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### 'Bless these chosen men'

Newly-ordained Deacon Chris Gutiérrez kisses the stole presented to him by Fr. Carmelo Jimenez on Sept. 16, while wife, Patti Gutiérrez, and son, Gabriel, hold his dalmatic. Deacon Gutiérrez was then vested in the stole and dalmatic as a sign of his new office. **Page 6**

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Correction: In the August 2017 issue of The Western Kentucky Catholic, in the story “‘To Jesus, through Mary’ – Owensboro family thanks Our Lady for baby daughter’s healthy birth,” we incorrectly stated that Dr. Tabb’s first name is William. His first name is actually Thomas. The WKC apologizes for this error.

## To submit stories and articles

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

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

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**Editor** ● Elizabeth Wong Barnstead

**Contributors** ● Laura Clarke, Tina Kasey

Send change of address requests to  
[cathy.hagan@pastoral.org](mailto:cathy.hagan@pastoral.org)

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Please politely indicate any factual errors in this publication by emailing [wkc.editor@pastoral.org](mailto:wkc.editor@pastoral.org).

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# A Word from Bishop Medley

My dear people of God,

Next year Pope Francis will convene the 2018 Synod of Bishops and the theme will be “young people, the faith, and vocational discernment.” Representatives of bishops from national conferences throughout the world will gather for three weeks of prayer, dialogue, and listening. In anticipation of the 2018 Synod, all bishops have been invited to respond to questions prepared by the Synod Commission.

In order to most effectively respond to those questions as they relate to the Diocese of Owensboro, I held 11 listening sessions across the diocese beginning in May. I met with groups at Murray State University, Western Kentucky University and Brescia University to hear from college-age adults. There were sessions with the junior and senior classes at Trinity High School, St. Mary High School, Owensboro Catholic High School and two groups of high school-age campers at Gasper River Youth Camp to get the youth perspective. Additionally, there were three parish-based sessions, attended mostly by parent and grandparent-age adults. There was also an opportunity to offer input online.

It was interesting to me that youth and young people often saw the greatest challenges they face as virtually the same as the opportunities that lie before them. For example, the under 30 generation realize that they and their peers have grown up within a social media revolution. The information available to them at their fingertips is immense. As we all observe, too often social media can be used to tear down rather than to build up. False and inflammatory stories and information is instantly shared and fuels bigotry, racism, and alienation.

At the same time, young people see tremendous potential in the social media universe if it is used benevolently. They can be connected to others in any part of the world.

We all know that the media, in general, is often hostile to religious faith and values. Christianity, and Catholicism in particular, is often portrayed negatively. Young people experience ridicule from peers at times because of their church involvement and their values. On occasion, even other Christians' misunderstandings about Catholicism make our young people uncomfortable. They often feel ill-prepared to defend their religious practice.

So what are some of the positive experiences young people have of church?

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## BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR ● OCTOBER 2017

<b>OCT 1</b>	11:00 a.m. ● 25th Anniversary of vow profession for Sr. Bella Ezumah – St. Leo, Murray
<b>OCT 5</b>	1:00 p.m. ● Owensboro Catholic Middle School visit and Mass
<b>OCT 7</b>	11:00 a.m. ● Rite of Candidacy for permanent diaconate (Spanish-speaking candidates) – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
<b>OCT 11</b>	7:00 p.m. ● Share the Journey™ Prayer Service in support of migrants and refugees – SS. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro
<b>OCT 12</b>	8:00 a.m. ● School Mass – St. Paul School, Leitchfield
<b>OCT 13</b>	7:00 p.m. ● Presentation on the 100th anniversary of the 6th apparition at Fatima – St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green
<b>OCT 14</b>	9:00 a.m. ● Rite of Candidacy for permanent diaconate (English-speaking candidates) – St. Stephen Cathedral
<b>OCT 16</b>	10:00 a.m. ● Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center (MCC) 1:30 p.m. ● Priest Council Meeting – MCC
<b>OCT 17</b>	8:00 a.m. ● School Mass – St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
<b>OCT 18</b>	8:30 a.m. ● Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – MCC 6:00 p.m. ● Review Board Meeting – MCC
<b>OCT 19</b>	11:00 a.m. ● School Mass – Maximilian Montessori Academy, Owensboro
<b>OCT 21</b>	10:30 a.m. ● Jubilee Celebration for Religious – St. Martin, Rome
<b>OCT 22</b>	10:30 a.m. ● Mass & Pastoral Visit – St. Jude Parish, Clinton
<b>OCT 24</b>	9:30 a.m. ● School Mass – St. Mary Elementary School, Paducah
<b>OCT 25</b>	11:00 a.m. ● Anointing of the Sick – Mount St. Joseph, Maple Mount
<b>OCT 26-NOV 4</b>	Pilgrimage to Greece



A Word from Bishop Medley continued from page 3

Many have been impacted by youth group activities in their parishes. Diocesan events like Youth 2000 and the Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference (ODYC) held biannually leave a lasting impression. Many noted experiences that nurtured their faith through retreat and camping experiences at our Gasper River Youth Camp.

Opportunities for service are valued. Some referenced service projects they may have engaged in as they prepared for Confirmation. Some youth have been on mission trips both within the United States

and abroad. These fostered a sense of community and opened their eyes to realities of poverty and the Gospel message to care for their neighbor.

Youth and young adults sometimes struggle to find a place in parishes and worship experiences. When asked what that means, often the answer is as simple as hospitality. Sometimes young adults who are parents have experienced scorn when their children are not perfect in church. Every generation has probably shared a few stories about this.

The reason for a Synod on these questions is that we are seeing large percentages of young people,

products of Catholic families and Catholic schools and formation, indifferent to the Church. As devout believers we are confident that our message is timeless. It is the Good News of Jesus Christ. But we are called to ask if in the 21st century we might need to reimagine the ways we proclaim Jesus Christ and his message.



Most Reverend William F. Medley  
Diocese of Owensboro

## Scripture Sunday kicks off on October 15

Before the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (also known as the Year of Mercy) ended in 2016, Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter, "Misericordia et misera."

In it, he explained that the Year of Mercy was a way of reminding people that mercy isn't just for a special year, but rather, is part of the ongoing life of the Church. He wrote, "Everything is revealed in mercy; everything is resolved in the merciful love of the Father."

The pope offered several suggestions to continue celebrating mercy after the Jubilee ended. This included his advice that, "it would be beneficial if every Christian community, on one Sunday of the liturgical year, could renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known."

Following up on that recommendation, Bishop William F. Medley designated the third Sunday of October as "Scripture Sunday" in the Diocese of

Owensboro. This year, that falls on October 15.

In a letter announcing Scripture Sunday, Bishop Medley wrote that he hopes this annual tradition will become "a time of grace for you, for me, and for all people within the Diocese of Owensboro."

This year, the diocese will provide all 78 parishes with a supply of bookmarks introducing the practice of "Lectio divina" - a way of prayerfully reading the scriptures. These will be available in both English and in Spanish. There will also be a supply of similar bookmarks for families with young children, also in English and Spanish versions.

"Hopefully, these simple bookmarks will provide a user-friendly introduction to the Sacred Scriptures, and will boost a greater interest in God's Word," said Bishop Medley.

To learn more, visit [owensborodiocese.org/scripturesunday](http://owensborodiocese.org/scripturesunday).

### Considering Adoption?

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

### St. Gerard Life Home

Providing housing and services to pregnant women and their babies

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

### To Report Allegations of Sexual Abuse

Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1; 1-877-597-2331). In addition, to report to the diocese abuse by church personnel (paid or volunteer) either past or present, please call the Pastoral

Assistance Coordinator at this confidential phone line: 270-852-8380. The Diocese of Owensboro revised its sexual abuse policy, effective July 1, 2014 and it is available at parishes and also on the diocesan website ([owensborodiocese.org/safe](http://owensborodiocese.org/safe)). The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian.

# Día de los Muertos tradition honors the faithful departed

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The annual holiday of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) comes from a “merging of Aztec tradition and Spaniard Christianity,” said Fr. Julio Barrera, associate pastor of SS. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.

Fr. Barrera, who is Mexican, told The Western Kentucky Catholic that today’s modern celebrations of Día de los Muertos have roots in ancient Aztec customs honoring deceased loved ones.

He said Día de los Muertos is not the same as Halloween, which has its origins in Western civilization.

He said that prior to the Spanish explorers’ arrival in the 1500s, the Aztecs believed in a higher “level,” which they did not call heaven, but which had some similarities to Christianity’s afterlife.

The Aztecs would set up small shrines honoring the dead, and decorate them with favorite foods of the deceased, as well as with candles and marigold flowers.

The Aztecs believed the vibrant color of these flowers – known as “cempasúchil” or “flower of a thousand petals” – would attract the souls of the departed.

Fr. Barrera said the shrines were called “altars,” though “it has nothing to do with the altar in a church.”

He said this term comes closer to meaning a “special place,” and though some churches today will set

up altars for parishioners to place mementos of the deceased, the altars are traditionally assembled in families’ homes.

When Franciscan friars arrived with the Spanish explorers, Fr. Barrera said the friars “evangelized without taking away the value” of the Aztec peoples’ traditions.

This included connecting Día de los Muertos with the Catholic feast of All Souls Day on Nov. 2 – a special day for Catholics to remember and pray for the souls of those who have died.

Today, the Día de los Muertos celebration is actually two days long, lasting from Nov. 1-2.

Decorating altars with favorite foods, candles and marigolds remains integral to the custom, but today the altars also frequently include a crucifix and religious statues. The specific customs also vary by region and Latin American country.

“The crucifix is central” to the altar, said Fr. Barrera.

Fr. Barrera explained that in his hometown in Mexico, the food on the altars is never eaten during the Nov. 1-2 period, since it is there for the souls to “smell” – which leads to an analogy: “You don’t see the smell but you know it is there, just as you don’t see the soul but you know it is there.”

He also said that when he was growing up, his mother would always place a candle, a glass of water and some food “for the soul who had no place to



Several parishes in the Diocese of Owensboro set up altares de muertos each year during the two days (Nov. 1 and 2) celebrating Día de los Muertos. Pictured is the 2016 altar at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson. Photo courtesy of Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

go.”

Fr. Barrera has fond childhood memories of his role to make a path with the marigold petals, “reserved for the faithful departed” to guide them on their way into the family’s home.

The tradition holds that the souls, guided by the marigold paths, travel into the family’s home on Nov. 1, and stay there until Nov. 2, when the families gather in cemeteries at the graves of their deceased.

“In the morning, all the families go to the cemetery and decorate the graves, to accompany the soul to the place of rest,” he said of this occasion, which is viewed as very joyful. “You make food and have a party there in the cemetery.”

He said the holiday is summarized as, “Yes, they are dead, but they are still part of our family and we should still honor them just as when they were alive.” ■

# ‘The kingdom of God is in my heart,’ says new deacon

**Sixteen men ordained to permanent diaconate for Diocese of Owensboro on Sept. 16**



The 16 candidates stand before the bishop and publicly declare their intention to undertake the ministry of permanent deacon. They promise to fulfill their office with prayer and dedication, following the life of Christ. Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD,  
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In his homily at the Sept. 16 permanent diaconate ordination held at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, Bishop William F. Medley referenced the liturgy’s Gospel reading about the greatest and the least.

“The deacon will make himself a servant of all,” said Bishop Medley in reference to Matt. 20:25-28, in which Jesus tells his disciples that “whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.”

But, “you will draw strength from the gifts of the Holy Spirit,” he said. “As deacons, you will serve Christ Jesus who was known among his followers as the one who served others.”

The day was a culmination of five years of study and formation for the 16 men, whose friends and families filled Holy Spirit’s pews that day.

The men ordained to the permanent diaconate that day were Kenneth Bennett, Wayne Boudreaux, John Cecil, Lawrence Conrad Jr., Roberto Cruz, Dale DePoyster, Chris Gutiérrez, Robert Higbee, Michael Houtchen, Scott Jones, Brent Kimbler, Joseph Loeffler, Michael Marsili, Brett Mills, James Morgan

and Richard Murphy.

They belonged to the second class of permanent deacons in the Diocese of Owensboro; the diocese’s first permanent diaconate ordinations took place in 2012.

The bishop offered words of gratitude to the wives and families of the candidates, reminding them that the men’s “first human and sacramental commitment is to you.”

He acknowledged the many sacrifices that the candidates’ families had gone through to reach this point.

“Your sacrifice will bear fruit for the Gospel,” he said to the families.

The liturgy, which began at 10 a.m. and concluded around noon, included various bilingual, and at times, trilingual elements, with music and prayers in English, Spanish and Burmese. Two of the men, Gutiérrez and Cruz, made their diaconate promises to the bishop in Spanish.



