great significance for our diocese; most focally, as it pertains to our first bishop, His Excellency Francis Ridg-

ley Cotton. We celebrate both of his birthdays during this time, his birth to earthly life as well as his birth to eternal life. So, as a gift to our first bishop, this article will address and dispel a misconception that began in his time and still circulates to this day.

Occasionally, when Bishop Cotton comes up in conversation, people will mention that he was a convert from Protestantism. However, this is actually not true. This is something that has been believed for a very longtime. Fr. Ben Luther even mentioned the strange phenomenon in a series of articles that he wrote of the late bishop for *The Western Kentucky Catholic* in 2006. In one of these articles, Fr. Luther wrote, “For years, I heard the rumor that ‘Bishop Cotton was a convert.’ Not so, for he was baptized Catholic almost immediately after birth.” Fr. Luther believed that this rumor was the result of the bishop’s father’s, Charles Cotton, late-life conversion. Charles was baptized and entered the Church in 1935, two years prior to his son becoming the first bishop of Owensboro. The news was published with great joy in Louisville’s diocesan newspaper, *The Record*. Fr. Luther believed that this was where the misunderstanding originated from.

A correspondence from 1954 illustrates that the rumor was indeed circulating during Bishop Cotton’s life and also that he had addressed and dispelled it. On Jan. 17, 1954, a man wrote to Bishop Cotton. Among other subjects, he addressed the conversion rumor stating, “I was told

by someone that you were converted to the faith many years ago.” Four days later, Bishop Cotton replied, “I do not know how the report got about that I was a convert to the church. I was born in Bardstown, Kentucky, and baptized in (sic) raised in the faith.” His reply that he did “not know how the report got about” infers that he had likely encountered it before. Also, the man writing him was located in New York City. So, the rumor is not only old but was widespread.

The bishop was prompt and cordial with his response but there is little doubt that this rumor upset him. Bishop Cotton was renowned for his scrupulousness. He was very proud of his family’s Maryland to Kentucky pioneer Catholic roots. His great-grandfather is mentioned in the seminal work of Catholic Kentucky history, Ben. J. Webb’s “*The Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky*.” Bishop Cotton received a Catholic education during his childhood and entered pre-seminary studies for the priesthood at the age of 13. There are few that could bolster a more prestigious Catholic pedigree. In short, he was Catholic to his very core.

So, to celebrate Bishop Cotton this month, let us honor and more fervently pray for our religious, those currently with us as well as those enjoying their eternal reward. ■

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

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Tratemos unos a otros con respeto

Hace solo unas semanas pensé que era acertado asumir que ya habíamos pasado por lo peor de la pandemia del COVID-19 en los Estados Unidos. Las tasas de infección y las hospitalizaciones habían estado disminuyendo durante meses y la población se estaba vacunando en buenas cantidades, si no es que ideales. Por supuesto, en el panorama más amplio, sabíamos que el virus todavía continuaba incontenible en partes del mundo donde las vacunas seguían siendo escasas.

Luego comenzamos a escuchar con una frecuencia cada vez mayor sobre variantes que parecen propagarse más fácilmente que el virus inicial, y que en sí mismo era altamente contagioso.

Y ahora aquí estamos en septiembre, 18 meses después de que nuestras vidas y nuestra sociedad se vieran volcadas de una manera que nunca hubiéramos imaginado, y ahora pareciera que pudiéramos sentir que estamos de vuelta donde comenzamos. La buena noticia es que en todo el país más del 50% de la población de EE. UU. ha sido vacunada y, aunque eso no ofrece garantía de inmunidad total, parece que los vacunados, si se infectan, están experimentando síntomas mucho más leves. La mala noticia es que casi el 50% de la población no se ha vacunado y que la nueva variante Delta es mucho más contagiosa de lo que se pensaba anteriormente, por lo que las tasas de infección y las hospitalizaciones se están disparando nuevamente.

Como suelo decir con temas sensibles al tiempo, les advierto que es muy posible que cuando lean este artículo alrededor del primero de septiembre, el pan-

orama completo podría estar distinto, mucho mejor o mucho peor.

