

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

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Features

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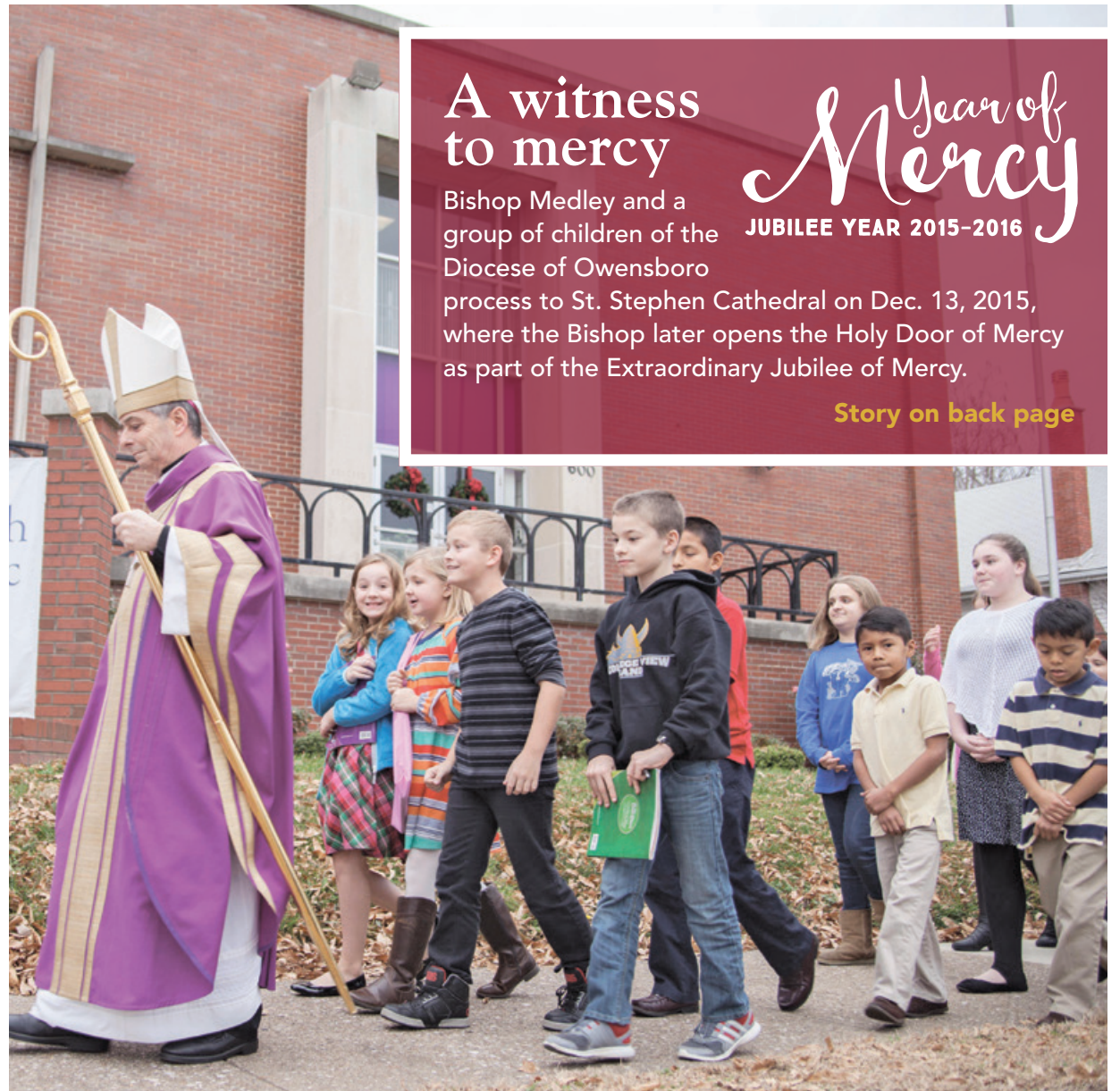
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A witness
to mercy

Bishop Medley and a
group of children of the
Diocese of Owensboro

process to St. Stephen Cathedral on Dec. 13, 2015,
where the Bishop later opens the Holy Door of Mercy
as part of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

Year of
Mercy

JUBILEE YEAR 2015-2016

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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 your articles within a 500-word limit pertaining to issues and events within our diocese. **Photo guidelines:** The Western Kentucky Catholic will consider your high-resolution digital photos showing special moments and memories from within our diocese. Photos must be a JPEG format (ending in ".jpg") and sent via email. A photo description, date, and name of photographer must be included. Please email your articles or photos to wkc.editor@pastoral.org by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month.

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

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

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A Word from Bishop Medley

My dear people of God,

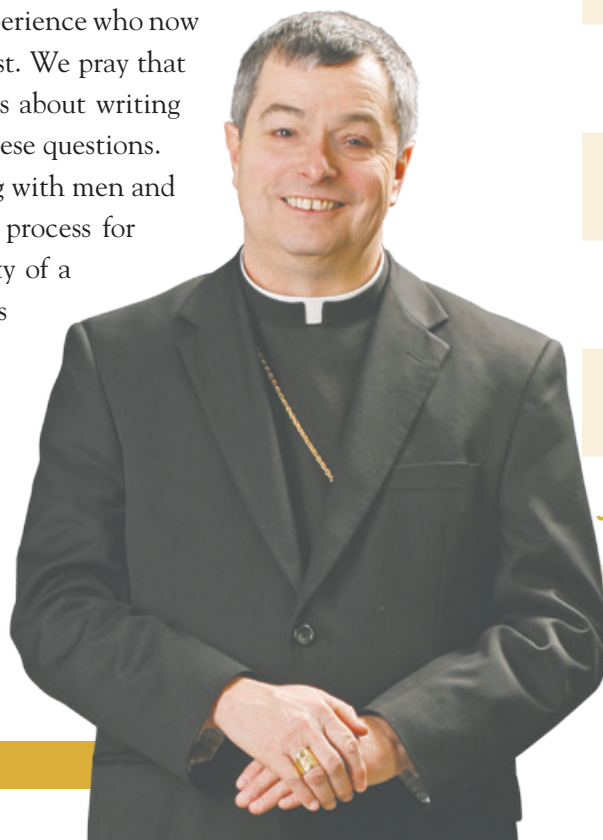
On December 8th Pope Francis inaugurated a Jubilee Year for the Church with an ancient tradition of opening a Holy Year door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This door symbolically presents a threshold through which pilgrims pass to pray at the holy site. The theme of this Jubilee Year is the Mercy of the Father. It is Pope Francis' prayer that the world may reflect upon God's mercy, that individuals be awash in God's mercy, and that we might all be instruments of God's mercy in the world.

As a pastor I was most aware of the disappointment and pain that men and women experience when a marriage fails and ends in divorce. Often a person feels abandoned – for indeed they have been. Others bear great guilt that their actions led to the demise of their holy matrimonial covenant, sometimes because of infidelity, more often because of neglect. How does the mercy of God speak to those who have been wronged in marriage and to those who wronged another?

One of the focal concerns of the recent Synods that considered the family in the 21st century was the question of the reception of Holy Communion for those divorced and remarried apart from the norms of Church law. The Synod Fathers left with Pope Francis the pastoral challenge of responding to the hunger many experience who now are excluded from participation in the Eucharist. We pray that the Holy Spirit now guides our pope as he sets about writing an Apostolic Exhortation to address some of these questions.

The Church does have a forum for exploring with men and women the reality of a failed marriage and a process for evaluating genuine questions about the validity of a marriage. You may be familiar with this process commonly known as seeking a declaration of invalidity: an annulment. Perhaps if you are familiar with this process you have known people who have had an unpleasant experience.