Deacon candidate Roberto Cruz lies prostrate with his fellow candidates during the Litany of the Saints, as the rest of the church kneels in prayer for the men about to become deacons. Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

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*Permanent Diaconate Ordination continued from page 6*

Following the liturgy, the crowd of newly-ordained deacons were greeted and embraced by numerous well-wishers, not to mention their loved ones. The celebration continued with food in the parish's Spirit Hall.

Helen Bennett, wife of Deacon Kenneth Bennett, was beaming when interviewed by the WKC.

"I'm very proud of him," she said. "He's worked so hard."

Deacon Bennett said he felt "awesome - I can't

describe it."

Deacon Dale DePoyster summed it up: "The kingdom of God is in my heart." ■

## Parishioners have power to make 'culture of yes' happen, says VOCARE speaker, Rhonda Gruenewald

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC



Fr. Joe Mills meets Stephan Van Lal Than, a seminarian for the Diocese of Owensboro, during VOCARE 2017's social hour. WKC staff photo.

In order to have a "culture of vocations" at a parish, Rhonda Gruenewald said three elements are crucial: supportive pastor/priests, a youth minister, and a parish-based vocation ministry.

"You need to make the culture of 'yes' happen," she told the approximately 400 participants at the Sept. 22 VOCARE gala - the Diocese of Owensboro's annual celebration of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life at the Owensboro Convention Center.

Gruenewald spoke from her experience in establishing Vocation Ministry, a non-profit that provides resources and support for parishes seeking to promote vocations awareness.

After revitalizing her Houston parish's vocation ministry in 2011, Gruenewald was asked to help do the same for nearby parishes.

Today she leads vocation ministry workshops across the United States, assists the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston's Office of Vocations, and has written a book available in English and in Spanish

called "Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry."

Gruenewald said that among other necessities, affirming those who have already said "yes" to the priesthood and consecrated life is important.

"We need our priests and our sisters to feel that (appreciation)," she told the VOCARE participants.

This sentiment was very much a part of VOCARE itself. In his remarks following Gruenewald's talk, Bishop William F. Medley asked all attending priests and religious to stand, which was met by applause from the crowd.

Bishop Medley encouraged the attendees to take Gruenewald's words to heart.

"You have a role in promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life," he said.

The evening had begun at 5 p.m. with a social hour, and VOCARE was formally opened about an hour later by emcee, Fr. Brian Roby, who thanked Independence Bank for once again sponsoring VOCARE.

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Fr. Jason McClure, vocations director, introduced each of the diocese's eight seminarians after dinner.

This included the diocese's two new Burmese seminarians, Stephan Van Lal Than and Martin Ma Na Ling, who are studying to become priests of the Diocese of Owensboro and serve the growing Burmese population.

Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph, led the thanksgiving prayer at the conclusion of the event.

Chris Kight, one of the diocese's seminarians currently studying at St. Meinrad Seminary, told the WKC that it was good to "see the people we will one day be serving in parishes and ministry."

An attendee from St. Michael the Archangel Par-

ish in Oak Grove, Deacon Tom Torson, said his parish "has been very blessed with vocations - we now have three deacons."

His pastor, Fr. Julian Ibemere, who was also attending, added, "It is good that we are here," referencing the Transfiguration.

Sr. Anthonia Asayoma, OSF, said seeing the large number of VOCARE attendees gave her "great hope for the future of vocations. I feel like the people are behind us." ■



Religious sisters from Vietnam attended VOCARE this year with Sr. Mary McDermott, OSU, and Sr. Amelia Stenger, OSU, congregational leader. The Vietnamese sisters are currently living at the Ursuline sisters' motherhouse in Maple Mount in order to study at Brescia University in Owensboro. WKC staff photo.

## V Encuentro process bearing fruit for Latino Catholics

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The V Encuentro process in the Diocese of Owensboro has been helping Latino Catholics "get out of the mindset that church is something for once a week," said Gina Holmes, director of Hispanic ministry at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green.

On Aug. 19, a diocese-wide V Encuentro event in Owensboro drew Latinos from around western Kentucky for a procession around the block of St. Stephen Cathedral, where they were greeted and celebrated Mass with Bishop William F. Medley.

Following the liturgy, people gathered in the cathedral undercroft for a meal and V Encuentro activities.

The V Encuentro - with the "V" being a Roman

numeral for five, as in fifth - is a nationwide process taking place in parishes, schools and other Catholic groups to encounter Latino Catholics, especially those living on the margins. ("Encuentro" means "encounter.")

V Encuentro's main goal is to discern how the Catholic Church in the United States can better serve the Hispanic/Latino population, and how it can equip these persons as leaders and missionary disciples for the New Evangelization.

This Encuentro process is the fifth of its kind, and is overseen by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church.



Fr. Rafael Capó, director of Hispanic/Latino Ministry for SEPI (South East Pastoral Institute) and a priest of the Piarist religious order, with delegates from several parishes with a Latino population. Fr. Capó met with the delegates on Aug. 19 following the procession, Mass and meal. Photo courtesy of Chris Gutiérrez.

### Learning and leading

The Diocese of Owensboro's parishes that have a Latino demographic have been participating in this

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process since it began in January 2017.

Holmes, who met with the WKC on Sept. 6, said St. Joseph's parishioners have been "very receptive" to the V Encuentro initiatives.

She said six or seven small groups of parishioners met to discuss the V Encuentro-provided materials, which took place over five sessions arranged and coordinated by each group.

The materials covered various topics, such as ways the Church can better serve the community, and ways that parishioners can be better leaders.

Holmes said part of the process is also encouraging parishioners to "go out" and "encounter" people who are inactive or non-Catholic.

"It could be a neighbor, a spouse, a coworker..." said Holmes. "For some people it was easy; for others it was not."

She explained that the small groups would read a scripture passage and discuss it, and then agree to encounter someone that week. This included anything from asking what is keeping someone from attending church, to talking about a person's dreams for the future.

Holmes said they discovered that "sometimes people have struggles and no one to talk to."

She said the small groups bore much fruit, such as one group that ended their fifth session "and has now decided to study the Catechism of the Catholic Church" together.

The sessions were meant to end by June 2017, which led to a parish-wide, daylong Encuentro gathering. St. Joseph's was June 24, and the gathering was open to anyone, even those who had not joined a small group.

## Community prayer

During a visit to St. Michael Parish in Sebree on Sept. 7, the WKC learned that this community has also seen good results from the V Encuentro process.

Patti Gutiérrez, St. Michael's pastoral associate, said the experience has been "positive."

She said those who participated in the V Encuentro sessions have been working to "make an intentional effort to talk to people" about faith issues.

Parishioners also learned that "you just need to listen and learn what is keeping (others) from coming to church," she said.

Gutiérrez said this has given the parish good opportunities for reflection on "how can we make them feel part of our family?"

Baltazar Rafael, who participated in a V Encuentro small group at St. Michael's, said he felt challenged to learn more about the Bible, and that the "community must come together more, and pray more often."

"The pope says we can't stay in the church; we must go out to the streets to meet the people," said Baltazar Rafael.

His small group, which includes his wife, Dominga Marcos de Rafael; his daughter, Joselita Rafael; and fellow parishioner Juana Francisco, has been inviting others to "pray the rosary together at least once a week."

Francisco said this growing rosary tradition has been a "good experience."

Joselita Rafael added that praying the rosary with outsiders has helped them "feel more like a part of the community."

Dominga Marcos de Rafael said this has been very beneficial and that they need to stay consistent in "inviting others to pray with us."



Members of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green enjoy the meal after the V Encuentro procession and Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral. Photo courtesy of Chris Gutiérrez.

Baltazar Rafael said he once heard from a priest that "one stick alone can't make a fire" - meaning that people must come together to grow in the faith, and not remain solitary.

"I want to keep this going," he said. ■

*Editor's note: The small group interviewed at St. Michael's in Sebree spoke Spanish and Kanjobal, a native Guatemalan language. The WKC communicated with the group via an interpreter.*

## Did you know?

"Hispanic" means a person is of Spanish-speaking heritage.

"Latino" means a person's ancestry is based in Latin America. They do not necessarily speak Spanish.

# With driver's education course for refugees, Catholic community 'welcomes the stranger'

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Al Thompson has never forgotten the day he arrived at Owensboro Catholic High School with several of his driver's education students.

Thompson does not teach an ordinary driver's education course. He teaches refugees – people that the United Nations defines as persons forced to flee their country because of persecution, war or violence.

His students, who happened to be from war-torn Somalia and who had been resettled in the United States for their safety, were Muslim.

But they saw the word "Catholic" on the outside of the school building, and immediately pointed out that they recognized that word. They explained that they had been taught by Catholic religious brothers when still in Africa.

It was a source of comfort and familiarity for them, said Thompson, who still gets choked up when revisiting the memory.

"Several refugees have shared their stories with me," said Thompson. "So far every story I've heard involved the loss of close relatives (father, mother, siblings or grandparents) in some act of war or violence. Typically a threat to their own life was the triggering event that caused them to flee."

Their faith is not the same as Thompson's, who is Catholic and attends Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro. But he sees his growing ministry as vital to what the Church teaches.

"It's what the Gospel says – to welcome the

stranger," he said.

## Driver's license

When Mohamed Ibrahim Issak fled his war-torn homeland of Somalia seven years ago, he little imagined that his strenuous journey would lead to receiving his Kentucky driver's license on June 19, 2017.

He credits Thompson for helping him get to this point.

For his own part, Thompson credits Catholic High, which has given him use of its driver's education car ever since he began the lessons in March 2017.

"It is very empowering to learn to drive," said Thompson, explaining that a driver's license for a refugee who was recently resettled can open the door for many new opportunities.

Getting a driver's license means a person is no longer limited to jobs that must be accessible by walking, taking the bus system or carpooling with others, he said.

Issak lived in Somalia until he was 19. It had become too dangerous for him to remain there any longer. He lived as a refugee in Kenya for six years after fleeing Somalia, the whole time waiting to learn where and when he would be resettled.

At last, in March 2016, he learned he would be resettled in the United States in Kentucky, in a city called Owensboro.

"I am going to Owensboro!" he remembered tell-



While their car is parked, Al Thompson (left) snaps a selfie with two of his driver's education students, Mohamed Ibrahim Issak (background), and Niman Omer (right). Photo courtesy of Al Thompson.

ing a friend. "It is a small town and very beautiful."

He looked up Owensboro on Google Maps to learn about his new home, and even got to see images of Owensboro's famous Blue Bridge.

He arrived in Owensboro in September 2016 with official refugee status, meaning that he would begin a five-year process of becoming a U.S. citizen.

During his first months in Kentucky, he was limited to carpooling to his job at a chicken processing factory. However, in spring 2017, Issak and his roommate, Niman Omer, learned about the driving lessons offered by Thompson.

Issak began lessons with Thompson. He also helped translate between English and Somali for Thompson's lessons with Omer, who is still learning English.

## Welcoming refugees

As of Thompson's Aug. 7 interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic, seven of his driving stu-

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*Refugee Drivers-Ed continued from page 10*

dents have passed their driving test and many are still learning with him. He has a waiting list that has new names added as word spreads.

He said this all began back in February 2017, when he and his wife, Molly, attended an ecumenical gathering at Owensboro Christian Church to brainstorm ideas about welcoming the local refugee community.

Western Kentucky is home to a significant refugee and immigrant population, due to the International Center of Kentucky in Bowling Green, which also has a branch in Owensboro.

The Thompsons initially signed up to spend time with English-speaking refugees in order to casually converse in English and help them improve their language skills.

In the process, “it became apparent than no one knew how to drive,” said Thompson, which made him start thinking.

He had previously taught bus driving courses at Catholic High, had driven the school bus for student events and also taught his five children how to drive.

Thompson spoke with Gates Settle, the principal of Catholic High, who was “on board immediately,” and also received approval to operate under the Diocese of Owensboro’s insurance. He also obtained a grant from the diocese’s Catholic Campaign for Human Development to help the upkeep of the driver’s education car.

John Edge, driver’s education teacher and head football coach at Catholic High, arranged that Thompson will have access to the car when Catholic High is not using it.

## New friendships

Thompson and his family have become friends

with a number of his driver’s education students.

On Memorial Day 2017, which this year coincided with the major Muslim holiday of Ramadan, the Thompsons invited their Somali friends to a gathering at their house with other friends and family.

Issak cooked a full meal of “typical Somali dishes” for them – though he relied on Thompson to taste everything, since Muslims fast daily until sundown during Ramadan. After the sun set, everyone sat on the back patio and enjoyed the meal.

Thompson said he has learned so much from his Somali students, and learned to appreciate “what they’ve been through to get here.”