Las escuelas están reabriendo en persona en todo el estado de Kentucky. Nuestras escuelas católicas el año pasado tuvieron clases presenciales la mayor parte del año. Algunos distritos públicos están regresando a los salones de clase por primera vez en 18 meses. Nunca pensé que estaría en la posición de volver a hablar sobre la necesidad de usar mascarillas en los salones de clase. Pero aquí estamos.

Créanme, entiendo cómo esto molesta a algunos padres. Permítanme decirles nuevamente que nuestro objetivo es tener un aprendizaje en persona y garantizar la seguridad de los niños, los maestros y el personal. Lo logramos de manera muy eficaz el año pasado y podemos hacerlo nuevamente.

Hemos implementado nuevamente algunas restricciones de precaución con respecto a nuestro culto. Dudo en articularlos aquí porque es muy probable que se adapten con frecuencia.

Es desalentador ver reacciones que provocan tal hostilidad en todo el país hacia nuevas restricciones. Como Iglesia, espero que podamos encontrar una manera de ser modelos del discurso respetuoso y el desacuerdo que evite gritar y cuestionar los motivos de otras personas.

Ya he hecho eco de lo que muchos otros han dicho sobre cómo debemos actuar en estos asuntos con una abundancia de precaución. A eso lo he animado a que actuemos aún más con abundancia de caridad. Cuando llegue el día en que la pesadilla de la pandemia haya terminado en todo el mundo, es posible

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY SEPTIEMBRE DE 2021:

Tengan en cuenta: Las siguientes fechas están sujetas a cambios o cancelaciones debido a la pandemia del COVID-19.

8 DE SEPT.	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas
9-10 DE SEPT.	Días presbiterales – Lake Barkley
11 DE SEPT.	9 a.m. Ordenación al Diaconado Permanente – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
12 DE SEPT.	9:15 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown
16 DE SEPT.	11 a.m. Misa – Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro 3 p.m. Reunión por Zoom con Sacerdotes
20-23 DE SEPT.	Conferencia de Obispos de Diócesis Misioneras de <i>Catholic Extension</i> - Chicago
26 DE SEPT.	10 a.m. Confirmación - Parroquia San Pedro de Alcántara, Stanley
27 DE SEPT.	9 a.m. Misa de apertura de la Conferencia de la Red de Educación Ursulina de la Universidad de Brescia - Capilla del Inmaculado Corazón de María de la Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro
28 DE SEPT.	10 a.m. Horas de Oficina en Paducah
29-30 DE SEPT.	Ordenación del Obispo de Covington, Kentucky

que veamos que nuestras precauciones fueron excesivas en algunos asuntos. Pero es inimaginable que alguna vez digamos que nuestra caridad fue excesiva.

Tratémonos unos a otros con respeto. Sobre todo, por favor traten con respeto a los que tienen la carga de tomar decisiones sobre la pandemia. Aunque no estoy de acuerdo con todas las decisiones o restricciones de las que escucho, por lo que observo, los líderes se esfuerzan por servir al bien común. Merecen nuestra gratitud incluso si al mismo tiempo

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les cuestionamos de forma respetuosa.

En nuestras vidas hemos visto al mundo soportar guerras colosales, hambrunas, desastres naturales de inmensa escala, terrorismo y muchas otras abominaciones; sin embargo, en todo eso, escuchamos las palabras de Jesús asegurándonos de su promesa de estar con nosotros y de que no debemos tener miedo. ■

Atentamente en Cristo,



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Cambios sacerdotales efectivos en septiembre

P. Ray Clark: Capellán en el Carmel Home en Owensboro efectivo el 1 de septiembre de 2021. *(El P. Richard Cash continuará como Coordinador de Atención Pastoral Católica en el Hospital Regional de Owensboro Health).*

P. Gary Clark: Párroco de la Parroquia San Francisco de Sales en Paducah efectivo el 28 de septiembre de 2021.

P. Randy Howard: Párroco de la Parroquia Espíritu Santo en Bowling Green efectivo el 28 de septiembre de 2021.

P. Bruce McCarty: Párroco de la Parroquia Santa Inés en Uniontown efectivo el 28 de septiembre de 2021.



Programa del Diaconado Permanente
DIOCESIS DE OWENSBORO

INSCRIBETE HOY

Iniciamos el 16 de Octubre, 2021



Escanea el código

Padre Julio Barrera:

270-274-3414 | julio.barrera2@pastoral.org

Diacono Heriberto Rodríguez:

270-265-5263 | heriberto.rodriguez@pastoral.org

Avanzando juntos

El nuevo plan pastoral hispano/latino inspira un 'espíritu misionero', aborda 'necesidades y desafíos'

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Muchas personas que solo hablan español “a menudo se sienten que no tienen voz” en las regiones donde predomina el inglés, dice el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, pero gracias a un plan pastoral recientemente publicado para el ministerio hispano/latino en la Diócesis de Owensboro, no tiene que seguir así.