Oftentimes there have developed myths about the process that have discouraged people from pursuing this avenue. Apart from anything Pope Francis may do in the coming



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BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR ● JANUARY 2016

- JAN 3-7** Region V Bishops Retreat – New Orleans, LA
- JAN 10** 10:00 a.m. ● Mass – St. Paul Parish, Princeton
- JAN 11-14** Diocesan Presbyterate Convocation – Saint Meinrad, IN
- JAN 16** 4:00 p.m. ● Diocesan Confirmation Retreat Visit – St. Stephen Cathedral
5:00 p.m. ● Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral
- JAN 17** 10:00 a.m. ● Confirmation – Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro
- JAN 18** 9:45 a.m. ● Priests' Personnel Board Meeting – MCC
1:30 p.m. ● Priests' Council Meeting – MCC
- JAN 22** 12:05 p.m. ● Mass for Life – St. Stephen Cathedral
- JAN 24** 10:30 a.m. ● Confirmation – St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Owensboro
- JAN 25** 6:00 p.m. ● Catholic Foundation of Kentucky Board Meeting
- JAN 26** 10-3:00 p.m. ● Paducah Office Hours – Lourdes Hospital, Paducah
- JAN 27-28** Province Bishops Meeting – Louisville, KY
- JAN 30** 5:00 p.m. ● Confirmation – St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield
- JAN 31** 10:00 a.m. ● Confirmation – Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

A Word from Bishop Medley ... Continued from page 3

months, I want to extend an invitation for people to explore this formal resolution of an attempted marriage.

Pope Francis has already initiated some reforms of the declaration of invalidity process.

- In the declaration of invalidity process the Church assigns those who have expertise in canon law (church law) to examine the circumstances of the marriage. While it may ap-

pear a complex matter, in short the Church examines the question as to whether or not a marriage from its beginning indeed met the criteria of Christian marriage, that it was a union of man and woman in life and love that was permanent and faithful and open to the procreation of children.

- One initiates a declaration of invalidity process either by contacting their parish priest or

contacting the Tribunal of the diocese. Many parishes have designated advocates who are trained lay people who assist people explore a declaration of invalidity.

- The declaration of invalidity process is always confidential.
- The Diocese of Owensboro now presents no fees for those seeking a declaration of invalidity. There are exceptional cases that require a review through the Holy See, but if these fees are prohibitive the diocese can cover them.

In the media recently there was much discussion about some changes in the declaration of invalidity process. In rare cases the process may be abbreviated but the only way to know if a case may qualify is to initiate the process. I do believe recent reforms will streamline the declaration of invalidity process but every case is unique because every attempted marriage is unique.

The declaration of invalidity process is a process of the Catholic Church to assist men and women to resolve issues from a marriage that ended. It is meant to be a healing process; for some a process of mercy. This Jubilee Year of Mercy is a great time to accept Christ's abundant gift of love and mercy.



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Places of pilgrimage in the Diocese of Owensboro

It's now the Year of Mercy and you are welcome to visit the six pilgrimage sites in our diocese! They are:

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

610 Locust Street, Owensboro
Contact: Michael Bogdan, (270) 852-8327

Chapel of Mercy, St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah
Contact: Lois Bell, (270) 534-9000

Fathers of Mercy Chapel of Divine Mercy, Auburn

806 Shaker Museum Road, Auburn
Contact: Fr. Joel Rogers, (270) 361-9613

Marian Shrine at St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green

434 Church Avenue, Bowling Green
Contact: Parish office, (270) 842-2525

St. Mary of the Woods Parish, McQuady

4711 Highway 105 S, Hardinsburg
Contact: Sister Mary Agnes, (270) 756-2093

Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel, Maple Mount

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount
Contact: Sister Mary Matthias Ward, (270) 229-2011

Out of consideration for the places of pilgrimage, pilgrims are asked that if more than 8-10 pilgrims are visiting, contact the site first to ensure that they can accommodate your group.



Agents of compassion and clean water

Water-purifying mission saves, transforms lives



A group of Water Women in India smile as they look at the container of purified water that can now be easily accessed by numerous families. Photo courtesy of Water With Blessings Inc.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD,
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Sister Lorraine Lauter, OSU, the cofounder of Water With Blessings, has always worked under the assumption that “God has put smart women everywhere.”

Therefore, establishing an organization that prioritizes women – mothers, specifically – as “agents of transformation” just made sense to this Ursuline Sister of Mount St. Joseph.

Water With Blessings trains and equips women in communities of survival to purify water for themselves and their neighbors, drastically decreasing illnesses and deaths from unclean water.

To date, more than 110,000 people have been touched by WWB’s lifesaving mission – and WWB has only been an official non-profit since 2011.

“When I work in communities with a lot of needs, communities of survival, I pretty universally find that women, especially young women, are a very untapped resource,” said Sister Lauter.

An idea that blossomed

The concept of WWB started when Sister Lauter, who does medical mission work in developing countries, together with teammates Arnie LaMay and Jim Burris, realized their medical team was

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Year of
Mercy
JUBILEE YEAR 2015-2016

Living the Year of Mercy

The Jubilee Year of Mercy was established by Pope Francis to last from Dec. 8, 2015 to Nov. 20, 2016. As a special series celebrating the Works of Mercy, The Western Kentucky Catholic is highlighting stories of individuals who live these Works around the Diocese of Owensboro. This month’s article tells the story of Water With Blessings, whose mission for clean drinking water exemplifies the Work “Give Drink to the Thirsty.”



A Water Woman from Honduras writes on the water container while a young girl looks on. Photo courtesy of Water With Blessings Inc.

Agents of compassion ... Continued from page 5



Coreen, one of the trainers and teachers who was empowered to be a Water Woman one year ago in Maggotty, Jamaica, trains a group of village women to become new Water Women to provide clean water for their family, and three other families. Photo courtesy of Sister Martha Keller, OSU.

overwhelmed with water-related sicknesses.

LaMay, a hospital engineer, found that after water-related stomach parasites were cured, “people are sick again in two weeks,” Sister Lauter recalled.

“We began researching everything,” said Sister Lauter. The idea appeared in 2007, and by the following year the three friends were attempting the water-purifying technology now used by WWB; the Sawyer PointONE filter.

But while the filters could have been distributed to developing communities as is done in countless cases of mission work, the WWB wanted the communities to thrive and continue to teach others how to use the water filters long after the medical missionaries left.

There was also the crisis faced by young mothers, those who with their children are at the very bottom in terms of vulnerability and survival: “Especially single mothers because those children are most likely to die,” said Sister Lauter.

The key was to invite the mothers themselves – under the title of “Water Women” – “to be agents of compassion and clean water. By doing that, we could multiply their impact,” she said.

Starting in Honduras, WWB has now reached 31 countries.

Parish initiatives

Ranni Dillard of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson, met Sister Lauter when a WWB demonstration took place at the parish. Dillard, the parish’s social action coordinator, was interested in bringing the filters to the Diocese of Mandeville in Jamaica.

Members of the Diocese of Owensboro had already ministered in Mandeville on numerous occasions, but WWB’s healing touch had yet to reach Jamaica.

In 2014 the parish fundraised to purchase water filters for WWB, with the goal of bringing the technology to Jamaica. The local community, including a nearby Methodist church, pitched in to help, even knitting special covers for the filters.

“We raised enough money for 40 water filters,” said Dillard. “That would help 160 families. In November 2014 we went down to Jamaica with a team

The Works of Mercy

The fourteen Works of Mercy are divided into two categories.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

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

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

Admonish the sinner
Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Comfort the sorrowful
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive all injuries
Pray for the living and the dead

of six of us, and trained four water teachers.”

Dillard said that it was exciting “to know that the program was continuing and it was making a difference in the health of the people receiving the water filters.”

“You are living that Work of Mercy – providing drink to the thirsty, reaching out to those in need, helping the least of these, which is what Jesus is asking us to do,” she said.

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'A little bit of heaven here on earth'

Religious vocations discovered, fostered in Diocese of Owensboro



Eva Atkinson and Sister Pam Mueller, OSU, organize goodies at the stress relief zone during Brescia University's fall 2015 final exams. Atkinson is director of Brescia's counseling center, and often works closely with campus minister Sister Mueller. Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Wake Up the World: Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life

The Year of Consecrated Life has been going strong from Nov. 30, 2014 and will conclude on Feb. 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated Life. This story explores the journeys of four religious men and women who grew up in the Diocese of Owensboro and today serve the Church and world in many capacities.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD,
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Even as a young boy, Fr. Thomas Petri, OP, was drawn to “the idea of giving oneself to the Lord.”

“I was in high school and had a reversion back to the faith,” said Fr. Petri, who grew up at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville. “The people of Christ the King welcomed me, supported me.”

“They were the first to tell me I should think about becoming a priest,” he said.

Sister Pam Mueller, OSU, had attended Mount St. Joseph Academy and, despite opposition from family members, discerned a possible call to religious life as a young adult.

As a freshman at Brescia College she attended an Open House with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph, and thought, “Oh my gosh, I have to pursue this.”