Issak could not be happier in his new homeland, having celebrated his one-year anniversary of arriving in Owensboro on Sept. 14.

“Thank you, America!” he said. ■



On Memorial Day 2017, which coincided this year with the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, Mohamed Ibrahim Issak cooks a full meal of Somali dishes during a gathering at the Thompsons’ house. At sundown, everyone sat and enjoyed the meal together. Photo courtesy of Al Thompson.

**Mount Saint Joseph Academy  
and Junior College**


**Alumnae Memorial  
Mass**

**Sunday, Nov. 5  
11 a.m.**

**Motherhouse  
Chapel**

This Mass is celebrated in remembrance  
of all deceased alumnae, family and faculty.  
Please RSVP for lunch by Oct. 31.

Contact Marian Bennett  
270-229-2006  
alumnae.ms@maplemount.org

 **Ursuline Sisters**  
of Mount Saint Joseph  
8011 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999

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## OCTOBER 2017 BULLETIN BOARD

### ■ **St. Benedict School Reunion Oct. 15**

St. Benedict School Reunion will be Sunday Oct. 15, 2017 in the basement of St. Benedict Church, Wax, Ky. It will start after 10 a.m. Mass. All former students, their family and friends are encouraged to attend. Bring a covered dish and enjoy the fellowship. If you need more info, call LaMont Miller, 270-259-3303.

### ■ **Eucharistic Adoration at the Mount**

Second Sunday of each month: Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, 4-5 p.m. Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel. Adoration will conclude with evening prayer. Adoration also takes place every Friday from 3-5 p.m.

### ■ **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fatima film**

All are invited to come and view the professional showing of the movie, The 13th Day. This inspiring movie can be a way for all to prepare for the 100th anniversary of the Oct. 13 apparition of Our Lady of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun. This one hour and 50 minute movie will be shown on two dates at two locations:

Tuesday, Oct. 10; St. Joseph Church, Mayfield; in the parish hall at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 11; St. John the Evangelist Church, Paducah; in the church at 7 p.m.

Before and after each of these two showings of The 13th Day, relics of the two shepherd children, St. Francisco and St. Jacinta, will be available for veneration. The people of the diocese are invited to pray a novena and litany to Our Lady of Fatima on the 5th-13th of each month in 2017, especially August-October. The text to these prayers may be found in the April 2017 issue of The Western Kentucky Catholic.

### ■ **Ursuline Book of Prayer, Volume II, now available**

Now you can pray daily with this one-of-a-kind book that the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph use for Morning and Evening Prayer. As the introduction explains, "The Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph have chosen to adopt a format for communal and personal prayer that seeks both to respect the ancient Christian tradition and adapt to contemporary needs and insights." There is information about the lives of saints on their feast days, memorials, and commemorations. There are more than 300 hymns included in the prayer book as well. Including its

index, the prayer book is 1,774 pages. The Ursuline Sisters are accepting donations of \$60 for each book. Copies are available in the Gift Shop in Maple Mount. If you would like a book mailed to you, the cost is \$70 to cover postage. To add Volume I of the Ursuline Book of Prayer, which encompasses Advent and Christmas, the cost is \$90 for the two, or \$105 if they need to be mailed. Send your donations made out to the Ursuline Sisters, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. Please specify "prayer book" with your donation.

### ■ **Mid-South Catholic Leadership Conference**

Invigorate yourself in your ministry by attending the Nov. 5-7 conference at Lake Barkley State Resort Park. The speaker lineup for this year's leadership conference includes Fr. Thomas Petri, OP, STD; Elizabeth Ficocelli; Pamela Bernards, Ed. D.; Kevin Dowd and Jessica Knierim. Register or learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/leadership-conference](http://owensborodiocese.org/leadership-conference).

### ■ **"Focus on Faith" continues Oct. 12**

Thursdays: Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Led by Ursuline Sr. Ann McGrew. Fee: \$20 per class (includes lunch) These monthly classes will study the Apostolic Exhortation, "The Joy of Love," by Pope Francis. Join us as we "Focus on Faith" and delve into this interesting book. Feel free to attend any or all sessions. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 or [kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org).

### ■ **Thanksgiving dinner at Blessed Sacrament**

Please join Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro for their annual free Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 19, 2017, from 12-2 p.m. Questions may be directed to Sr. Jeannette Fennwald, SSND, at [blessedsac602@gmail.com](mailto:blessedsac602@gmail.com) or (270) 926-4741.

### ■ **Disabilities Awareness Committee requests 2017 award nominations**

The Disabilities Awareness Committee is happy to announce the start of 2017 nominations for the Sister Audrey Mary Gold Award for Welcoming the Gifts of Persons with Disabilities in Church Life. This award recognizes achievement for a person who works to ensure that ALL are included in parish life regardless of disability. The committee is looking for nominees and will be awarding the award on All Saints Day,

Nov. 1, 2017. If you know of someone who fits the criteria, please send an email to nominate the person, or group, on or before, 10-10-2017 to Richard Murphy, Director for the Office of Social Concerns for the Diocese of Owensboro at [richard.murphy@pastoral.org](mailto:richard.murphy@pastoral.org). Full criteria for the award may be found at [owensborodiocese.org/gold-award](http://owensborodiocese.org/gold-award).

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

Oct. 3: Sr. Ruth Gehres - With Great and Longing Heart (Ready to receive God)  
Nov. 7: Sr. Marietta Wethington - Gratitude  
Dec. 5: Sr. Mary Matthias Ward - The Mystery of Christmas  
First Tuesday of each month from 5-6:30 p.m.  
Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The \$20 fee includes dinner in the Center dining room. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 or [kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org)

### ■ **Fundraiser for Canine Companions**

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing, free of charge, highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. CCI is hosting a first annual Fall Fundraiser on Oct. 21 from noon-5 p.m. at Sun Suites & Spa, 1044 Chestnut St., Bowling Green. There will be a silent auction and gift baskets raffled. Raffle tickets are \$20 for the number of tickets it takes to measure from the tip of a dog's nose to the tip of his/her tail. You get to choose the dog! All donations assist recipients receive a service dog free of charge. Contact Teresa Hart at [tj1353@me.com](mailto:tj1353@me.com) to make a monetary donation. For more information check out [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org).

### ■ **Oct. 8 'Bluegrass on Beshear IV' pro-life music fest in Dawson Springs**

Fourth annual "Bluegrass on Beshear-Pickin' Life" music fest will be held rain or shine from 1:30-6 p.m. on Oct. 8 at 307 Island Cove Ln., Dawson Springs, KY. Info at [bluegrassonbeshear.com](http://bluegrassonbeshear.com) and Facebook. [com/bluegrassonbeshear](https://www.facebook.com/bluegrassonbeshear).

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

## Seventeenth local pro-life billboard installed; volunteers seek new locations

BY DEACON NICK NICHOLS AND DONNA NICHOLS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Catholics for Children is a pro-life ministry dedicated to ending abortion by changing hearts. The ministry operates under the Gospel of Life Committee, the Catholic pro-life committee under Bishop Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro. The ministry is entirely run by volunteers; 100 percent of the money raised goes to this ministry and is currently used in the Daviess County area.

Our primary project is “Billboards for Life” – a series of pro-life billboards proclaiming life-saving messages such as “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.”

At the bottom of each billboard – in large print – is a 24 hours a day/seven days a week/365 days a year toll-free phone number to a pregnancy help ministry (Opportunities for Life) sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky.

In addition to five large billboards contracted to Lamar Companies (some rotate, some do not), we install private billboards on church or other Cath-

olic properties. This means that – unlike our other locations – there is no monthly rental fee for the billboard location, which really helps our donations go much further. We just installed our 17th such billboard in the Daviess County area on St. Anthony Parish property (Utica).

As you can see from this picture, the results are outstanding! So we wish to continue to get the word out and identify other church-controlled properties where we can duplicate these efforts. We can immediately assist those in Daviess County, and depending on other locations, can at least facilitate assistance in getting these life-saving messages to your communities. If you have a prospective property let us know at (270) 748-1604 or [deaconnick@catholicexchange.com](mailto:deaconnick@catholicexchange.com) so we can schedule a time to check out the location. ■

*Deacon Nick Nichols and his wife, Donna, serve at St. Sebastian Parish in Calhoun.*



Pictured here with the latest Billboard for Life, established at St. Anthony Parish in Utica, are (left to right) Thomas Johnson, Scott Johnson, Nicholas Johnson, Keith Nix, James Conkright, Billy Nix, Ian Nix and Ralph Bemboom. Photo courtesy of Deacon Nick Nichols.



### Opportunities for Life

The Catholic Church teaches respect for all human life from conception to natural death. October is Respect Life Month, which is all the more reason to celebrate life. To learn more about the mission of Opportunities for Life, visit [opportunitiesforlife.org](http://opportunitiesforlife.org) or call 1-800-822-5824.

## Local Cursillo community's first '4th Day Retreat' at Owensboro's St. Pius X has great, 'prayerful' turnout

BY DEACON NICK NICHOLS AND DONNA NICHOLS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Saturday, Sept. 2, the Cursillo Community of the Diocese of Owensboro held their First 4<sup>th</sup> Day Retreat at St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro, with

Fr. Tom Buckman as our Spiritual Director. We had 35 adults and nine children attend (babysitting was provided courtesy of the Secretariat).

*Continues on page 14*

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### 4<sup>th</sup> Day Retreat continued from page 13

We began our day with registration followed by First Saturday Mass at 10 a.m. After the Mass we enjoyed watching the Fatima movie "The 13<sup>th</sup> Day," celebrating Our Holy Mother's appearance 100 years ago to the three children of Fatima, Portugal in 1917.

A potluck lunch was provided by all and Fr. Tom was available for confession during this time as well. It was a good time of fellowship with folks from around the diocese we don't get to see very often.

Afterwards we gathered in a circle for an hour of "Lectio Divina," which is small group sharing using Scripture, led by Fr. Tom. We focused on the Gospel reading for Sunday Mass. The Gospel was read by three different people during the hour. We meditated on what was being spoken to in our hearts and anyone who wanted to share in one word or one sentence could do so. For many of us, this was the first time to do an exercise or mediation of this sort.

We concluded our day with Benediction, Holy Hour (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament) and Reconciliation was again available.

We all left with our hearts and minds full of the Holy Spirit and refreshed by a very prayerful retreat, and also very thankful to Fr. Tom for leading us. We plan to offer this retreat again next year and will, of course, remind all who have attended a Cursillo ahead of time so you can save the date.

Also, remember that the next Men and Women's Cursillo Weekends will be held March 1-4, and March 8-11, 2018, respectively, at Mount St. Joseph. Please keep all team members and prospective candidates in your prayers.

For more information visit our website: [www.cursillo-owensboro.org](http://www.cursillo-owensboro.org). ■

*Deacon Nick Nichols and his wife, Donna, serve at St. Sebastian Parish in Calhoun.*

**VETERANS: Please join us for a tribute day of prayer**

*"We highly resolve that those who died shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom."  
- Abraham Lincoln*



**Tuesday, Nov. 7**  
**9 a.m.–3 p.m.**

**There is no cost. The program and meal is our appreciation for you.**

*Retreat Directors: Sister Mary Matthias Ward & Father Ben Brown*

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in this world, but veterans don't have that problem. They are our heroes. You gave up so much for us, now we hope to give to you.



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road  
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356  
270-229-4103  
[www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org)

Please register by calling Kathy McCarty  
**(270) 229-0206**  
[kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org)



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro.

## Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

### OCTOBER

- 3 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Great and Longing Heart**
- 7-8 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 12 Focus on Faith Book Study**
- 14 Marian Retreat Day**
- 20-22 Spiritual Directors Reunion Retreat
- 23-27 Quilt Guild
- 24-26 Chix with Stix
- 28 Grief Camp

### NOVEMBER

- 3-5 Yarn Spinners Retreat Weekend**
- 4 Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program
- 7 Day of Prayer for Veterans**
- 7 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Gratitude**
- 9 Focus on Faith Book Study**
- 10-12 Ordained Deacons Retreat Weekend
- 11 Zion Baptist Church
- 17-19 Living Water Fellowship Church  
Women's Retreat

### DECEMBER

- 1-3 Friendship Spinners
- 5 Evening with an Ursuline dinner & presentation: Mystery of Christmas**
- 9 Advent Day of Prayer**
- 14 Advent Evening with Bishop Medley**
- 14 Focus on Faith Book Study**
- 15-16 Living & Leading with Love
- 25 Merry Christmas!**

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

[kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org)  
[ursulinesmsj.org](http://ursulinesmsj.org)

Located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56



**Mount Saint Joseph**  
Conference and Retreat Center

Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro

# 2017 Sophia Awards recipients represent 71 parishes



Every year, the Diocese of Owensboro hosts a special Mass honoring the recipients of the annual Sophia Awards – individuals at least 65 years old, who received the highest number of nominations in their parish for this recognition, and who embrace and lead lives of stewardship by giving of their time, talent and treasure. This year, the Mass was held on Sept. 10, 2017, and the awards were presented by Bishop William F. Medley. For more photos from the day, visit [owensborodiocese.org/sophia](http://owensborodiocese.org/sophia). Photo by Tina Kasey/WKC.

**Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro**

Jan & Terry Storm

**Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro**

Layson B. Brooks

**Christ the King Parish, Madisonville**

Patricia Folk

**Christ the King Parish, Scottsville**

Beth Gripp

**Holy Cross Parish, Providence**

Ron & Gay Hill

**Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Irvington**

Sammie Quiggins

**Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson**

Anne Klaffer

**Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green**

Sam & Gloria Peach

**Holy Trinity Parish, Morgantown**

Teddy & Margie Seiler

**Immaculate Parish, Owensboro**

Gary & Carol Jackson

**Immaculate Conception Parish, Earlington**

Larry Pilson

**Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawesville**

Charles & Peggy Howard

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro**

Martha & Frank Hardesty

**Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro**

Michael S. Howard

**Resurrection Parish, Dawson Springs**

David & Beri Zapanick

**Rosary Chapel, Paducah**

Frances Payne Pullen

**Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville**

Kerry & Sharlet

Beauregard

**Sacred Heart Parish,**

**Waverly**

Nancy H. Clements

**St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown**

Hamel & Rose Floyd

**St. Alphonsus Parish, St. Joseph**

David & Cecilia McCarty

**St. Ambrose Parish, Henshaw**

Dennis B. Dossett

**St. Ann Parish, Morganfield**

Kenny & Rosie Holt

**St. Anthony Parish, Axtel**

Celestine & Bonnie

**St. Anthony Parish, Browns Valley**

Julia Bittel

**St. Anthony Parish, Peonia**

Marian Sims

**St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Grand Rivers**

Margaret Dumbacher

**St. Augustine Parish, Grayson Springs**

Leon & Martha Hill

**St. Augustine Parish, Reed**

Stephen I. Byrne

**St. Benedict Parish, Wax**

Reva Stasel

**St. Charles Parish, Bardwell**

James A. McIntyre

**St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Livermore**

Rondy & Patty Humphrey

**St. Columba Parish, Lewisport**

Judy C. Pate

**St. Denis Parish, Fancy Farm**

Sandra DeForge

**St. Elizabeth Parish, Curdsville**

Doris M. Schadler

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish,**

**Clarkson**

Glenn & Patty Campbell

**St. Francis Borgia Parish, Sturgis**

Irene Price

**St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah**

Steve Batusic

**St. Francis of Assisi, Todd Co**

Edward & Dorothy Kacer

**St. Henry Parish, Aurora**

Jack & Dodee Sergeant

**St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm**

Freddy & Janet Wilson

**St. John the Evangelist Parish, Paducah**

Donny Neihoff

**St. John the Evangelist Parish, Sunfish**

Sue Kalbfleisch

**St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green**

Rita Mylor Vaughan

**St. Joseph Parish, Central City**

Mary Mosley

**St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield**

Jackie Richardson

**St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield**

Jean Smith

**SS. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro**

Tom & Joyce Hayden

**St. Lawrence Parish, St. Lawrence**

Wayne & Wilma Knott

**St. Leo Parish, Murray**

Deacon Victor & Lynn

**St. Mark Parish, Eddyville**

Rita Schroeder

**St. Martin Parish, Rome**

Sylvester & Barbara

Fischer

**St. Mary Parish, Franklin**

Lewis Garst

**St. Mary Parish, LaCenter**

Pat Arington Rhyne

**St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho**

Jim & Martha J. Kauffeld

**St. Mary of the Woods Parish, McQuady**

Harold & Janice

Clements

**St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville**

Dwight A. Beyke

**St. Michael Parish, Sebree**

Brenda Badertscher

**St. Paul Parish, Princeton**

George & Sharon Barber

**St. Paul Parish, St. Paul**

Janice Wilaby

**St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley**

George & Rose Marie

Clary

**St. Peter of Antioch Parish, Waverly**

Brenda Kay Fredrick

**SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville**

Tony Esposito

**St. Pius X Parish, Calvert City**

Maryann Huebschmann

**St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro**

Cecilia & Leon Aud

**St. Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg**

Charles & Joellen

McGary

**St. Sebastian Parish, Calhoun**

Larry & Patricia Hardison

**St. Stephen Parish, Cadiz**

Thomas M. & Bonnie L.

Kell

Continues on page 16

*Sophia Awards continued from page 15*

**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**

Larry & Gene Lyon

**St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah**

James E. Sanders, Jr.

**St. William Parish, Knottsville**

Warren & Elaine Lanham

**St. William of Vercelli Parish, Marion**

Denny & Lynann Woodall

## Precious Blood Parish's SVdP conference receives \$5,000 grant



Members of the Precious Blood Conference at the July 15, 2017 Stuff the Truck activity at Precious Blood Parish. Photo courtesy of Tony Powers.

After receiving the Friends of the Poor Grant from the National Council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), an Owensboro-based SVdP conference will be able to serve even more people in the local community.

The Precious Blood Conference, associated with Owensboro's Precious Blood Parish, was one of 14 recipients around the U.S. to receive the \$5,000 grant.

"The Friends of the Poor Grant will be used to provide funding for temporary and emergency assistance for basic human needs in our community specifically housing, utilities, and mattresses," said Tony Powers, president of the Precious Blood Conference. "This grant will allow our Conference to increase our giving guidelines to \$150 for preventing shutoff of utilities and to \$200 for rent to avoid eviction and homelessness."

## Mount Crafts & Raffle provides fun afternoon venue



These shoppers, including Joan Frey on the far right, were interested in the homemade dishcloths and afghans. Photo courtesy of Mount St. Joseph.

In lieu of their annual picnic, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph put on the "Mount Crafts & Raffle" on the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 10. A steady crowd was on hand in the gymnasium to shop for quilts and other crafts, play bingo, and enjoy Old Hickory barbecue for lunch and takeout. Many put their name into the grand raffle drawing which took place at 3 p.m. Several cash prizes, including \$10,000, were raffled off to winners in Henderson, Louisville (2), Owensboro (2) and Marietta, Ga., and the beautiful embroidered quilt went to a lucky winner in Granite City, Ill. The raffle and craft sales will benefit the retired Ursuline Sisters. Prior to the raffle, an announcement was made that the Ursuline Sisters will partner with Studio Slant to host the Owensboro East Bridge Art Festival at Mount Saint Joseph on the weekend of Sept. 8-9, 2018.

## Blessed Sacrament's bell restored, blessed, rung



Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead/WKC.

On the sunny morning of Sept. 17, 2017, the community of Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro gathered for an extra-special occasion. The chapel's bell tower had been recently restored, and so before Mass began the community processed outside for a prayer and blessing by Fr. Jamie Dennis, associate pastor. After Fr. Dennis said the blessing and sprinkled holy water, they listened to the bell's first ring. Sr. Jeannette Fennwald, SSND, parish life coordinator at Blessed Sacrament, told the congregation that the bell will now be regularly rung for the whole neighborhood to hear.



## Charismatic conference inspires Hispanic, Latino Catholics

BY DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ, OFFICE OF HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY

On August 26-27 the seventh annual Hispanic/Latino Charismatic Congress took place in Bowling Green.

For years now, Hispanic parishioners from St. Joseph Parish put heart, mind and hard work into this marvelous event of spiritual conversion and renewal for so many. This included both choirs “Vencedores en Cristo” and “Cristo es mi Roca.”

We are especially grateful to St. Joseph’s Hispanic Charismatic group, called “Life in the Holy Spirit,” for their leadership in organizing the event.

Hispanic faithful from across the entire diocese were present and from beyond. A significant group of brothers and sisters from Springfield, Tennessee were present as well. This year we were also blessed by a visit from Bishop William Medley who as a good shepherd came by to visit, shake hands, and greet children.

An estimated number of 400 participants enjoyed moments of prayer, biblical reflection, song, healing and praise. This year’s speakers were Fr. Hernan Cely and Mr. Anthony Rodriguez both from the Diocese of Paterson in New Jersey.

All of this of course was made possible thanks to the leadership and support of St. Joseph’s pastor, Fr. Andy Garner, as well as Gina Holmes, director of Hispanic ministry at the parish.

¡Gracias!

*Deacon Chris Gutiérrez is director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro. He may be reached at [chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org](mailto:chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org). Photo courtesy of Deacon Chris Gutiérrez.*



Fr. Hernan Cely leads the faithful in prayer during the seventh annual Hispanic/Latino Charismatic Congress.



St. Jude parishioner Hal Jones assisting Fr. Robert Drury, pastor of three parishes of western Kentucky, with the “Solar Eclipse Mass.” Photo courtesy of Susie Fenwick.

### St. Jude Parish celebrates solar eclipse with Mass

On August 21, coinciding with the solar eclipse, Fr. Robert Drury celebrated the true Son of God at a “Solar Eclipse Mass” held at St. Jude Parish in Clinton. Readings were taken from 1 John 1:7 and the Gospel of John 12:27-36, and focused on God’s people walking in light toward spiritual illumination. After Mass, Fr. Drury treated those attending to a reception with Sun Chips and SunDrop drinks.



Sister Rivera with some young members of St. Leo’s. Photo courtesy of Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, CSsR.

### St. Leo Parish welcomes sister as new Hispanic minister

Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, CSsR, associate pastor of St. Leo Parish in Murray, writes: “Thanks to the pastoral care of Fr. Brandon Williams, pastor of St. Leo in Murray and the Hispanic Ministry office of the Diocese of Owensboro, we welcomed to the community Sr. Esperanza Rivera. All of the people were happy to meet her. We wish her many blessings as she begins her ministry with the Hispanic community.” Sr. Rivera belongs to the Misioneras del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus ad Gentes, and previously served at SS. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro.



### St. Agnes’ 2017 picnic a grand success

St. Agnes Parish in Uniontown had their annual church picnic on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017. The weather was beautiful and they had a huge crowd. Photo courtesy of Kathy Humphrey.

# Una Palabra del Obispo Medley

Mi querido pueblo de Dios,

El año que entra el Papa Francisco convocará el Sínodo de los Obispos y el tema será “Jóvenes, la Fe y Discernimiento Vocacional”. Representantes de obispos de conferencias nacionales a través del mundo se reunirán para tres semanas de oración, diálogo y escucha. En anticipación al sínodo del 2018, a todos los obispos se les ha invitado responder a preguntas preparadas por la Comisión del Sínodo.

Para responder a esas preguntas de una manera más efectiva en el cómo se relacionan a la Diócesis de Owensboro, tuve 11 sesiones de escucha a través de la diócesis comenzado en Mayo. Me reuní con grupos en la Universidad Estatal de Murray, Universidad de Kentucky Occidental y la Universidad de Brescia; esto para escuchar de jóvenes universitarios. Hubo también sesiones con jóvenes de bachillerato en las Escuelas Católicas Preparatorias de la Trinidad, Santa María y de Owensboro además de dos grupos de la edad de preparatoria en el Campamento Juvenil en Gasper River. Todo esto para escuchar la perspectiva de los jóvenes. Adicionalmente hubo tres sesiones en distintas parroquias que fueron atendidas principalmente por papás y abuelos. También hubo la oportunidad de responder en línea.

Fue interesante para mí ver como jóvenes y adolescentes al tiempo en que veían los más grandes retos frente a ellos, también veían las mismas oportunidades frente a ellos. Por ejemplo: la generación de 30 años o menores se han dado cuenta que ellos y sus compañeros han crecido en una revolución de los medios sociales de comunicación. La información para ellos disponible en la ‘punta de sus dedos’ en inmensa. También, ellos observan, con mucha frecuencia los medios sociales de comunicación pueden ser utilizados para dañar más que para beneficiar. Historias falsas, inflamatorias e información inventada compartida de manera instantánea inflama el racismo, la intolerancia y la división.

Al mismo tiempo, los jóvenes ven tremendo potencial en el universo de los medios de comunicación social si son utilizados con benevolencia. Pueden conectarse ellos con otros en cualquier parte del mundo.

Todos sabemos que en general los medios con frecuencia son hostiles hacia la fe religiosa y los valores. En particular al Cristianismo y al Catolicismo, seguido se les da una imagen negativa. Los jóvenes en ocasiones son ridiculizados por otros de su edad debido a su participación en la iglesia o por sus valores. Ocasionalmente, incluso la confusión o mal entendidos de otros cristianos sobre el Catolicismo hacen a jóvenes sentirse mal. Con frecuencia jóvenes se sienten no aptos para defender sus prácticas religiosas.