El Obispo William F. Medley promulgó “Llamados a ser discípulos misioneros: Plan Pastoral Diocesano para el Ministerio Hispano/Latino 2021-2026” en una Misa diocesana el 26 de junio de 2021 en la

Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro.

El Diácono Gutiérrez mencionó al Católico de Kentucky Occidental en una entrevista el 3 de agosto de 2021 que el plan pastoral fue el resultado de un año de consulta, diálogo y redacción, pero que el plan tiene una base más amplia en el proceso de cuatro años del V Encuentro nacional de la pastoral hispana/latina que tuvo lugar entre 2017 y 2020.

“Como la población católica hispana sigue creciendo en este país, era necesario renovarse y estudiar los signos de los tiempos”, dijo el Diácono Gutiérrez, quien se ha desempeñado como director del ministerio hispano/latino de la diócesis desde el 2014.

El último plan pastoral de la Diócesis de Owensboro para el ministerio hispano/latino expiró en 2011, pero el Diácono Gutiérrez dijo que no hubo un seguimiento inmediato ya que gran parte del plan continuó siendo relevante durante años.

Pero luego el V Encuentro “empezó a agitar las cosas”, comentó.

Explicó que, a través del proceso del V Encuentro, las diócesis comenzaron a reconocer la necesidad de iniciativas actualizadas para la pastoral hispana/latina “desde las bases”, no, como se ha hecho en el pasado, desde una mentalidad “de arriba hacia abajo”.

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El V Encuentro sirvió para “celebrar, estudiar y consultar con toda la población católica hispana en los Estados Unidos”, explicó el Diácono Gutiérrez, mientras que las conversaciones a nivel parroquial y diocesano sirvieron para “estudiar lo nuestro y discernir en la Diócesis de Owensboro en base a nuestra propia realidad”.

Dado que cada región de los Estados Unidos presenta su propio conjunto de desafíos únicos para el ministerio hispano/latino, el Diácono Gutiérrez considera que era crucial formar un plan dedicado a las necesidades de los habitantes de Kentucky occidental.

Cada una de las 14 parroquias de la diócesis que ofrecen el ministerio hispano/latino tenía por lo menos un representante para colaborar en el plan pastoral.

El Diácono Gutiérrez dijo que los representantes del plan pastoral “pudieron expresar su experiencia de Iglesia en la Diócesis de Owensboro. Pudieron expresar lo que sienten que son necesidades y desafíos para el futuro, y tomamos nota de eso”.

“Tuvimos que discernir y decidir el enfoque de nuestra diócesis”, expresó el Diácono Gutiérrez, explicando que en algunas comunidades parroquiales existe la necesidad de “formar líderes hispanos/latinos en todo tipo de áreas”, mientras que otras comunidades deben concentrarse en “los recién llegados quienes necesitan servicios básicos”.

Como resultado, “el plan muestra diferentes prioridades estratégicas” dependiendo de lo que las comunidades parroquiales consideren más importante, afirmó. “Les dio poder a los líderes católicos de habla hispana para compartir en qué deberíamos enfocarnos”.

El Diácono Gutiérrez dijo que el plan pastoral presentó cuatro regiones de Kentucky occidental



TINA KASEY | WKC

El Obispo William F. Medley con los danzantes “Matachines” de la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson, después de la promulgación de “Llamados a ser discípulos misioneros: Plan Pastoral Diocesano para el Ministerio Hispano/Latino 2021-2026” el pasado 26 de junio de 2021 en una Misa diocesana en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro.

para proporcionar recursos mejorados y simplificados a las parroquias del ministerio hispano/latino.