A “sense of restlessness” was what the future Sister Mariana Koonce, RSM, felt after following her dream to become a physician, “even though I’d

done things the way I wanted to do.”

“I knew something needed to change; that’s when I entered the discernment process,” she said.

Fr. Michael Langston, OSB, was a mere fifth-grader when he and several other boys visited St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana.

The youthful parishioner of St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah “got hooked on the first visit,” said Fr. Langston, who “wrote to the abbot and said

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'A little bit of heaven here on earth' ... Continued from page 7

I wanted to become a Benedictine.”

Four unique stories, but these religious men and women all have one thing in common: growing up within the Diocese of Owensboro.

As Fr. Petri explained, “I really do see my vocation as not simply being nourished in the diocese, but finding it there.”



Sister Pam Mueller lays out donuts at Brescia's stress relief zone, a welcome sight to weary students during final exams. Photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Relying on God

Sister Pam Mueller's father died when she was a sixth-grader living with her family in Florida. She and her brother found themselves living with their uncle in Kentucky, as their mother's alcoholism made living with her impossible.

“I found I needed to rely on God a lot more than maybe I would have on my parents,” said Sister Mueller.

Sister Mueller said that her uncle's family was prejudiced against Catholicism, which proved difficult for young Pam, who was Catholic and attending Catholic school.

She found respite when she and her brother lived with Hugh and Pauline Mills for one summer, but they did return to her uncle, who was legal guardian.

At age 14 Pam received permission to attend Mount St. Joseph Academy, and developed good relationships with Ursuline sisters there. Sophomore year on a retreat she was startled to realize she might have a vocation.

“I dismissed it,” she said. But after attending the Mount's Open House as a college student, she knew this was real.

“My uncle said that if I even thought about being an Ursuline I could find another place to live,” Sister Mueller recalled. She got in contact with the Mills family, who promptly welcomed her back into their home.

That August she became a postulant with the Ursuline sisters.

During her time as an Ursuline she has served as a speech pathologist and vocations director for the community, which she sees as forming her for her current position as Brescia University's campus minister.

“Grace came with it,” she said of her many roles over the years.

Today she ministers to the spiritual and sometimes emotional needs of the student body, and works closely with the campus' counseling center, including director Eva Atkinson.

Sister Mueller has found that she has “flourished” as campus minister, and references the statement on a plaque that sits in her office: “Your story matters. Tell it.”

Seeing the world



Fr. Micheas Langston, OSB

Fr. Micheas Langston recently retired and moved home to St. Meinrad Archabbey, but his 50 years ordained a Benedictine priest have definitely kept him busy.

The Paducah native joined the monastery after his second year of college, as was typical at the time, and made

his final vows in 1962.

He was studying at Beuron Archabbey in Germany when he met a military couple and became interested in serving as a military chaplain.

“I've been a priest for 50 years and 45 of those years have been in the Army,” he said, adding that he greatly enjoyed his many years as an Army chaplain, spending time in places like Turkey, Vietnam and even East Germany during the Communist rule.

Fr. Langston said that it was common when he was growing up for Benedictine monks to substitute at his local parishes while the diocesan priests were on vacation: “I was used to (the Benedictines) and the ones who came got close to my family.”

“A lot of parishes would bring groups of kids to the seminary to see what it’s like,” he recalled. “I think it’s important to get the kids interested when they’re young.”

Dignity and healing

Sister Mariana Koonce grew up in St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield, and went to the University of Notre Dame on a Navy scholarship with the clear goal of becoming a family physician.

“After I got out of the Navy, I began a private practice in Washington State,” she said. “After I did everything I wanted to do, I got around to ask-

ing God what he wanted!”

She was directed to visit the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, who serve as medical professionals in different capacities.

“Once I left myself open to what God was directing it went pretty fast,” said Sister Koonce, who today is executive and medical director of St. Mary’s Legacy Clinic, a mobile clinic in Knoxville, Tenn.

Sister Koonce said that religious life serves as a witness – not just of the various roles religious can play, but “more witness of what we are all called to be; the eschatological witness to the Kingdom that everyone is called to be a part of.”

“A little bit of heaven here on earth,” she said.

On a daily basis Sister Koonce, some fellow sisters and volunteers travel around rural Tennessee to serve those living on the margins of society, and provide not only physical care but also emotional support.

“The health piece is just a small part of what they have going on in their lives,” said Sister Koonce, citing little education and family issues as some hurdles her patients must cross.

The mobile clinic is more than healthcare: “It’s

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Agents of compassion ...
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Friendship & sisterhood

Sister Martha Keller, OSU, is an Ursuline sister like Sister Lauter, who also happens to be a good friend.

“I have been impressed with the mission of WWB from its origin,” said Sister Keller, who serves as pastoral associate at St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm.

Sister Keller and St. Jerome’s pastor, Fr. Darrell Venters, brought Sister Lauter to present WWB to both the adults and the kids during their summertime formation programs.

“We shared our dream with the parish and quickly got 60 sponsors,” said Sister Keller. St. Jerome’s raised close to \$17,000 to allow 10 parishioners to take filters to Mandeville, Jamaica in 2015.

In four weeks the group could not take any more filters because of the two-suitcase limitation: “We



Sister Lorraine Lauter, OSU, who cofounded Water With Blessings, chats with a young friend. Photo courtesy of Water With Blessings Inc.

slipped the filters in between other medical supplies, clothing, empty medication bottles, educational material, pencils, papers, crayons, markers (and) shoes,” said Sister Keller.

Sister Keller said she can think of nothing that the world, Church and families need more than

“to embrace and focus on the call to be, show and accept mercy, and to commit to intentionally growing and living as disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Sister Lauter herself is very grateful for this collaboration with her fellow sisters and from her community at large.

“Ursulines are supposed to be risk-takers, so they supported me in that risk” of establishing WWB, said Sister Lauter.

“I am grateful for my community giving me the opportunity to try this out and see if it would work,” she said. ♦



Learn More

Learn more about Water With Blessings by visiting WaterWithBlessings.org or calling (502) 356-9281.

January Wedding Anniversaries

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Nick & Martha Faye Blandford, 10
Robert & Dena Montgomery, 61

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Ted & Barbara Brown, 58

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Fred & Cleo Brown, 50
James & Sharon Drury, 54
Guy & Frances Hogan, 54
Jerry & Charlotte Hopf, 57
Joseph & Carolyn Kelley, 40

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Harry & Constance Largent, 56
George & Barbara Powers, 56
Basil & Joann Jones, 55
Bret & Rachel Leer, 5

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Bobby & Theresa May, 62

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Roy Lee & Mary Sue Wheatley, 40
John R. & Betty Brown, 54

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Ken & Charlene Ackerman, 57
William & Suzanne Blanford, 53
James & Lillian Bowlds, 57
James P. & Connie Hayden, 57
Anthony & Mae Kamalich, 62
Joseph R. & Frances Millay, 55

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

John W. & Barbara Montgomery, 52
Hal & Eleanor Renshaw, 59
George & Marsha Ballard, 51
Phillip & June D. Bell, 55
Melvin & Lois Connor, 59
Charles C. & Mary Bonnie Gray, 59
Jack & Wanda Hufnagel, 67
Gary & Mary Carol Jackson, 52

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Charles & Ann Connor, 58
James & Shirley Ellis, 58
Doug & Betty Howard, 61
James & Evelyn Mattingly, 63
Mike & Cloa Thompson, 56

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Paul & Carolyn Tapp, 25
William T. & Cecilia Buckman, 53

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Hamel & Rose Floyd, 63

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

David & Sharon Thompson, 50
Thomas & Sylvia O'Reilly, 25

St. Ambrose, Henshaw

Joseph & Jo Sheffer, 58

St. Ann, Morganfield

Kenny & Teresa Lee Thomas, 50
Donald G. & Peggy French, 65

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Norbert & Helen Rose Smith, 58

St. Anthony, Peonia

Gene & Lesa Weikel, 5

St. Anthony the Abbot, Axtel

Chris & Juanita Ballman, 25

St. Benedict, Wax

Billie & Juanita Meredith, 56
Glenn & Carol Otis, 25

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

Steve & Laquita McCarty, 40
Fred & Betty Lattus, 52

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Francis M. & Judith Taylor, 52
Keith & Judy Walker, 56
Michael J. & Esther Shoulta, 56

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Keith & Julie Byerly, 5
David & Angie Alexander, 10
Ronnie & Sue Cook, 40
Joseph & Pearl Stahr, 59
Charles & Shirley Rowe, 58
Conrad & Rozella Spalding, 60