Entonces, ¿cuáles son algunas de las experiencias positivas que los jóvenes tienen de la

*Continúa en página 20*

## EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA OCTUBRE DEL 2017:

<b>OCTUBRE 1</b>	11:00 a.m. ● 25 aniversario de la profesión de votos de la Hna. Bella Ezumah – San León, Murray
<b>OCTUBRE 5</b>	1:00 p.m. ● Visita salones de clase en la Escuela Secundaria Católica de Owensboro 1:45 p.m. ● Misa Escolar – Escuela Secundaria Católica de Owensboro
<b>OCTUBRE 7</b>	11:00 a.m. ● Rito de Candidatura del diaconado permanente (candidatos de habla hispana) – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
<b>OCTUBRE 11</b>	7:00 p.m. ● “Compartir la Jornada” un Servicio de Oración en apoyo a los inmigrantes y refugiados – Parroquia de Sts. José y Pablo, Owensboro
<b>OCTUBRE 12</b>	8:00 a.m. ● Misa Escolar – Escuela San Pablo, Leitchfield
<b>OCTUBRE 13</b>	7:00 p.m. ● Presentación del 100 aniversario de la 6ta aparición en Fátima – Parroquia San José, Bowling Green
<b>OCTUBRE 14</b>	9:00 a.m. ● Rito de Candidatura del diaconado permanente (candidatos de habla inglesa) – Catedral de San Esteban
<b>OCTUBRE 16</b>	10:00 a.m. ● Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith 1:30 p.m. ● Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith
<b>OCTUBRE 17</b>	8:00 a.m. ● Misa Escolar– Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville
<b>OCTUBRE 18</b>	8:30 a.m. ● Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith 6:00 p.m. ● Reunión de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana – Centro Católico McRaith
<b>OCTUBRE 19</b>	11:00 a.m. ● Misa Escolar – Academia de Maximiliano Montessori, Owensboro
<b>OCTUBRE 21</b>	10:30 a.m. ● Celebración de Jubileo de Religiosos – San Martin, Rome
<b>OCTUBRE 22</b>	10:30 a.m. ● Misa & Visita Pastoral – Parroquia San Judas, Clinton
<b>OCTUBRE 24</b>	9:30 a.m. ● Misa Escolar – Escuela Primaria de Santa María, Paducah 11:00 a.m. ● Oficina de Paducah
<b>OCTUBRE 25</b>	11:00 a.m. ● Unción de los Enfermos – Monte San José, Maple Mount
<b>OCT 26-NOV 4</b>	Peregrinación a Grecia



# ‘El reino de Dios está en mi corazón’

**Dieciséis hombres son ordenados al diaconado permanente el 16 de septiembre**



Recién ordenado, el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez besa la estola presentada por el P. Carmelo Jiménez el 16 de septiembre, mientras su esposa Patti Gutiérrez, y su hijo Gabriel, cargan su dalmática. El Diácono Gutiérrez entonces se viste con la estola y dalmática como señal de su nuevo oficio. Foto por el personal del WKC

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD,  
EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

En su homilía en la ordenación al diaconado permanente el 16 de Septiembre en la Parroquia de Santo Espíritu en Bowling Green, el Obispo William F. Medley hizo referencia a la lectura del evangelio sobre el más grande y el más pequeño.

“El diácono se convertirá en esclavo de todos,” dijo el Obispo Medley haciendo referencia a Mateo 20:25-28, donde Jesús les dice a sus discípulos que “el que de ustedes quiera ser grande, que se haga el servidor de ustedes, y si alguno de ustedes quiere ser el primero entre ustedes, que se haga el esclavo de todos.”

Pero, “van a obtener fuerza de los dones del Espíritu Santo,” les contó. “Como diáconos, van a servir a Jesucristo quien fue conocido por sus seguidores como uno que servía a los demás.”

El día fue el culmen de cinco años de estudio y formación para los 16 hombres, cuyos amigos y familiares llenaron las bancas del Espíritu Santo ese día.

Los hombres ordenados al diaconado permanente ese día fueron: Kenneth Bennett, Wayne Boudreaux, John Cecil, Lawrence Conrad Jr., Roberto Cruz, Dale DePoyster, Cristóbal Gutiérrez, Robert Higbee, Michael Houtchen, Scott Jones, Brent Kimbler, Joseph Loeffler, Michael Marsili, Brett Mills, James Morgan y Richard Murphy.

Ellos formaron la segunda clase de diáconos permanentes en la Diócesis de Owensboro; la primera ordenación al diaconado permanente de la diócesis fue en el 2012.

El obispo ofreció palabras de agradecimiento a las esposas y familias de los candidatos, recordándoles que “el primer compromiso humano y sacramental de los hombres es a ustedes.”

Reconoció los muchos sacrificios que las familias de los candidatos han hecho para llegar a este punto.

“Sus sacrificios engendrarán muchos frutos para el Evangelio,” dijo a las familias.

La liturgia, que empezó a las 10 a.m. y concluyó alrededor del mediodía, incluyó varios elementos bilingües y en algunos momentos trilingües con música y oraciones en inglés, español y birmano. Dos de los hombres, Gutiérrez y Cruz, hicieron sus promesas diaconales al obispo en español.

Después de la liturgia, el grupo de los diáconos recién-ordenados recibieron saludos y abrazos de muchas de sus seres queridas y otras personas. La celebración continuó con comida en el Salón del Espíritu de la parroquia.

Helen Bennett, esposa del Diácono Kenneth Bennett, fue muy sonriente durante su entrevista con el WKC.

“Estoy muy orgullosa de él,” dijo. “Ha trabajado muy duro.”

El Diácono Bennett dijo que se sentía “increíble - no lo puedo describir.”

El Diácono DePoyster lo resumió: “El reino de Dios está en mi corazón.” ■

**¿Le interesa el sacerdocio o la vida religiosa?**

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

Aprenda más en [owensborodiocese.org/vocations](http://owensborodiocese.org/vocations)

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iglesia? Muchos han sido impactados por actividades de grupos juveniles en sus parroquias. Eventos diocesanos como 'Youth 2000' y la Conferencia Diocesana Juvenil de Owensboro (ODYC) que se da cada dos años han dejado una impresión que perdura. Muchos hicieron notar experiencias que nutrieron su fe a través de retiros y experiencias de campamento en nuestro Campamento Juvenil de Gasper River.

Las oportunidades de servir son valoradas. Algunos hicieron referencia a los proyectos de servicio que realizaron en preparación a la confirmación. Algunos jóvenes han ido a las misiones tanto dentro de los Estados Unidos como en el exterior. Estas experiencias han fomentado un sentido de comunidad y les han abierto los ojos a realidades de pobreza y el mensaje evangélico de servir al prójimo.

Jóvenes y adolescentes algunas veces batallan en poder encontrar su lugar en las parroquias y en experiencias de oración (culto). Cuando se les preguntó sobre a qué se referían; la respuesta era tan simple como hospitalidad. En ocasiones

los jóvenes que ahora son papás se han sentido despreciados cuando sus hijos no son perfectos en la iglesia. Cada generación probablemente ha compartido algunas historias sobre esto.

La razón de un sínodo sobre estas preguntas es que estamos viendo grandes porcentajes de gente joven, productos de familias católicas, escuelas católicas y formación ahora indiferentes hacia la iglesia. Como fieles creyentes creemos que nuestro mensaje es eterno. Es la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo. Sin embargo, estamos llamados a preguntarnos si en el siglo 21 quizás necesitemos re-imaginarnos la forma en que proclamamos a Jesucristo y su mensaje. ■



Obispo William F. Medley  
Diócesis de Owensboro

## El Domingo de la Sagrada Escritura comienza el 15 de octubre

POR EL PERSONAL DEL WKC

Antes de finalizar el Jubileo Extraordinario de la Misericordia (también conocido como el Año de la Misericordia), el Papa Francisco emitió una carta apostólica, "Misericordia et misera."

En aquella carta, él explicó que el Año de la Misericordia había sido una manera de recordarle a la gente que la misericordia no es algo para un año especial, sino es parte de la vida cotidiana de la Iglesia. Él escribió, "Todo se revela en la misericordia; todo se resuelve en el amor misericordioso del Padre."

El Papa ofreció varias sugerencias para continuar la celebración de la misericordia después del fin del Jubileo. Esto incluyó su consejo de que: "Sería oportuno que cada comunidad, en un domingo del

Año litúrgico, renovase su compromiso en favor de la difusión, el conocimiento y la profundización de la Sagrada Escritura."

Siguiendo esta recomendación, el Obispo William F. Medley designó el tercer domingo de octubre como la "Domingo de la Escritura" en la Diócesis de Owensboro. Este año será el 15 de octubre.

En una carta anunciando el Domingo de la Sagrada Escritura, el Obispo Medley escribió que él espera que esta tradición anual llegase a ser "un tiempo para gracia para ti, para mí, y para todos los fieles en la Diócesis de Owensboro."

Este año, la diócesis proveerá a todas las 78 parroquias una cantidad de separadores de libro introduc-

iendo la práctica de "Lectio divina" - una manera de leer las escrituras en oración. Estos estarán disponibles en inglés y español. También habrá separadores similares para familias con niños pequeños, también con versiones en inglés y español.

"Ojalá y estos separadores sencillos provean una introducción a las Sagradas Escrituras fácil de utilizar y de fomentar un interés mayor en la Palabra de Dios," dijo el Obispo Medley.

Para aprender más visita [owensborodiocese.org/scripturesunday](http://owensborodiocese.org/scripturesunday). ■

## Día de los Muertos honra a los fieles difuntos



Varias parroquias en la Diócesis de Owensboro adornan altares de muertos cada año durante los dos días (Nov. 1 y 2) celebrando el Día de los Muertos.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD,  
EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

La celebración anual del Día de Muertos viene de “una mezcla de la tradición azteca y el cristianismo de los españoles,” dijo el Padre Julio Barrera, vicario parroquial de la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro.

El P. Barrera, quien es mexicano, menciona que las celebraciones modernas del Día de Muertos tiene sus raíces en los costumbres antiguas de los Aztecas de honrar a los seres queridos difuntos.

Dijo que el Día de Muertos no es igual que Halloween, lo cual tiene sus orígenes en las civilizaciones

occidentales.

Contó que antes de la llegada de los exploradores españoles en los 1500s, los Aztecas creían en un “nivel” más alto lo cual no nombraron cielo, pero que fue algo similar a la vida eterna de los Cristianos.

Los Aztecas ponían pequeños santuarios honrando a los difuntos, y adornándolos con las comidas favoritas de los difuntos, junto con velas y flores cempasúchil.

Los Aztecas creían que el color vibrante de estas flores – conocidos como “cempasúchil” o “flor de mil pétalos” – atraería a las almas de los difuntos.

El P. Barrera dijo que los santuarios eran llamados “altares” aunque “no tiene nada que ver con el altar en una iglesia.”

Mencionó que este término realmente significa un “lugar especial” y aunque algunas iglesias hoy en día ponen altares para sus parroquianos para poner recuerdos de los difuntos, los altares tradicionalmente son armados en los hogares de las familias.

Cuando los frailes franciscanos llegaron junto con los exploradores españoles, el P. Barrera dice que los frailes “evangelizaron sin quitar el valor” de las tradiciones de la gente azteca.

Esto incluía conectando el Día de Muertos con la fiesta Católica de Todos los Fieles Difuntos el 2 de noviembre – un día especial para los Católicos para recordar y rezar para las almas de los que han muerto.

Hoy en día, la celebración del Día de los Muertos actualmente dura dos días, de 1 al 2 de noviembre.

Adornando altares con sus comidas favoritas, velas y flores de muerto siguen siendo parte importante de la costumbre, pero hoy en día los altares también

incluyen un crucifijo y estatuas religiosas.

“El crucifijo es central” del altar, dice el P. Barrera.

El P. Barrera explicó que en la región donde él creció nunca se come la comida de los altares durante el tiempo entre 1 y 2 de noviembre, dado que es para que “huelen” las almas – lo cual nos lleva a una analogía: “No puedes ver el olor, pero sabes que está allí, igual como no puedes ver el alma pero sabes que está allí.”

También mencionó que cuando él estaba creciendo su mamá siempre colocaba una vela, un vaso de agua y algo de comida “para el alma que no tenía a dónde ir.”

El P. Barrera recuerda con afecto su tarea de niñez de hacer un camino con los pétalos de flores de muerto, “reservado para los fieles difuntos” para guiarlos en su camino hacia la casa familiar.