Las regiones son: la Región de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (con la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson, la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree, la Parroquia Cristo Rey en Madisonville y la Parroquia Santo Redentor en Beaver Dam), la Región de Nuestra Señora de Fátima (con la Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah, la Parroquia San José en Mayfield y la Parroquia San León en Murray), la Región de Nuestra Señora del Carmen (con la Parroquia San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville, la Parroquia San Francisco de Asís en el condado de Todd y la Parroquia Sagrado Corazón en Russellville), y la Región de Nuestra Señora del Rosario (con la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, la Parroquia Santísima Trin-

idad en Morgantown y la Parroquia Santa María en Franklin).

“Ese enfoque por región ayudará a que mi oficina sea más eficaz”, dijo el Diácono Gutiérrez. “Y también ayudará a las otras oficinas diocesanas (cuando se trabaja con el ministerio hispano/latino)”.

También planea crear un comité asesor de representantes de cada una de las regiones. Estas personas no serán necesariamente los ministros hispanos designados de la parroquia, ya que muchos otros feligreses tienen dones que están dispuestos a compartir, pero no en una capacidad oficial a nivel parroquial.

El Diácono Gutiérrez dijo que un efecto secundario positivo de colaborar con representantes hispanos/latinos en el plan pastoral fue la oportunidad de profundizar más en el llamado del Papa Francisco al discipulado misionero.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, que se ve en esta foto del 5 de mayo de 2021, es el director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Explorar al plan pastoral

Para obtener más información y leer el Plan Pastoral para el Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro en 2021-2026, visite estos enlaces:

- <https://owensborodiocese.org/plan-pastoral/> (español)
- <https://owensborodiocese.org/hispanic-pastoral-plan/> (inglés)

Esto incluyó el estudio de “Evangelii Gaudium”, la exhortación apostólica del Papa Francisco de 2013 sobre la alegría del Evangelio.

“Nuestro diálogo incluyó ‘¿Qué está pidiendo el Papa? ¿Qué está pidiendo para la Iglesia universal?’”, comentó el Diácono Gutiérrez. Dijo que esta era una herramienta útil para ayudar a comprender el pontificado del Papa Francisco, que ha “inyectado entusiasmo por un espíritu misionero” entre los católicos hispanos y latinos.

Además, mencionó el Diácono Gutiérrez que los contribuyentes al plan pastoral tuvieron cuidado de que el tono “se sincronizara con las cuatro prioridades de evangelización de nuestra diócesis, que son Encuentro, Acompañamiento, Comunidad y Envío”.

“Esto nos permitió a todos permanecer en la misma página”, dijo.

El Diácono Gutiérrez compartió que había estado nervioso al embarcarse en este proyecto porque tenían que iniciar sus reuniones por Zoom debido a la pandemia.

“Pero la gente seguía llegando”, dijo. “Por eso estoy agradecido”.

También expresó su agradecimiento a su esposa, Patti Gutiérrez, facilitadora y escritora del plan pastoral, y a Tina Kasey, directora de comunicaciones de la diócesis, por sus contribuciones al proyecto.

El Diácono Gutiérrez dijo que espera que la Con-

ferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos comience un plan pastoral nacional actualizado, que ahora está increíblemente desactualizado, en algún momento del próximo año.

El plan nacional se basará en los planes pastorales del ministerio hispano/latino desarrollados por diócesis y arquidiócesis individuales de todo el país, ya que cada vez que se completa uno nuevo, se envía a la USCCB “para que puedan estudiar las realidades de nuestros diferentes lugares”, dijo el Diácono Gutiérrez.

Esto, dijo, muestra la marca de la “sinodalidad” que el Papa Francisco enfatiza regularmente en su liderazgo.

“Tengo que darle mucho crédito al Santo Padre”, dijo el Diácono Gutiérrez de esta corriente de sinodalidad. “Se trata de borrar la fuerte marca del clericalismo en la Iglesia”.

Dijo que la “pirámide ahora está invertida”, en contraste con los antiguos enfoques de arriba hacia abajo, y explicó que el Papa “quiere que los laicos tengan participación, desde la base hacia arriba”.

El Diácono Gutiérrez agregó que los líderes no hispanos deben seguir trabajando para compartir y colaborar más con los líderes hispanos, “o de lo contrario la integración siempre será una ilusión”.