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Michael & Shirley Poat, 51
Albert & Joyce Wurth, 56

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Ramiro & Rosa Herrera, 5
Matthew & Elizabeth Doucette, 10
Robert & Sandra Gasperetti, 50
Ray & Helen Grudzielanek, 67

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Denny & Nancy Hargrove, 53
James & Wanda Warner, 56
James & Frankie Riley, 57

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James & Frances Payne, 66

St. Mary, Franklin

Frank & Marie Farmer, 57

St. Martin, Rome

Donald & Vivian Fischer, 63

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Harold & Jan Clements, 58

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Allen & Debbie Bickett, 40
J. Wm. & Mary Howard, 52
Bill & Katie Christian, 56
Joseph & Jackie Head, 58
Dan & Sue Howard, 57

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Normand E. & Elizabeth L. Vandal, 58

St. Paul, Princeton

Michael & Anne Laughlin, 54

St. Peter, Waverly

George & Rita Gayle Nelson, 57
Danny & Cathy Wolfe, 40

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Kenneth & Martha Pendleton, 55
James L. & Patty Settles, 56
William J. & Lillian Young, 62
James & Mary Keller, 59

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Clem & Brenda Hinkebein, 40
Pat & Derwood Doyle, 56

St. Pius X, Owensboro

David & Sharon Ford, 10
Gary & Pat Lively, 25
Russell & Judy Payne, 40
Leon & Cecilia Aud, 53
Francis & Betty Haynes, 53
Francis & Mary Howard, 63

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Aaron & Jennifer Carr, 10
Mack & Dolores Mattingly, 57
Jimmy & Mary Rita Whitworth, 57
Logan & Judy Tivitt, 51

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Bill & Bonnie Hawkins, 52

St. Stephen, Cadiz

William & Maxine Hobbs, 55

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Steven & Judy Carrico, 40
Donald H. & Carol Ralph, 50
James & Mary Ann Clouse, 56

St. Thomas More, Paducah

William & Shanna Barabas, 5
Ron & Nancy Balmer, 50
Bernie & Connie Herrmann, 63

St. William, Knottsville

Patrick & Rose Meserve, 50
James A. & Linda Hamilton, 58

SS. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Levi & Margaret Peterson, 57
Don & Maxine Hobbs, 55
Fred & Debbie Garnett, 40
William & Sarah Allen, 10
Thomas & Karla Wagner, 10
Richard Capps & Maureen Leamy, 5

Archives Corner

JANUARY 2016



Take a walk down memory lane to days gone by in the Diocese of Owensboro! To learn more about the Archives Office and how they can help you find historical information about the Diocese of Owensboro, contact our archivist Heidi Taylor-Caudill at Heidi.caudill@pastoral.org or call (270) 683-1545 and ask for Archives.

At left: A child places money in the church bank for children's donations at St. Stephen Cathedral on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006.



The Ohio River Great Flood of 1937 took place in January of that year. The whole City of Paducah was flooded, and Louisville also suffered massive flooding, causing major evacuations in both cities. In this photograph, people board boats to escape the floodwaters in downtown Paducah.

Sister Ann McGrew explains waiting on God

Ursuline Sister Ann McGrew, OSU, shared her thoughts on "The Art of Waiting" on Dec. 1, 2015, for those gathered for the monthly "Evening with an Ursuline" presentation at the Mount St. Joseph Conference and Retreat Center in Maple Mount. During the first week of Advent, Sister McGrew's talk centered on waiting on God as a way to advance our spirituality. On the first Tuesday of each month, guests are invited for dinner and then a presentation by an Ursuline sister from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Kathy McCarty at (270) 229-4103.



Joyce Kormelink, left, Ursuline Sister Cecelia Joseph Olinger, center, and Judy Curtsinger laugh at a comment Sister Ann McGrew made during her Dec. 1 "Evening with an Ursuline." Photo courtesy of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph.

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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

2014 Mass Attendance by Deanery

BOWLING GREEN DEANERY

Parish	City	Population	Mass Count Total	Mass Attendance	2014 Attendance	2014-15 Change
Christ the King	Scottsville	177	111	62.71%	69.19%	-6.48%
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	147	193	131.29%	126.88%	4.41%
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	3624	1359	37.50%	44.66%	-7.16%
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	55	105	190.91%	150.91%	40.00%
Sacred Heart	Russellville	395	258	65.32%	58.90%	6.42%
Saint John The Baptist	Fordsville	56	45	80.36%	73.53%	6.83%
Saint Joseph	Bowling Green	2352	1063	45.20%	53.45%	-8.25%
Saint Mary	Franklin	252	217	86.11%	73.56%	12.55%
Saint Susan	Elkton	165	132	80.00%	80.42%	-0.42%
Saints Mary & James	Guthrie	166	134	80.72%	81.07%	-0.35%
TOTAL:		7389	3617	48.95%	54.62%	-5.67%

CENTRAL DEANERY

Holy Name of Jesus	Henderson	4127	1392	33.73%	35.69%	-1.96%
Sacred Heart	Waverly	193	128	66.32%	65.98%	0.34%
Saint Agnes	Uniontown	740	374	50.54%	50.83%	-0.29%
Saint Ambrose	Henshaw	91	47	51.65%	50.55%	1.10%
Saint Ann	Morganfield	940	467	49.68%	48.16%	1.52%
Saint Francis Borgia	Sturgis	207	115	55.56%	61.81%	-6.25%
Saint Michael	Sebree	364	242	66.48%	51.52%	14.96%
Saint Peter of Antioch	Waverly	532	264	49.62%	54.63%	-5.01%
Saint William of Vercelli	Marion	110	69	62.73%	48.53%	14.20%
TOTAL:		7304	3098	42.42%	42.94%	-0.52%

EASTERN DEANERY

Holy Guardian Angels	Irvington	220	175	79.55%	71.99%	7.56%
Immaculate Conception	Hawesville	318	176	55.35%	56.96%	-1.61%
Saint Anthony	Axtel	524	354	67.56%	63.87%	3.69%
Saint Anthony	Peonia	190	110	57.89%	69.54%	-11.65%
Saint Augustine	Grayson Springs	106	60	56.60%	63.11%	-6.51%
Saint Benedict	Wax	150	91	60.67%	83.08%	-22.41%
Saint Columba	Lewisport	209	112	53.59%	47.53%	6.06%
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary	Clarkson	162	130	80.25%	70.00%	10.25%
Saint John the Evangelist	Sunfish	81	65	80.25%	55.88%	24.37%
Saint Joseph	Leitchfield	459	356	77.56%	68.10%	9.46%
Saint Mary of the Woods	McQuady	322	238	73.91%	114.67%	-40.76%
Saint Paul	St. Paul	469	243	51.81%	57.21%	-5.40%
Saint Romuald	Hardinsburg	1400	574	41.00%	43.21%	-2.21%
Saint Rose of Lima	Cloverport	315	169	53.65%	38.79%	14.86%
TOTAL:		4925	2853	57.93%	57.10%	0.83%

FANCY FARM DEANERY

Sacred Heart	Hickman	86	33	38.37%	72.41%	-34.04%
Saint Charles	Bardwell	127	104	81.89%	77.21%	4.68%
Saint Denis	Fancy Farm	102	61	59.80%	56.72%	3.08%
Saint Edward	Fulton	82	64	78.05%	95.56%	-17.51%
Saint Jerome	Fancy Farm	1265	725	57.31%	64.55%	-7.24%
Saint Joseph	Mayfield	1424	826	58.01%	66.53%	-8.52%
Saint Jude	Clinton	50	28	56.00%	47.06%	8.94%
TOTAL:		3136	1841	58.71%	66.30%	-7.59%

HOPKINSVILLE DEANERY

Parish	City	Population	Mass Count Total	Mass Attendance	2014 Attendance	2014-15 Change
Christ the King	Madisonville	518	305	58.88%	65.56%	-6.68%
Holy Cross	Providence	40	14	35.00%	48.88%	-13.88%
Immaculate Conception	Earlington	160	135	84.38%	48.84%	35.54%
Resurrection	Dawson Springs	102	52	50.98%	70.11%	-19.13%
Saint Charles Borromeo	Livermore	121	66	54.55%	65.56%	-11.01%
Saint Joseph	Central City	200	137	68.50%	57.04%	11.46%
Saint Michael the Archangel	Oak Grove	1005	439	43.68%	59.32%	-15.64%
Saints Peter & Paul	Hopkinsville	1674	728	43.49%	42.72%	0.77%
TOTAL:		3820	1876	49.11%	52.01%	-2.90%