La tradición mantiene que las almas, guiados por las flores de muerto, viajan a la casa de la familia el 1 de noviembre y permanecen hasta el 2 de noviembre cuando la familia se junta en los cementerios en las tumbas de sus difuntos.

“En la mañana, todas las familias van al cementerio y adornan a las tumbas, para acompañar el alma a su lugar de descanso,” dijo de esta ocasión, lo cual parece de mucha alegría. “Preparas comida y tienes una fiesta allí en el cementerio.”

Dijo que la celebración se puede sumar así: “Si están muertos, pero siguen siendo parte de nuestra familia y todavía debemos honrarlos igual como cuando estaban vivos.” ■

# El proceso del V Encuentro en la diócesis sigue produciendo frutos para católicos latinos

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El proceso del V Encuentro en la Diócesis de Owensboro ha estado ayudando a los católicos latinos “salir de una mentalidad de iglesia como algo que se hace una vez a la semana,” dijo Gina Holmes, directora del ministerio hispano en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.

El 19 de agosto, un evento diocesano del V Encuentro en Owensboro atrajo a latinos de alrededor de Kentucky occidental para una procesión a la Catedral de San Esteban donde fueron acogidos y celebraron Misa con el Obispo William F. Medley.

Seguido de la liturgia, personas se reunieron en el sótano de la Catedral para una rica comida y actividades del V Encuentro.

El V Encuentro – donde el V es el número romano para cinco, o sea el quinto – es un proceso nacional que toma lugar en las parroquias, escuelas y otros grupos católicos para tener un encuentro con los católicos latinos, especialmente los que viven en las periferias.

La meta principal del V Encuentro es discernir cómo la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos puede servir mejor a la población hispana/latina, y cómo puede capacitar a estas personas como líderes y discípulos misioneros para la Nueva Evangelización.

Este proceso de Encuentro es el quinto de este tipo, y es organizado por el Comité de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos.

## Aprendiendo y Guiando

Las parroquias en la Diócesis de Owensboro que tienen una población latina han estado participando en este proceso desde su inicio en enero del 2017.

Holmes, quien se encontró con el WKC el 6 de septiembre, dijo que los parroquianos de San José han sido “muy receptivos” a las iniciativas del V Encuentro.

Dijo que hubo seis o siete grupos pequeños de parroquianos que se reunían para conversar sobre los materiales proveídos del V Encuentro, los cuales se llevaron a cabo en cinco sesiones coordinadas por cada grupo.

Los materiales cubren varios temas, tanto cómo la Iglesia puede servir mejor a la comunidad y maneras que los parroquianos pueden ser mejores líderes.

Holmes menciona que parte del proceso también era animar a parroquiano a “salir” y “encontrar” a personas quienes no son activos o no son católicos.

“Podría ser una vecina, un esposo, un compañero del trabajo...” dijo Holmes. “Para algunas personas eso fue fácil; para otros no lo fue.”

Ella explicó que los pequeños grupos leían un pasaje de la escritura, lo discutían y después hacían el compromiso de encontrarse con alguien durante esa semana. Esto incluía preguntarles qué es lo que les impedía asistir a la iglesia y platicaban de los sueños de las personas para el futuro.

Holmes dijo que descubrieron que “a veces hay personas que están luchando y no tienen a nadie



El Padre Rafael Capó, director de la Pastoral Hispana/Latina de SEPI (Instituto Pastoral del Sureste) y sacerdote escolapio, con delegados de algunas de las parroquias con una población latina. El Padre Capó se reunió con los delegados el 19 de agosto después de la procesión, Misa y comida.

con quien platicar.”

Ella dijo que los grupos pequeños produjeron muchos frutos, por ejemplo, uno de los grupos que terminaron su quinta sesión “y ahora han decidido estudiar el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica” juntos.

Las sesiones deberían haber terminado en los fines de junio del 2017, y después haber un Encuentro Parroquial de un día. El Encuentro en San José fue el 24 de junio y fue abierto para todos, aun los que no fueron parte de un grupo pequeño.

## Oración Comunitaria

Durante una visita a la Parroquia de San Miguel en Sebree el 7 de septiembre, el WKC aprendió que esta comunidad también ha visto buenos resultados del proceso del V Encuentro.

Patti Gutiérrez, Asistente Pastoral de San Miguel, dijo que la experiencia ha sido “positiva.”

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Ella dijo que las personas que participaron en las sesiones del V Encuentro han hecho “un esfuerzo deliberado de hablar con otras personas” sobre asuntos de la fe.

Los parroquianos también aprendieron que “solamente es necesario escuchar y así aprender lo que les prohíbe (a otros) venir a la iglesia,” dijo.

Gutiérrez dijo que esto le ha dado a la parroquia una buena oportunidad para reflexionar sobre “cómo podemos hacerlos sentir más como parte de nuestra familia.”

Baltazar Rafael, quien participó en un grupo pequeño de V Encuentro en San Miguel, dijo que

sentía retado aprender más sobre la Biblia, y que “la comunidad se tiene que juntar más y rezar con más frecuencia.”

“El papa dice que no podemos quedarnos en la iglesia; debemos salir a las calles para encontrar a la gente,” dijo Baltazar Rafael.

Su grupo pequeño, lo cual incluye su esposa Dominga Marcos de Rafael; su hija Joselita Rafael; y parroquiana Juana Francisco, han aceptado invitaciones de otros “llegar a rezar el rosario juntos por lo menos una vez a la semana.”

Francisco dijo que esta tradición creciente de rezar el rosario ha sido una “buena experiencia.”

Joselita Rafael añadió que rezando el rosario con

otros les han ayudado “sentir más como parte de la comunidad.”

Dominga Marcos de Rafael dijo que ha sido bueno y que deben seguir consistentes en “invitar a otros rezar con nosotros.”

Baltazar Rafael dijo que una vez escuchó de un sacerdote que “un solo palo no puede hacer fuego” – que quiere decir que debemos juntarnos para crecer en la fe, no quedarnos solos.

“Quiero que esto siga,” dijo. ■

*Nota del editor: el grupo pequeño de San Miguel en Seebree habló en Español y Kanjobal, un dialecto indígena de Guatemala. El WKC se comunicó a través de intérpretes. Fotos por cortesía del Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez.*

## La conferencia carismática inspira, renueva los católicos hispanos/latinos

POR EL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ, OFICINA DE MINISTERIO HISPANO/LATINO

El 26-27 de agosto se llevó a cabo el Séptimo Congreso Carismático Anual de los Hispanos/Latinos en Bowling Green.

Por años ya, parroquianos hispanos de la Parroquia de San José en Bowling Green ponen corazón, mente y duro trabajo en este maravilloso evento de renovación y conversión espiritual para muchos. El evento incluyó la participación de ambos coros; ‘Vencedores en Cristo’ y también ‘Cristo es mi Roca’

De manera especial estamos agradecidos con el grupo carismático de San Jose – “Vida en el Espíritu Santo”, por su liderazgo en organizar el evento.

Fieles hispanos de a través de la diócesis y de fuera estuvieron presentes. Un grupo significativo de hermanos y hermanas de Springfield, Tennessee

también estuvieron presentes. Este año también estuvimos bendecidos por la visita del Señor Obispo William Medley quien como buen pastor llegó a visitar, saludar de mano y mostrar aprecio por los niños.

Un número estimado de alrededor de 400 participantes disfrutaron de momentos de oración, reflexión bíblica, sanación, música y adoración. Los presentadores de este año fueron el Padre Hernán Cely y el Sr. Anthony Rodriguez ambos de la Diócesis de Paterson, Nueva Jersey.

Claro todo esto fue posible gracias al liderazgo y apoyo del párroco de San José, el Padre Andy Garner, como también Gina Holmes, directora del ministerio hispano en la parroquia.

¡Gracias! ■



El Padre Hernán Cely dirige los fieles en oración durante el Séptimo Congreso Carismático Anual de los Hispanos/Latinos Foto por cortesía del Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez.

*El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez es el director de la Oficina de Ministerio Hispano/Latino en la Diócesis de Owensboro. Puede ser contactado a [Chris.gutierrez@parrotal.org](mailto:Chris.gutierrez@parrotal.org)*

# Los feligreses tienen el poder de hacer una ‘cultura de sí’ dice un orador de VOCARE 2017

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Para crear “una cultura de vocaciones” en la parroquia, Rhonda Gruenewald dijo que los tres elementos cruciales son: un párroco/sacerdotes comprensivos, un ministro juvenil, y un ministerio de vocaciones basado en la parroquia.

“Tienen que crear la cultura de ‘sí’ ustedes mismos,” les dijo a los aproximadamente 400 participantes de la gala VOCARE el 22 de septiembre – la celebración anual de las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida consagrada de la Diócesis de Owensboro que toma lugar en el Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro.

La Sra. Gruenewald habló de su experiencia de establecer un Ministerio de Vocaciones, una organización sin fines de lucro que provee recursos y apoyo a las parroquias que buscan promover la conciencia vocacional.

Después de revitalizar el ministerio vocacional en su parroquia en Houston en 2011, le pidieron a Gruenewald que ayudara a hacer lo mismo en las parroquias cercanas.

Hoy día, dirige talleres de ministerio vocacional por todo Estados Unidos, ayuda a la Oficina de Vocaciones de la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston, y ha escrito un libro llamado “Sembrando Semillas: Un Guía para Ministerio de Vocación Parroquial” que está disponible en inglés y español.

La Sra. Gruenewald dijo que dentro de otras necesidades, afirmar a aquellos que ya han dado su “sí” al sacerdocio y la vida consagrada es importante.

“Nuestros sacerdotes y hermanas deben sentirse así (apreciados),” les dijo a los participantes de VOCARE.

Este sentimiento de por sí, era una gran parte de VOCARE mismo. En sus comentarios después de la presentación de Gruenewald, el Obispo William F. Medley les pidió a todos los sacerdotes y religiosos presentes que se pararan, y todos los presentes les dieron un fuerte aplauso.

El Obispo Medley motivó a los presentes tomar a pecho las palabras de Gruenewald.

“Tienen un papel en promover las vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida consagrada,” dijo.

La ocasión había empezado a las 5:00 p.m. con una hora social, y VOCARE abrió formalmente una hora después por el maestro de ceremonias, el P. Brian Roby, quien agradeció a Independence Bank por patrocinar el evento nuevamente.

Después de la cena, el P. Jason McClure, Director de Vocaciones, presentó a cada uno de los ocho seminaristas diocesanos.

Dentro de los ocho, hay dos seminaristas diocesanos nuevos de Birmania, Stephan Van Lal Than y Martin Ma Na Ling, quienes están estudiando para ser sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Owensboro y servirán al pueblo Birmano que sigue creciendo.

La Hermana Amelia Stenger, OSU, Directora congregacional de las Hermanas Ursulinas de Mount St. Joseph, guió la oración de agradecimiento para concluir el evento.

Chris Kight, uno de los seminaristas diocesanos que está estudiando en el Seminario de St. Meinrad, dijo al WKC que era bueno “ver a la gente que un día vamos



Chris Kight, un seminarista diocesano, saluda al P. Carmelo Jiménez y los miembros de su parroquia de San Miguel en Sebree.

## Conozca a los seminaristas

En los próximos meses el WKC va a presentar cada uno de los seminaristas de la Diócesis de Owensboro en la sección de vocaciones del periódico. Aquí es un resumen:

### Corey Bruns\*

Su parroquia: Santa Ana, Morganfield

### Chris Kight

Su parroquia: Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

### Stephen Van Lal Than

Su parroquia: Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green

### Christopher Grief

Su parroquia: San Juan Evangelista, Paducah

### Martin Ma Na Ling

Su parroquia: Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green

### Martin Mikulcik

Su parroquia: San Enrique, Aurora

### Doug Payne

Su parroquia: Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

### Flynn Mudd

Su parroquia: Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

\*Corey Bruns ya fue presentado en el periódico de agosto 2017 cuando escribió sobre su experiencia como seminarista en año de servicio en la Catedral de San Esteban, entonces no aparecerá en esta serie.

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# Parroquias con Misas en Español

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 10:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

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

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

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

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a estar sirviendo en las parroquias y en los ministerios.”

Unos de los presentes de la Parroquia de San Miguel el Arcángel en Oak Grove, el Diácono Tom Torson, dijo que su parroquia “ha sido bendecida con vocaciones – ahora tenemos tres diáconos.”

Su párroco, el P. Julian Ibemere, también presente, agregó, “Es bueno que estamos aquí,” haciendo referencia a lo que dijo Pedro a Jesús en la Transfiguración. ■

## Parroquia de San Leo da la bienvenida al nuevo ministro hispano



La Hermana Esperanza sonríe para una foto con varios niños durante la fiesta de bienvenida a la comunidad.