“Seguimos avanzando y seguimos intentándolo y creo que Dios nos mostrará el camino”, dijo. “El plan nos mantiene avanzando, juntos y no aislados”. ■

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

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

Parroquias con ministerio hispano/latino

Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

107 13th Street, Beaver Dam, KY 42320

Contacto: Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green

434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101

Contacto: Sra. Gina Holmes (270) 777-5925 o

Padre Corey Bruns (270) 842-2525

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Guthrie

7600 Russellville Road, P.O. Box 297, Guthrie, KY 42234

Contacto: Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez (270) 265-5263 o (302) 438-7335

Parroquia de Santa María, Franklin

403 North Main Street, Franklin, KY 42134

Contacto: Padre Tom Buckman (270) 586-4515

Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson

511 2nd Street, Henderson, KY 42420

Contacto: Abraham Brown (270) 724-2172 o

Padre Gary Clark (270) 826-2096

Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville

902 East 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240

Contacto: Sra. Mayra Tirado (270) 498-6456

Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville

1600 Kingsway Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431

Contacto: Padre Carl McCarthy (270) 821-5494

o Padre Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-7737

Parroquia de San José, Mayfield

702 West Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066

Contacto: Hermana Maria Luisa Morales Solano (270) 247-2843

Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown

766 Logansport Road, Morgantown, KY 42261

Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (706) 284-0996, o Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray

401 North 12th Street, Murray, KY 42071

Contacto: Hermana Esperanza Rivera (270) 753-3876

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, KY 42303

Contacto: Padre Juan Rene Kalombo (270) 903-8070

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001

Contacto: Padre Basilio Az Cuc (270) 316-1421

Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Russellville

296 West 6th Street, Russellville, KY 42276

Contacto: Padre Ken Mikulcik (270) 726-6963 o Diacono Edwin Pacheco (913) 542-8948

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree

57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455

Contacto: Alyssa Maty (815) 207-3208 o Padre Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-7737

Terapeutas de habla hispana

Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro ofrece un programa único de asistencia de consejería llamado CAP (por sus siglas en inglés). A través del programa CAP, Caridades Católicas colabora con varios consejeros en todo el oeste de Kentucky que ofrecen sus servicios a una tarifa reducida para los feligreses de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Aprendan más en owensborodiocese.org/servicios-de-consejeria/.

Joy Navan, M.A., LPA

Amend Psychological Services, PSC

877-732-8683 o 859-269-6465

*Sólo disponible a través de teleterapia.

Rogelio Silva, M.D.

Psicólogo con licencia

Dr. Silva & Associates PSC

1413 N. Elm St., Suite 205

Henderson, KY 42420

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Renovada: Parroquia histórica de San José en Bowling Green restaurada a la belleza original



CORTESÍA DE JAMES KENNEY

El Diácono René Amaya asiste en el altar durante la dedicación de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green el 21 de agosto de 2021.



CORTESÍA DE JAMES KENNEY

Los fieles se reúnen en la Parroquia San José recientemente restaurada en Bowling Green cuando el Obispo William F. Medley dedica el templo el 21 de agosto de 2021.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El 21 de agosto de 2021, después de más de un año de recaudación de fondos, trabajos de construcción y oración, el Obispo William F. Medley consagró el nuevo altar y bendijo el nuevo templo, que había sido restaurado a su gloria original de su fundación en 1889.

El P. Ryan Harpole, párroco de la Parroquia San José, mencionó que deseaban tener algo duradero: para que las próximas generaciones no “tengan que preocuparse”.

El trabajo realizado incluye la restauración del ladrillado exterior original; reparaciones a los vitrales originales (“Los marcos fueron hechos a medida para las ventanas”, dijo el P. Harpole); reparación de techos, canalones y bajantes; reparaciones interiores de yeso; baños actualizados; piso principal restaurado y el espacio de acceso; diversas mejoras en el diseño de interiores y diversas reparaciones y restauraciones.

El proyecto también contó con una renovación completa del salón parroquial (incluidos sus baños y cocina), una sala de reconciliación nueva para que los sacerdotes escuchen confesiones y, en particular, la restauración de los diseños originales de lirios en el techo interior del templo. ■