OWENSBORO DEANERY – EAST

Blessed Mother	Owensboro	2205	1304	59.14%	55.11%	4.03%
Our Lady of Lourdes	Owensboro	2046	1009	49.32%	56.14%	-6.82%
Saint Anthony	Browns Valley	375	147	39.20%	23.77%	15.43%
Saints Joseph & Paul	Owensboro	1308	1131	86.47%	82.31%	4.16%
Saint Lawrence	St. Lawrence	354	195	55.08%	65.48%	-10.40%
Saint Mary of the Woods	Whitesville	2380	1062	44.62%	43.81%	0.81%
Saint Pius X	Owensboro	1322	687	51.97%	49.39%	2.58%
Saint William	Knottsville	1209	606	50.12%	66.51%	-16.39%
TOTAL:		11199	6141	54.84%	55.82%	-0.98%

OWENSBORO DEANERY – WEST

Blessed Sacrament	Owensboro	113	71	62.83%	55.17%	7.66%
Immaculate	Owensboro	1958	1167	59.60%	63.70%	-4.10%
Precious Blood	Owensboro	737	598	81.14%	52.40%	28.74%
Saint Alphonsus	Saint Joseph	510	275	53.92%	52.14%	1.78%
Saint Augustine	Reed	88	57	64.77%	61.82%	2.95%
Saint Elizabeth	Curdsville	240	83	34.58%	49.09%	-14.51%
Saint Martin	Rome	270	367	135.93%	126.78%	9.15%
Saint Mary Magdalene	Sorgo	727	429	59.01%	60.49%	-1.48%
Saint Peter of Alcantara	Stanley	255	183	71.76%	63.50%	8.26%
Saint Sebastian	Calhoun	246	135	54.88%	50.19%	4.69%
Saint Stephen Cathedral	Owensboro	1299	478	36.80%	55.38%	-18.58%
TOTAL:		6443	3843	59.65%	60.59%	-0.94%

PADUCAH DEANERY

Rosary Chapel	Paducah	125	79	63.20%	70.40%	-7.20%
Saint Francis de Sales	Paducah	1120	613	54.73%	93.62%	-38.89%
Saint John the Evangelist	Paducah	780	408	52.31%	56.86%	-4.55%
Saint Mary	LaCenter	167	83	49.70%	50.27%	-0.57%
Saint Thomas More	Paducah	1635	928	56.76%	51.41%	5.35%
TOTAL:		3827	2111	55.16%	65.33%	-10.17%

THE LAKES DEANERY

Saint Henry	Aurora	192	185	96.35%	84.58%	11.77%
Saint Leo	Murray	1107	674	60.89%	71.40%	-10.51%
Saint Mark	Eddyville	124	142	114.52%	106.42%	8.10%
Saint Paul	Princeton	108	72	66.67%	68.18%	-1.51%
Saint Pius X	Calvert City	215	191	88.84%	57.14%	31.70%
Saint Stephen	Cadiz	265	202	76.23%	56.39%	19.84%
TOTAL:		2097	1603	76.44%	73.01%	3.43%
All Totals:		50140	26983	53.82%	56.36%	-2.54%

Bishop Medley's November included major USCCB meeting; NCYC

Bishop Medley certainly had a busy November!

On Nov. 13-19 he attended the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) annual general assembly, in which the bishops discussed issues of religious freedom, approved some minor revisions in the Faithful Citizenship document – which provides guidance for Catholic voters – and published a document on pastoral approaches to individuals addicted to pornography.

“All the priests in the country are aware of this problem,” Bishop Medley told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* in a recent conversation. “(Pornography) distorts a person’s expectations unrealistically, and vulgarly. It’s an epidemic.”

Bishop Medley said that “Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography” is “a good document” and that he looks forward to seeing how it is applied in the coming years.

Other items included discussion of the Syrian refugee crisis. Bishop Medley said that the US bishops stand on different opinions in some matters, but their response to the refugee crisis was “unanimous because it’s a Christian thing to do.”

“There is a Gospel imperative and historical perspective for American Catholics who know how their ancestors arrived,” he said.

On Nov. 19-21 Bishop Medley joined numerous bishops and 23,000 participants in Indianapolis to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), which drew 270 youth and adult leaders from western Kentucky.

The bishop had a chance to meet many youth



Seminarian CJ Glaser, Bishop Medley, and seminarian Corey Bruns smile for a quick Instagram photo during NCYC 2015 in Indianapolis. Photo courtesy of Corey Bruns.

from our diocese, and added that he was blessed to hear confessions during the conference too.

When he spoke with the diocesan youth, Bishop Medley asked about their favorite part of NCYC; “what will you remember when you get home?”

Nearly all of them said “adoration,” referring to the Friday evening adoration and praise and worship, including a part when all 23,000 youth were silent to pray before the Eucharist.

“To a kid who doesn’t have Catholic peers, this is a great opportunity,” said Bishop Medley, explaining that this helped the youth feel like they “aren’t the only ones.” ♦

St. John the Evangelist Parish, K of C hold blood drive

St. John the Evangelist Parish, with the help of the St. John Knights of Columbus and the American Red Cross, held a blood drive on Nov. 22 in memory of parishioners who died in 2015. By the end of the day 29 life-savers had rolled up their sleeves to donate blood. Having begun the parish-wide blood drive event in 1993, the parish has since donated a total of 1,854 units (231 gallons) of blood. The next blood drive is Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016.



Joe Weitlauf gives blood at the Nov. 22 blood drive at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Paducah. Photo courtesy of Paul Roof.



Bishop William Medley preaches during the Mass in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson, KY. Photo by Susy Solorza.



Rosa Rosales and Juan Medina reenact the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Photo by Susy Solorza.



Men from the Hispanic community at Holy Name of Jesus Parish pose for a picture after performing the folk dance "Danza de los Viejitos" ("Dance of the Old Men") typical of Michoacán formed from ancient rhythms and traditional instruments. Photo by Susy Solorza.

Joy found in Our Lady of Guadalupe

BY SUSY SOLORZA, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Joy in hope; that is what Our Lady of Guadalupe invokes on her feast day, December 12 for so many of our communities in the Diocese of Owensboro. It was an opportunity to honor the mother of our Creator, who comes speaking the language of the lost and forgotten. In her, we find our home within our Church, just as St. Juan Diego did in 1531 on a hill, Tepeyac, in the country of Mexico. She came to him with her regal garb, brown skin, and Aztec words, to proclaim that in her womb she carried the Savior of the world, she brought hope. And from that hope, joy springs out of our communities in the form of eucharistic celebrations, rosaries, dances, fellowship, food, and a continuation of tradition.

On Dec. 11 and 12, 2015, Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated in parishes all across western Kentucky. Sites of celebration included St. Susan Parish, Elkton; Holy Redeemer Parish, Beaver Dam; SS. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro; St. Michael Parish, Sebree; Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson; St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah; Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville; SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Hopkinsville; and St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green. ♦

Bottom, right: Women from the Hispanic community at Holy Name of Jesus Parish perform a folk dance from Mexico during the celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Photo by Susy Solorza.



Fr. Carmelo Jimenez Salinas at St. Michael Parish in Sebree shows a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which came from Mexico. Photo by Tina Kasey.



Fr. Carmelo Jimenez Salinas kneels and says a prayer for the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Michael Parish, Sebree. Photo by Jennifer Glenn.



Music fest raises \$6,000 for pregnancy care centers

BY JEFF SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The second annual Bluegrass on Beshear – Pickin’ Life music fest, held on Oct. 11, raised \$6,000 for three area pro-life pregnancy care centers. Event creator Laura (Mills) Smith was delighted with the outcome.

“We set goals in 2015 of doubling attendance and donations and we exceeded both,” said Smith. At least 300 music fans attended the event on a picture perfect fall day and four bands donated their talents.

Event hosts Laura Smith and her husband, Jeff,



Justamere Bluegrass Band entertains the crowd on Oct. 11 at the Bluegrass on Beshear music fest near Dawson Springs. This was a fundraiser for local pro-life pregnancy care centers presented by the Blessed Trinity Council of the Knights of Columbus. Photo courtesy of Jeff Smith.

and Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council, presented \$2,000 checks to Shelter of Love in Morganfield and Door of Hope in Madisonville during Thanksgiving week.