Gracias a la pastoral del Padre Brandon Williams, pastor de la Iglesia de San Leo en Murray, Kentucky y la oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Owensboro, damos la bienvenida a la Hermana Esperanza en la Parroquia de San Leo. Todo la gente estaba feliz de conocerla. Le deseamos muchas bendiciones al comenzar su ministerio con la comunidad hispana. Fotos por cortesía de la Parroquia de San León.

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

# Domingo del Sacerdocio: Una celebración de un “don extraordinario e irremplazable en la Iglesia”

POR EL PADRE JASON MCCLURE, OFICINA DE VOCACIONES

“Ellos renuevan en nombre de Cristo el sacrificio de la redención, preparan a tus hijos el banquete pascual, presiden a tu pueblo santo en el amor, lo alimentan con tu palabra y lo fortalecen con los sacramentos.

Tus sacerdotes, Señor, al entregar su vida por ti y por la salvación de los hermanos, van configurándose a Cristo, y han de darte así testimonio constante de fidelidad y amor.”

Estas palabras, tomadas del Prefacio en la Misa Crismal, son rezadas por el Obispo cuando la Iglesia celebra la institución por Cristo del Sacerdocio Santo. Una reflexión cuidadosa de esta oración nos recuerda del llamado extraordinario del sacerdote de compartir en el ministerio sagrado de Cristo. Aunque es llamado, al mismo tiempo es un gran privilegio y responsabilidad. En una manera parecida al llamado de un esposo y padre de familia dedicarse en un amor generoso y en servicio a su familia, de la misma forma un sacerdote como el padre espiritual es llamado dedicarse en amor sacrificial de auto-entrega a la Iglesia y específicamente a los que le llaman a servir.

La Iglesia es alimentada por todos los que aceptan el llamado de servir a Cristo con valentía, sin importar su vocación particular. Esta alimentación tiene un significado distinto en el contexto del Sacerdocio Santo sin embargo, como el sacerdote hace presente de una forma sacramental, el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, la misericordia

de Dios en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación, y el amor sanador de Cristo en la unción de los enfermos. El sacerdote acompaña a las parejas que acogen la alianza sagrada del Matrimonio. Él da la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros de la Fe Católica a través de los Sacramentos de Iniciación.

El sacerdote tiene el privilegio de ser invitado a los momentos más sagrados en las vidas de las personas. Está presente entonces para las celebraciones de bautizos, aniversarios y confirmaciones. Está presente para los momentos más grandes, así como también los más tristes. Está en los hospitales, escuelas, cárceles y asilos de ancianos. El Sacerdocio Santo realmente es un llamado extraordinario y un don irremplazable a la Iglesia.

Además de la celebración de la Misa Crismal durante la Semana Santa, la Iglesia provee otras oportunidades de celebrar el don del Sacerdocio Santo. Cada año en octubre, los católicos a través de los Estados Unidos son invitados a celebrar el Sacerdocio Santo en lo que es designado como Domingo del Sacerdocio. Llevado a cabo el último domingo de octubre, el Domingo del Sacerdocio fue establecido en 2003 como una manera para las comunidades católicas de celebrar el don del Sacerdocio Santo y en una manera específica, expresar su aprecio por los sacerdotes dedicados quienes les sirven fielmente. Es un día para reflexionar, afirmar y dar gracias por lo significativo que es el sacerdocio en la vida de la Iglesia.

Se pide a los fieles de cada parroquia, escuela y otro ministerio que desarrollan sus propias formas de marcar el día y honrar tanto al sacerdocio como a sus propios sacerdotes. Hay muchas maneras para celebrar al sacerdocio y honrar a su sacerdote, lo más importante siendo comprometerse rezar por los sacerdotes y especialmente para el sacerdote en su parroquia todos los días.

El Domingo del Sacerdocio es también una oportunidad para rezar por vocaciones y animar a los jóvenes de su parroquia a considerar una vocación al sacerdocio. Además, es un buen momento para reconocer a los seminaristas de nuestra diócesis y rezar por aquellos que han tomado el paso valiente de discernir su vocación en el seminario.

Este año, estamos bendecidos con tener ocho hombres jóvenes en formación en el seminario para la Diócesis de Owensboro. En los próximos meses, el Católico de Kentucky Occidental va a presentar a los seminaristas para que los conozcan mejor o poder rezar por ellos.

Marque su calendario y tome el tiempo de conmemorar el Domingo del Sacerdocio en su parroquia, escuela, ministerio, y especialmente en su hogar con su familia. El Domingo del Sacerdocio este año se celebra el 29 de octubre. Demos gracias a Dios por el Sacerdocio Santo por si no hubiera sacerdotes, no hubiera la eucaristía. ■

*El Padre Jason McClure sirve como el director de la Oficina de Vocaciones y es Vicario del Clero para la Diócesis de Owensboro.*

# Abortion and post-traumatic stress disorder

BY CONSTANCE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

*Editor's note: Constance (last name withheld for privacy) is a volunteer with Rachel's Vineyard in western Kentucky. Below, she shares her story.*

We are familiar with PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). We may have friends and family members that have gone through traumatic events during their service in the military or have been involved in a car accident. We may suffer with the symptoms of PTSD ourselves, such as:

- o Feelings of hopelessness, shame, or despair
- o Depression or anxiety
- o Alcohol or drug addiction
- o Physical symptoms or chronic pain

## PTSD and the abortion experience

Yet, there is that one family member, that one friend, or maybe even ourselves, who suffer in silence and shame due to our abortion experience.

I know firsthand the anguish of suffering in silence. I know the feelings of hopelessness, shame, and despair.

## My story

Today, my story begins with my favorite Bible verse. "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Today, I know that God works out all things for good. I have confidence that God can take my challenges and my unpleasant circumstances and turn them into good.

Forty years ago, I did not have that confidence.

Forty years ago, I found myself as a scared, pregnant teenager. I still remember the day I decided to have the abortion. I lost my faith in God. And I still remember the moment I had the abortion, I lost faith in myself.

The next several years brought the struggles of life, of being in my 20s. We all had the typical struggles with college, the beginnings of a career, and of course, relationships. Yet, I didn't feel like my fellow 20-somethings. I had a deep dark secret, a secret so deep, it felt as if I had a toxic poison flowing through my heart. How could anyone love me if they really knew me? If they knew what I did? No one could

love me if they knew I killed my own child.

I needed to grieve. But how could I? Society told me that I should feel empowered. Wasn't abortion my right? Why did I feel so wrong?

Years went by, I was suppressing the grief. I stuffed the feelings in the abyss of my heart, keeping my grief hidden and silent. I felt separated from God.

I longed for something. I realized the longing was to regain the faith of my childhood. I longed to have God be part of my life. I received the sacrament of reconciliation. I thought I was doing okay.

Then another tragedy came. The hopes and

*Continues on page 28*

**Rachel's Vineyard**

**PTSD - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**  
 We are familiar with PTSD. We may have friends and family members that have gone through traumatic events during their service in the military or being involved in a car accident. We may suffer the symptoms of PTSD ourselves; such as feelings of hopelessness, shame or despair; depression or anxiety; alcohol or drug addiction; physical symptoms or chronic pain.

**PTSD and the Abortion Experience**  
 Yet, there is that one family member, that one friend, or maybe even ourselves, who suffer in silence and shame due to our abortion experience. There is a place we can go - Rachel's Vineyard.

**Rachel's Vineyard - A Safe Haven**  
 Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

**Come Join Us For a Weekend of Emotional Healing and Spiritual Renewal.**  
**November 10th- 12th, 2017. Owensboro.**

Contact: Debbie Ward, phone: (270) 570- 4717 or email: [debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com](mailto:debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com)  
 ALL communications are held in strict confidence.  
<http://hopeafterabortionky.com>

*Rachel's Vineyard Retreat continued from page 27*

prayers to have children came to an end when I suffered a miscarriage. The pain of my past abortion came crashing in as if waves from a storm, flooding my heart with unhealed grief and self condemnation. I felt as if God was telling me “You threw away the first gift of a baby that I gave you, why should I give you another gift of a child?” I knew that voice wasn't God, but my own self condemnation.

### **Rachel's Vineyard – a safe haven**

The announcement for an upcoming Rachel's Vineyard retreat was in the church bulletin. That announcement saved my life:

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend re-

treats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

At my retreat, I was able to reconcile with Christ and forgive myself. The toxic poison of self-condemnation was gone. I realized the child I aborted is not in some dark horrible place. He is with Christ. I did this horrible thing, but my child is not being punished because of my sin.

So today, I can confidently say that God works all things for good, for His plans. I volunteer at Rachel's Vineyard retreats.

Come join us for a weekend of emotional healing and spiritual renewal.

Rachel's Vineyard helps us experience God's love and compassion on a profound level. The retreat creates a place where men and women can share, often for the first time, their deepest feelings about abortion. We are allowed to dismantle troubling secrets in an environment of emotional and spiritual safety. Those of us who have been trapped in anger toward ourselves or others, experience forgiveness. Peace is found. Lives are restored. A sense of hope and meaning for the future is finally re-discovered.

Please join me. Our retreat is November 10-12, 2017. Please contact Debbie Ward at (270) 570-4717 or email [debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com](mailto:debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com). Visit our website [www.hopeafterabortionky.com](http://www.hopeafterabortionky.com).

Join me for a weekend that transformed my life and will transform yours. ■

## Tri Mission 2017 – Live more fully for Jesus

BY JUDY COOMES, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Stephen Cathedral, Blessed Mother Parish, and SS. Joseph and Paul Parish are uniting again to build community, know Jesus better, and strengthen faith. Fr. John Judie will guide us toward these goals during Owensboro's third Tri Mission at 6:30 p.m. on October 23-25. Fr. Judie's presentation and message drew a record crowd at a recent mission hosted by Lexington's Cathedral of Christ the King. Quite an endorsement!

God repeatedly gives us the chance to begin anew because humans do not have enough power to make God not love us. We all learn from the past, but we must not allow ourselves to live there but rejoice in the peace of God's presence within us. Regardless of one's religion, Fr. Judie's wisdom and message await all as he shows us that love is like the light from a

candle and sharing that light can make a world of difference. We are truly the “salt of the earth” and bringing out the best in ourselves brings out the best in others. Our words and actions should strengthen, not destroy, others.

We all know that worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles but only robs us of today's peace. Regardless of what life throws at us or how much we suffer, God awaits us with open arms and is our life jacket.

Though our lives and world may be imperfect, we must recognize what is good in the midst of imperfection. Commit to attend the 2017 Tri Mission, for commitment is what turns a promise into reality. Use the three Tri Mission nights at St. Stephen, Blessed Mother, and SS. Joseph and Paul, respec-

tively, to receive the grace of a new beginning and live more fully for Jesus. Please reserve these three evenings on your calendar and socialize afterwards with food and conversation. ■

*Judy Coomes is a parishioner of Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro.*

### **Dates & locations**

- Oct. 23: St. Stephen Cathedral, 610 Locust St., 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 24: Blessed Mother Parish, 601 E. 23rd St., 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 25: SS. Joseph and Paul Parish, 609 E. 4th St., 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome. To learn more, call Judy Coomes at (270) 570-1083 or email [coomesjudy@gmail.com](mailto:coomesjudy@gmail.com).

# Priesthood Sunday: A celebration of an ‘extraordinary, irreplaceable gift in the Church’

BY FR. JASON MCCLURE, OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

“They are to renew in his name the sacrifice of human redemption, to set before your children the paschal banquet, to lead your holy people in charity, to nourish them with the word and strengthen them with the Sacraments.

As they give up their lives for you and for the salvation of their brothers and sisters, they strive to be conformed to the image of Christ himself and offer you a constant witness of faith and love.”

These words, from the Preface to the Chrism Mass, are prayed by the bishop as the Church celebrates Christ’s institution of the Holy Priesthood. A careful reflection on this prayer reminds us of the priest’s extraordinary call to be sharers in Christ’s sacred ministry. While it is a call, it is at the same time a great privilege and responsibility. In much the same way that a husband and father is called to give himself in selfless love and service to his family, so the priest as a spiritual father is called to dedicate himself in self-giving sacrificial love to the Church and specifically to those to whom he is called to serve.

The Church is nourished by all who courageously accept the call to serve Christ, regardless of his or her particular vocation. That nourishment takes on a distinct meaning in the context of the Holy Priesthood however, as the priest makes present in a sacramental way, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Christ’s healing love in the anoint-

ing of the sick. The priest accompanies couples as they enter into that sacred bond of Holy Matrimony. He welcomes new members into the Catholic Faith through the Sacraments of Initiation.