H.O.P.E. Clinic in Benton received its \$2,000 check on December 1.

“Raising funds to support these wonderful organizations is very important,” said Smith. “They provide all of their services free-of-charge and depend 100 percent on donations from the commu-

nity to keep their doors open.”

She added, “But it’s just as important to raise awareness that there are faith-based pregnancy care centers in our area that offer free, comprehensive, non-judgmental support to men and women trying to cope with crisis pregnancies.”

Planning has already begun for the third annual bluegrass event, which will be held on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016 at Lake Beshear, near Dawson Springs.

“We want this event to keep growing,” she said. “Together, with help from our area churches, we can make it even better.” ♦

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 web site (www.rcdok.org/safe).

The members of the Board who deal with sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Owensboro are as follows: Mr. Ken Bennett (Chair), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty, Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, Mr. Tony Kraus, Mr. Michael Marsili, Ms. Kelly Roe (Vice-Chair), and Ms. Jennifer Hendricks-Wright. Richard Murphy serves as the Bishop’s liaison to the Review Board. The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian.

Events at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

To register for sponsored events at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

Evening with an Ursuline Dinner/Presentation

First Tuesday of each month ● 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

The \$20 fee includes dinner.

Jan. 5	Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU – <i>Change and Transition: A Reflection</i>	May 3	Sister Vivian Bowles, OSU – <i>Mind Management</i>
Feb. 2	Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU – <i>Why Do I Feel Guilty When it's Time to Relax? Dealing with Everyday Stress</i>	June 7	Sister Ann McGrew, OSU – <i>The Choice to Say "Yes;" The Choice to Say "No"</i>
Mar. 1	Sister Marietta Wethington, OSU – <i>Angela, A Woman for All Time</i>	July 5	Sister Mary Matthias Ward, OSU – <i>Blueprint for Life: Beatitudes</i>
Apr. 5	Sister Ruth Gehres, OSU – <i>Chile: An Ursuline Adventure</i>	Aug. 2	Sister Ruth Gehres, OSU – <i>The Gift of Forgiveness</i>

New Class for 2016: "A Father Who Keeps His Promises"

First class is Thursday, Jan. 7.

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

After Jan. 7, all classes will take place on the second Thursday of each month. The dates are Feb. 11, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8.

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

Led by Sister Ann McGrew, OSU

Fee: \$10 per session (includes lunch and program)

"A Father Who Keeps His Promises" is a book by Scott Hahn on God's covenant Love in Scripture. It explains how God patiently reaches out to us — despite our faults and shortcomings — to restore us into relationships with his divine Family. Hahn begins with Adam and Eve and continuing down through the generations to the coming of Christ and the birth of the Church.

Mount Saint Joseph Quilt Club

Sign up by Jan. 7 to get your name into the 2015-16 Quilt of the Month Club drawings. The drawings take place the first Friday of each month. For a \$20 ticket, you still get nine chances to win a handmade quilt. Or sign up by Feb. 4 to get eight chances to win. To order your ticket(s), contact Kris Mango at 270-229-2009 or kris.mango@maplemount.org.

Yarn Spinners

Weekend of Jan. 8-10 (Also March 4-6, June 3-5, Aug. 26-28, Nov. 4-6)

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

Whether you are an experienced yarn spinner, weaver, rug hooker, knitter, crocheter or a beginner, you are welcome to attend the Arts at the Mount weekend retreats. Enjoy the fellowship of those who appreciate this traditional skill. The group plans to "spin, knit and talk until we're done!" For information on room rates, costs, etc., or to register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org.

Eucharistic Adoration

Second Sunday of each month

Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, etc.

3 p.m.-5 p.m. (The time has been extended to two hours during the Year of Mercy)

Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Chapel

Adoration will conclude with evening prayer. Adoration also takes place every Friday from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Announcing the Diocese of Owensboro's official e-newsletter

The Office of Communications is pleased to announce the launch of the diocesan email newsletter.

The newsletter will include brief and informative content to keep parishioners and friends of the diocese up-to-date on the Catholic faith and aware of upcoming events. Content will include videos, picture galleries and resources to assist you in living out your faith.

You are invited to sign up by visiting the following link:

<http://eepurl.com/bF4ZtX>

The e-newsletter will arrive in your inbox between the publishing of The Western Kentucky Catholic. We do not sell or share our subscriber information with anyone else.

19th Annual Youth 2000

A Eucharistic Centered Retreat

NEW LOCATION!

Owensboro Convention Center,
Owensboro, KY

March 11-13, 2016

Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Ages 13-30 welcome! For more information and to register, contact 270-683-1545 or visit MarianShrineKY.org

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

The Tender Mercy of God: Jesus and Gospel Women

March 11-13, 2016

Retreat Director: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU



During this retreat weekend, participants will reflect on "the tender mercy of God" as embodied in Jesus' treatment of a number of women in the gospels. Jesus extended divine mercy to childless women, women whose children had died, poor and sick women, "foreign" women, "sinners" and to women outside conventional roles. Through reading, reflecting and sharing, attendees will translate the face of God's mercy toward Gospel women into the experience of God's mercy today.



Sister Cheryl

Retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday and ends after lunch Sunday. Fee: \$180 for residents or \$130 for commuters.

Get a 10% discount if paid in full by Feb. 11.

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

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



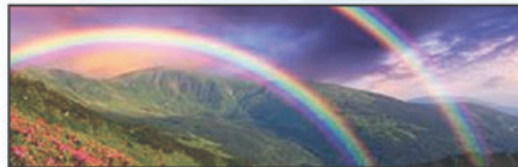
Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

NEW Book Study: A Father Who Keeps His Promises



Begins Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016

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

Fee: \$10 per class (includes lunch)

"A FATHER WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES" is a book by Scott Hahn on God's covenant Love in Scripture. It explains how God patiently reaches out to us — despite our faults and shortcomings — to restore us into relationships with his divine Family. Hahn begins with Adam and Eve and continues down through the generations to the coming of Christ and the birth of the Church.

SCHEDULE: Jan. 7 • Feb. 11 • March 10 • April 14 • May 12 • June 9

• Aug. 11 • Sept. 8 • Oct. 13 • Nov. 10 • Dec. 8

Retreat Director: Sister Ann McGrew, OSU

*After January, classes take place on the **SECOND THURSDAY** of each month (there is no class in July).*

To register, contact Kathy: (270) 229-0206

kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org

Find a flyer at www.ursulinesmsj.org under Conference & Retreat Center



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2016 BULLETIN BOARD

■ **First diocesan Gennesaret Retreat to be held this spring**

The three-day Gennesaret Retreat is designed for persons with chronic or life-threatening medical conditions. The weekend retreat includes time for rest, prayerful reflection, daily conferences, Eucharist and the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The retreat staff includes experienced nurses and team members who will provide for the special needs of all retreatants. The Gennesaret Retreat will be held at the Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center in Maple Mount, Ky. on April 29, 30, and May 1, 2016. For more information, call Tom Payne at (270) 929-8544 or Amy Payne at (270) 316-0403.

■ **Alzheimer's Association events in January**

The Alzheimer's Association Greater KY/Southern Indiana chapter presents the followings Jan. 2016 events:

- **Know the 10 Warning Signs:** Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.; First Baptist Church of Paducah, 2890 Broadway St., Paducah
- **Effective Communication Strategies:** \$5 donation suggested; designed for family caregivers; please no professionals.
 - Jan. 19, 5-7 p.m.; PADD Office, 2300 Hammond Ln., Hopkinsville
 - Jan. 21, 4-6 p.m.; McCracken County Cooperative Extension Service, 2705 Olivet Church Rd., Paducah
 - Jan. 26, 10 a.m.-12 noon; Healthpark, 1006 Ford Ave., Owensboro
- **Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body:** Jan. 21, 1-2 p.m.; McCracken County Senior Center, 1400 H.C. Mathis Dr., Paducah. Designed for general public; \$5 donation suggested; \$15 fee for professionals.

Registration is required for all programs by calling 1-800-272-3900

■ **Taize prayer at Immaculate Parish**

All are welcome to attend a Taize prayer service at Immaculate Parish on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016. Service will be led by Matt Gray and includes time of song, scripture and silent reflection.

■ **St. Meinrad alumni & friends to serve at Gasper River**

The St. Meinrad Alumni Association will host its third annual St. Meinrad Day of Service on Saturday, March 12, in 10 cities. In Bowling Green, KY, the event will be held at Gasper River Youth Camp and Retreat Center. The Day of Service is an opportunity for Saint Meinrad alumni, oblates, friends and others to serve their communities – a chance to pray together, socialize together, and encourage each other while giving their time and talent to help others. The event begins with 8:45 a.m. registration, including continental breakfast at that time. Work begins at 9:30, with a break for lunch at 12:30 p.m. Work resumes at 1:30 p.m. and ends at 4 p.m. with Mass. Fr. Mike Williams will be coordinating the service project. There is no cost to participate and each volunteer will receive a free t-shirt and lunch, courtesy

of the St. Meinrad Alumni Association. You need not be an alumnus to participate. Volunteers are asked to register by March 1 to ensure an accurate count for lunch and t-shirts. For more details or to register, visit <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/dayofservice> or call the Alumni Office at (800) 682-0988.

■ **Passionist nuns request translating assistance**

The Passionist Nuns of Whitesville need the volunteer help of someone fluent in Italian who has the time to do some translating for them. Interested? Email Mother Catherine Marie at nunsp@passionistnuns.org.

■ **Grade school principal needed**

St. Paul School in Grayson County is looking for a half-time principal, with an option to add a half-time teaching position on as well. This small but growing

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

JANUARY

- 5 **Evening with an Ursuline dinner and presentation: Change and Transition**
- 7 **A Father Who Keeps His Promises Book Study begins**
- 8-10 **Yarn Spinners Weekend Retreat**
- 11-15 **Spiritual Direction Training (Week 2)**
- 16-22 **St. Meinrad Retreat Week**
- 22-24 **Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program**
- 29-31 **Retrouvaille**

FEBRUARY

- 2 **Evening with an Ursuline dinner and presentation: Why Do I Feel Guilty When it's Time to Relax?**
- 6-7 **Catholic Engaged Encounter**

11 **A Father Who Keeps His Promises Book Study**

- 20 **Once More With Love**
- 21-24 **MSJ Quilting Friends**
- 26-28 **Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program**

MARCH

- 1 **Evening with an Ursuline dinner and presentation: (Saint) Angela, A Woman for All Times**
- 4-6 **Yarn Spinners Weekend Retreat**
- 10 **A Father Who Keeps His Promises Book Study**
- 11-13 **Women's Retreat: Tender Mercy of God**
- 18-19 **Confirmation Retreat (Immaculate Conception)**
- 18-20 **Diocese of Owensboro Diaconate Program**



Center-sponsored programs are **BOLD**. Please call to register. We are located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56. To register or schedule an event, call Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0206 kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org • www.ursulinemsj.org



Office of Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Owensboro



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

PK-8 school in rural Grayson County is the perfect job for a retired principal or for a teacher who is looking for their first principal job. There is much opportunity for growth in this job. Anyone interested is asked to contact St. Paul School at (270) 242-7438.

■ **Adult formation at Immaculate Parish**

Here are upcoming adult faith formation opportunities at Immaculate Parish. Contact: Diane Willis, director of faith formation at (270) 683-0689 or dwillis@immaculateparish.org.

- **"First Corinthians"** program from Ascension Press will begin Jan. 4, 2016 and run through March 14, 2016. Class will be offered on two different times: 10-noon and 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Immaculate Parish will also host a discussion called **Catholicism 102**, beginning Jan. 5 and running for five weeks; each session will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. Subjects will include Catholicism & Protestantism: Similarities & Differences; Mary & the saints; the Sacraments; and the Mass.
- Two **CREDO** classes: Jan. 9 (Church history) and March 12 (social justice); both at 8 a.m.-noon. Catechists who participate will receive credit for certification, but all are welcome.
- Controversial topics will be covered in a program titled **HOT TOPICS** over Lent 2016. Topics will include marriage, contraception, moral relativism and apologetics. The four speakers are Sister Celeste Boda, OSB, judicial assistant for the diocesan tribunal; Joe Bland, director of family life for the diocese; Fr. Jason McClure, vocation director for the diocese; and Mark Ginter, nationally-known speaker, author and "head gardener" at St. Joseph's Holy Family in Indiana. Program takes place Feb. 16 and 23, and March 1 and 8, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the parish family center.

■ **'A scout is reverent'**

The Religious Emblems Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral will take place on Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m., and a reception will follow. At this Mass Bishop Medley will preside and the youth will receive the medals that they have earned over the past year. For those who will need to attend a board of review prior to this, they may come at 9 a.m. on Feb. 13 to Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro or to St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green. In the event of bad weather, they may come on Feb. 20 at the same time and locations. Please see the Scout page of the diocese website (rcdok.org) for further information.

Nominations are now open for the 2016 John J. McRaith Providing Help Creating Hope Award!

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro established the John J. McRaith Providing Help, Creating Hope Award in 2013 to recognize individuals or groups in our diocese who abundantly show the virtue of charity in their work and deeds, aligned with the mission of Catholic Charities.

The criteria are broad and encompassing. Groups and persons who reside within the diocese are eligible, regardless of their religious preference or where their charitable assistance occurred. The award is named after Bishop Emeritus John J. McRaith who retired as bishop of the Owensboro Diocese January 5, 2009.

The mission of Catholic Charities is: integrating and coordinating social and charitable works; providing spiritual, educational, financial, and emotional support to those in need, and engaging in works of charity.

To nominate a group or individual, please complete the form below. All nominations should be submitted by March 4, 2016.

Name of individual or group you are nominating: _____

Address of nominee/s: _____

Nominated by: _____

Parish of person or committee making nomination: _____

Who can we contact if further information is needed?

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Please describe charity performed-Use separate sheet if necessary:

Please mail form to: Catholic Charities, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301



A Ministry of the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky

Annual Collection

January 9-10, 2016



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1-888-496-3638

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• 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

The Western Kentucky Catholic would like to report two errors discovered in our December issue's article, "Christmas joy brought by 'lovely' Knottsville community." The story stated that each family is allowed to ask for four items from the giving tree, while in actuality each family member is allowed to ask for four items each. Also, Patty Johnson's name was accidentally misspelled as "Patsy." The Western Kentucky Catholic regrets these errors.

Upcoming Deacon Discernment Meetings in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky

In September 2016, the diocese will begin the third class in English to form men who are discerning the permanent diaconate. The formation period for the class will be from 2016 to 2021. As of September 1, 2016, an applicant's age should be a minimum of 30 or a maximum of 60. A variance from the age requirements can be requested.

Informational meetings presenting basic information concerning the diaconate and an opportunity for questions and answers will be held in early 2016. Spouses of the men are encouraged to participate in the meeting. The information meetings are scheduled for:

February 28, 2016 • 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green

March 6, 2016 • 6:00-7:00 p.m.
St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah

March 13, 2016 • 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro

Discernment of an ecclesial vocation does not take place in a vacuum; the Christian community and its pastors play key roles in this process. In the Diocese of Owensboro, when someone inquires of the diaconate he is counseled to meet with his pastor and discuss his application to the program if he has not yet done so.

If the man inquiring is married then his wife is encouraged to participate in the discussions with the pastor. As part of the initial application, the pastor's recommendation and attestation that the individual meets the canonical requirements for formation is required before admission to the program.

We encourage the submittal of the application before the information meeting; however, it is not required.

In order to be selected to join this class, men will need to submit an application and participate in interviews. For more information and application forms, visit:

http://rcdok.org/vocations/permanent_diaconate/

EL CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY PARA ENERO 2016

ENERO 3-7 Retiro de Obispos de la Región V, New Orleans, LA

ENERO 10 10:00 a.m. ● Misa – Parroquia de San Pablo, Princeton

ENERO 11-14 Convocación Diocesano del Presbiterio – Saint Meinrad, IN

ENERO 16 4:00 p.m. ● Visita del Retiro Diocesano de la Confirmación – Catedral de San Esteban
5:00 p.m. ● Misa – Catedral de San Esteban

ENERO 17 10:00 a.m. ● Confirmación – Parroquia de Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

ENERO 18 9:45 a.m. ● Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – MCC
1:30 p.m. ● Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – MCC

ENERO 22 12:05 p.m. ● Misa Pro Vida – Catedral de San Esteban

ENERO 24 10:30 a.m. ● Confirmación – Parroquia de Santa María Magdalena, Owensboro

ENERO 25 6:00 p.m. ● Reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Fundación Católica de Kentucky

ENERO 26 10-3:00 p.m. ● Horas de Oficina en Paducah – Hospital de Lourdes, Paducah

ENERO 27-28 Reunión de los Obispos de la Provincia – Louisville, KY

ENERO 30 5:00 p.m. ● Confirmación – Parroquia San José, Mayfield

ENERO 31 10:00 a.m. ● Confirmación – Parroquia de la Inmaculada, Owensboro

Una Palabra del Obispo Medley

Mi querido pueblo de Dios,

El 8 de diciembre el Papa Francisco inauguró un Año Jubilar para la Iglesia con una tradición antigua de abrir la Puerta Santa en la Basílica de San Pedro en Roma. La puerta presenta simbólicamente un umbral donde los peregrinos pasan para rezar en el lugar santo. El tema de este Jubileo es la Misericordia del Padre. Es la oración del Papa Francisco que el mundo medite en la misericordia de Dios, que individuos sean inundados en la misericordia de Dios, y que todos seamos instrumentos de la misericordia de Dios en el mundo.