The priest is privileged to be invited into the most sacred events of people’s lives. He is there for the celebrations of baptisms, anniversaries, and confirmations. He is there for some of the greatest moments as well as some of the most sorrowful. He is in the hospitals, schools, prisons, and nursing homes. The Holy Priesthood is truly an extraordinary call and an irreplaceable gift to the Church.

In addition to the celebration of the Chrism Mass during Holy Week, the Church provides other opportunities to celebrate the gift of Holy Priesthood. Each year in October, Catholics throughout the United States are invited to celebrate the Holy Priesthood on what has been designated Priesthood Sunday. Held on the last Sunday of October, Priesthood Sunday was established in 2003 as a way for Catholic communities to celebrate the gift of the Holy Priesthood and in a specific way, to express appreciation for the devoted priests who serve them so faithfully. This is a day to reflect upon, affirm, and give thanks for the significance of the priesthood in the life of the Church.

The faithful in each parish, school, or other ministry are asked to develop their own way of marking the day and honoring both the priesthood and their own priests. There are many ways of celebrating the

priesthood and honoring your priest, the most important of which is to make a commitment to pray for priests and especially your own parish priest every day.

Priesthood Sunday is also an opportunity to pray for vocations and encourage young men from your parish to consider a vocation to priesthood. Moreover, it is a good time to acknowledge the seminarians of our diocese and pray for those who have courageously taken the step to discern their vocation in the seminary.

This year, we are blessed to have eight young men in seminary formation for the Diocese of Owensboro. Over the next few months, The Western Kentucky Catholic will be introducing our seminarians as a way of letting you get to know them so that you might be familiar with these men as you lift them up in prayer. We are proud of these men and we look forward to you getting to know more about them.


Mark your calendars and make a point of remembering Priesthood Sunday in your parish, school, ministry, and very importantly in your home with your family. Priesthood Sunday this year is celebrated on the October 29. Let’s give God thanks for the Holy Priesthood for if there are no priests, there is no Eucharist. ■

*Fr. Jason McClure serves as director of the Office of Vocations and is vicar for clergy in the Diocese of Owensboro.*

## Contact our Office of Vocations

 (270) 683-1545

 [owensborovocations.com](http://owensborovocations.com)

 [jason.mcclure@pastoral.org](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org)  
[fred.litke@pastoral.org](mailto:fred.litke@pastoral.org)

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



*Wonder* what it's like being a Nun?  
Interested in *Religious Life*?

## *Passionist* *Vocation Retreats*

Open to Single, Catholic women ages 17-30

**October 13-15, 2017**

**March 23-25, 2018**

Interested? Contact us:

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

## Meet the seminarians

Over the next few months, the WKC will introduce each one of the Diocese of Owensboro's seminarians in the Vocations section of the paper.

**Corey Bruns\***

Home parish: St. Ann, Morganfield

**Chris Kight**

Home parish: St. Thomas More, Paducah

**Stephen Van Lal Than**

Home parish: Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

**Christopher Grief**

Home parish: St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

**Martin Ma Na Ling**

Home parish: Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

**Martin Mikulcik**

Home parish: St. Henry, Aurora

**Doug Payne**

Home parish: Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

**Flynn Mudd**

Home parish: St. Thomas More, Paducah

\*Corey Bruns was introduced in our August 2017 issue, in which he wrote about his experience as a seminarian intern at St. Stephen Cathedral, so he will not appear in this new series.



## PRAYER SERVICE

Supporting Migrants & Refugees

**OCTOBER 11 | 7 PM**

Sts. Joseph & Paul Catholic Church 609 E 4th St., Owensboro, KY 42303

**Bishop William F. Medley Presiding**



# October Wedding Anniversaries

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

### **Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

Steve & Ashley Glenn, 10  
John & Sylvia Morton, 51  
Ryan & Kristen Bumm, 5  
Ernie & Lou Davis, 57

### **Christ the King, Madisonville**

Jud & Karen Caldwell, 10

### **Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

Larry & Phyllis Bumpus, 50  
Dwight & Diana Emerson, 53  
Aaron & Brandi Houser, 10  
Dean & Mary Ann Jorgensen, 52  
Mike & Heather Krampe, 25  
Ray & Evelyn Shoemaker, 70  
Glenn & Jeana Thomas, 40  
Herman & Mary Ruth Thomas, 64  
Joseph & Mary Ann Thomas, 50  
Robert & Holly Warren, 25  
Ronald & Dretha Weddell, 50

### **Holy Guardian Angel, Irvington**

Kevin & Tammy Compton, 25

### **Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**

Kevin & Ashley Terry, 5  
Jake & Angela Barrick, 10  
Robert & Leslie Pfingston, 25  
Edward & Marilouise Thomas, 25  
John & Sue Schnell, Jr., 40  
Robert & Georgia Zoellner, 54

### **Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

Norman & Sharon Newman, 5

### **Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

John & Ashley Callahan, 10  
Kevin & Mary Lasley, 25  
Ronald & Julie Mattingly, 25  
Timothy & Amy Priar, 25  
Eugene & Sheila Graff, 40  
David & Patricia Hamilton, 65  
Jerry & Virginia Harper, 51  
Jerry & Vickie Kennedy, 54

### **Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro**

James E. & Erin Conkright, 5  
Joseph & Mary Jane Clark, 55  
J. C. & Mildred Higdon, 63  
Billy & Anna C. King, 67  
Joe & Ann Roth, 53  
Lester & Helen Schaick, 68  
George L. & Anna Weldon, Jr., 61

### **Sacred Heart, Russellville**

Kerry & Sharlet Beauregard, 54

### **Sacred Heart, Waverly**

Donald & Ellen Buckman, 63

### **St. Agnes, Uniontown**

Alan & Sonya Gough, 25

### **St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**

Bob & Janette Warren, 61

### **St. Ambrose, Henshaw**

Ronnie & Debbie Odom, 40

### **St. Ann, Morganfield**

Eddie & Peggy Salyers, 66

### **St. Anthony, Peonia**

Randolph & Judy White, 53  
Ervin & Coreen Moore, 53

### **St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel**

Charles & Patricia Bissinger, 52  
Francis & Sue Henning, 56

### **St. Denis, Fancy Farm**

Aaron & Christal Ellegood, 25

### **St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**

Stuart & Lois Stephany, 57  
James & Mary Scott, 52  
Siro & Marcella Pandolfi, 69  
Raymond & Rose Marie Smith, 53  
Michael & Sammy Wray, 5  
Paul & Catherine Floyd, 56

### **St. Henry, Aurora**

Carl & Sharon Nank, 56

### **St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**

James Clay & Karen Willett, 52  
Jack & Mary Ann Purcell, 59  
Billy & Pauline Gore, 53

Terry & Hettie Wilson, 54

### **St. John the Baptist, Fordsville**

Junior & Mary Roby, 51  
Joe & Eileen Fulkerson, 59

### **St. John the Evangelist, Paducah**

Doug & Tina Kaufman, 25  
James & Diania O'Nan, 52  
Darin & Tracie French, 10  
Gerald & Pat Roof, 57  
Paul Louis & Martha Wurth, 57  
Charles & Margaret Ballard, 57  
Charles & Linda Hatton, 52  
Albert & Dolores O'Nan, 5

### **St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish**

Randall & Mary Lou Wilson, 50

### **St. Joseph, Bowling Green**

Kyle & Lauren Duff, 5  
Robert & Connie Choate, 25  
Kenneth & Marilyn Rice, 50  
Brian & Patricia Bour, 51

### **St. Joseph, Leitchfield**

Estille & Joan Dobson, 58  
Rodney & Linda Borland, 25

### **St. Joseph, Mayfield**

Juan & Godeleva Montes, 5  
Luis & Maria Guadalupe Paiva, 5  
David & Barbara Koonce, 51  
David & Janie Carrico, 5  
Mike & Nancy Bisto, 56  
Harold & Barbara Hayden, 62

### **St. Lawrence, Philpot**

Edward & Marcella Wethington, 52  
Bernard & Kathleen Wright, 60

### **St. Leo, Murray**

LeRoy & Janice Gerl, 51  
John & Marie Clark, 56  
Alfred & Patricia Koehler, 60

### **St. Mark, Eddyville**

David & Ann Harkis, 52  
Joseph & Patricia, 52

### **St. Mary, Franklin**

Dr. A. V. & Kay Wilwayco, 59

St. Mary, LaCenter  
Bob & Debra Gilarski, 40  
Tony & Mary Margaret Higgins, 25

### **St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**

William D. & Mary Ann Knott, 57

### **St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville**

Matt & Holly Boarman, 10  
Tim & Connie Russelburg, 25  
Barry Dean & Karen Aud, 40  
Pat & Paula Bickett, 40  
David & Rose Hamilton, 50  
Lawrence & Mary Jo Wright, 54  
Val & Bernadine Payne, 56  
Shelby & Kay Howard, 51  
Rodney & LaGina Payne, 10

### **St. Michael, Sebree**

John & Brenda Badertscher, 54

### **St. Paul, Leitchfield**

Frank & Catherine Gawarecki, 58  
Murrell & Ann Sims, 52  
Don & Sharon Cooper, 50  
Daniel & Linda Clark, 52  
Virgil & Darlene Keown, 52

### **St. Paul, Princeton**

Fred & Marcy Foltz, 40  
Thomas & Martha Stewart, 53

### **St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley**

Ken & Edie McKay, 50

### **St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro**

Thomas & Elizabeth Johnson, 52

### **St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**

Frank & Abbie Whitfill, 5  
Greg & Angie Tivitt, 25  
Matthew & Jennifer Barr, 10  
Alvin & Margie Mattingly, 55  
John & Marcia Simmons, 52

### **St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport**

Joe & Marie Haycraft, 51  
John & Libby Popham, 60

### **St. Sebastian, Calhoun**

Charles & Faye May, 51

### **St. Stephen, Cadiz**

Robert & Helen Vidmar, 54  
Richard & Marlene Goll, 53

### **St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**

Matthew & Haley Fitzgerald, 5  
Ronald & Cissy Sullivan, 57

### **St. William, Knottsville**

James & Whitney Meserve, 5  
Samuel & Jessica Henderson, 5  
Frankie & Priscilla Haynes, 50  
Marvin & Josephine Boling, 53  
Allen & Becky Payne, 57  
Ralph & Catherine Mudd, 58  
Kenny & Marguerite Lanham, 55  
Claudie & Erma Millay, 65

### **SS. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Christophe & Kristina Collins, 5  
Paul & Lauren Westerfield, 5  
Matt & Sarah Roberts, 10  
Steve & Collette Brown, 25  
Tina & Joe Keller, 25  
Peter & Kim Cahill, 40  
Tom & Angela Maxwell, 50  
Robert & Mary Helen Ward, 57

### **SS. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

Brandon & Nicole Peck, 5  
Casey & Lauren Brown, 10  
Fabian & Claudia Galdean, 10  
Dean & Edith Koch, 25  
Clarence & Helen Allard, 52  
Ronald & Beverly Todd, 54  
Lyndon & Sheila Goode, 57

# Murray State Catholic campus ministry kicks off new school year

BY FR. EUGENE BATUNGBACAL, CSSR, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC



(Left to right) Bishop William F. Medley; FOCUS missionaries Jacob Carrillo, Peter Longoria, Emily Ritchie, Kelsey Wieser; and Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, CSSR.

The Newman House Catholic Campus Ministry for Murray State University had a blessed beginning for the school year 2017-2018.

Once again we welcomed many new faces and were delighted to see returning students. We begin our ministry both in prayer and playful fellowships. Our FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary team returned with two new faces as well. Kelsey Wieser from Wisconsin and Jacob Carrillo from Colorado are joining our returning FOCUS missionaries Emily Ritchie from Oklahoma and Peter Longoria from Tennessee.

Among the highlights of the beginning of the school year was the solar eclipse that mesmerized the whole country. Our students were present to witness such beautiful natural phenomenon.

The Newman House Catholic Campus Min-



Murray State students wear safety glasses while viewing the Aug. 21, 2017, total solar eclipse.

istry for Murray State University is thriving and truly being blessed. Please visit our website to see all the things that we do: [catholiccracers.org](http://catholiccracers.org). ■

*Fr. Eugene Batungbacal, CSSR, is a Redemptorist priest who serves as associate pastor of St. Leo Parish in Murray, and is director of campus ministry at the Newman House.*

## Youth news around the diocese



Trinity High School's Lady Raiders competed in the All "A" State Tournament in mid-September. The team finished the season as 3rd Region champions. Photo courtesy of Trinity High School.



Twelve-year-old Madisyn Montgomery with her pastor at St. William Parish, Fr. John Okoro. Madisyn collected and filled eight backpacks to send to Nigeria with Fr. Okoro. Photo courtesy of the Montgomery family.