Como un pastor estoy sumamente consciente de la desilusión y dolor que hombres y mujeres experimentan cuando un matrimonio fracasa y termina en divorcio. Muchas veces una persona se siente abandonada --- porque realmente lo ha sido. Otros cargan una culpa grande porque sus acciones les llevaron a no cumplir su alianza matrimonial santa, a veces por no ser fieles, pero con más frecuencia por negligencia. ¿Cómo se comunica la misericordia de Dios a los que han sido dañados en un matrimonio y a los que han dañado al otro?

Una de las preocupaciones principales de los recientes Sínodos considerando la familia en el siglo 21 fue la cuestión de la recepción de la Sagrada Comunión para los divorciados que se han vuelto a casar fuera de las normas de la Iglesia.

Los Padres Sinodales dejaron al Papa Francisco con el desafío pastoral de responder al hambre que muchos experimentan quienes ahora son excluidos de la participación en la Eucaristía. Pidamos que el Espíritu Santo guie ahora a nuestro papa mientras escribe su Exhortación Apostólica para tratar estas cuestiones.

La Iglesia tiene un foro para explorar la realidad de un matrimonio fracasado con hombres y mujeres y un proceso para evaluar preguntas genuinas sobre la validez de un matrimonio. Puede ser que usted sepa de este proceso comúnmente conocido como buscar un decreto de invalidez. Tal vez si usted sabe algo de este



Continúa en página 22

Una Palabra del Obispo Medley ... Continuación de página 21

proceso ha conocido a personas quienes han tenido una experiencia desagradable.

Muchas veces se han desarrollado mitos sobre el proceso que desanima a personas que busquen este proceso. Aparte de lo que el Papa Francisco pueda hacer en los próximos meses, quiero extender una invitación a la gente a explorar esta resolución formal de un intento al matrimonio. El Papa Francisco ya ha iniciado unas reformas del proceso del decreto de invalidez.

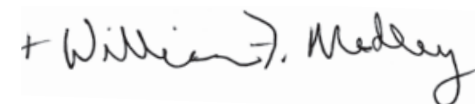
- En un proceso del decreto de invalidez la Iglesia asigna a los que tienen la pericia en el Derecho Canónico (Ley de la Iglesia) para examinar las circunstancias del matrimonio. Aunque puede parecer un asunto complejo, básicamente la Iglesia examina la cuestión si un matrimonio desde su inicio realmente cumplió el criterio de un matrimonio Cristiano, que fue una unión entre un hombre y una mujer en vida y en amor que fue permanente y fiel y abierta a la procreación de niños.
- Uno inicia el proceso del decreto de invalidez con hacer contacto con el sacerdote en su parroquia o con el Tribunal de la diócesis. Muchas parroquias tienen ayudantes laicos que son entrenados para abogar por y ayudar a la gente que quiere explorar un decreto de invalidez.
- El proceso del decreto de invalidez siempre es confidencial.

- La Diócesis de Owensboro ahora no pide ningún pago para los que buscan un decreto de invalidez. Hay casos excepciones que requieren un reviso en la Santa Sede, pero si estos gastos son difíciles para uno la diócesis los puede cubrir.

En los medios de comunicación hubo mucha discusión sobre algunos cambios al proceso del decreto de invalidez. En casos raros el proceso puede ser abreviado, pero la única forma de saber si un caso califica es iniciar el proceso. Yo sí creo que las reformas recientes hará el proceso del decreto de invalidez más eficiente pero cada caso es único

porque cada matrimonio intentado es único.

El proceso del decreto de invalidez es un proceso de la Iglesia Católica para ayudar a hombres y mujeres resolver asuntos de un matrimonio que terminó. Debe ser un proceso sanador, para algunos un proceso de la misericordia. El Jubileo de la Misericordia es un momento bueno para aceptar el don abundante del amor y misericordia de Cristo.



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Sitios de Peregrinación

El Año de la Misericordia

El 1 de Noviembre del 2015, en la Solemnidad de Todos los Santos, el Obispo William F. Medley, lanzó un decreto designando los seis sitios de peregrinación para el Jubileo Extraordinario de la Misericordia. Fíjese en las siguientes ediciones del Católico de Kentucky Occidental para más información sobre estas oportunidades de peregrinación.

Catedral de San Esteban ● Owensboro

Capilla de la Casa Madre de las Hermanas Ursulinas del Monte San José ● Owensboro

La Capilla de las Obras de Misericordia de Santo Tomás Moro ● Paducah

La Capilla de la Divina Misericordia de los Padres de la Misericordia ● Auburn

El Santuario Mariano en la Parroquia de San José ● Bowling Green

La Parroquia de Santa María del Bosque ● McQuady

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t twitter.com/Owensboro1937

ig [instagram.com/owensborodiocese](https://www.instagram.com/owensborodiocese)

Parroquias con Misas en Español

Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

Sábados – 5:00 p.m.

13th & Madison Streets, Beaver Dam, KY 42320
Contacto: Padre Juan René (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 Santa Susana, 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 Santa María y Santo Santiago, Guthrie

Sábados – 6:00 p.m.

313 3rd Street, Guthrie, KY 42234

Contacto: Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez (302) 438-7335

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 Julio Barrera (270) 885-8522

Parroquia San José, Leitchfield

Cada 2do y 4to Domingos de Mes 10:30 p.m.

109 West Walnut Street, Leitchfield KY 42754

Contacto: Padre Steve Hohman (270) 784-1520

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: Padre Juan René (270) 903-8070

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray

Sábados – 6:30 p.m.

401 North 12th Street, Murray, KY 42071

Contacto: Padre Brandon Williams (270) 302-5374

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

Domingos – 12:00 p.m. y 10:30 p.m.

609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, KY 42303

Contacto: Hermana Pilar Hinojosa (706) 936-3525

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

Domingos – 1:00 p.m.

3er. Jueves de Mes 8:30 a.m. (Capilla Hospital de Lourdes)

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001

Contacto: Hermana Esther Ordoñez (270) 816-0657

Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Russellville

Domingos – 2:00 p.m.

296 West 6th Street, Russellville, KY 42276

Contacto: Hermana Patricia Sullivan OP (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 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 (www.rcdok.org/safe).

Los miembros de la junta que responden a las alegaciones de abuso sexual en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Mr. Ken Bennett (Presidente), Mr. Mike Boone, Ms. Kaye Castlen, Rev. Mike Clark, JCL, Dr. Michael Farina, Mr. Mike Flaherty, Ms. Rhonda Gillham, Mr. Brandon Harley, Ms. Mary Beth Hurley, Mr. Tony Kraus, Mr. Michael Marsili, Ms. Kelly Roe (Vice-Presidente), y Ms. Jennifer Hendricks-Wright. Richard Murphy sirve como enlace entre el Obispo y la Junta de Revisión Diocesano. La seguridad de nuestros niños es la responsabilidad de cada Cristiano.

‘Misericordiosos como el Padre’

Feliz Año Nuevo

Después de un hermoso mes de diciembre donde pudimos en las parroquias celebrar las distintas festividades decembrinas; en nombre del Señor y bajo el amparo de nuestra madre del cielo comenzamos un nuevo año 2016. Que el Señor nos conceda la luz, sabiduría y la esperanza para que este nuevo año que empieza, sea un año lleno de bendiciones tanto para nuestras familias como para nuestras parroquias y diócesis.

El pasado 8 de diciembre arrancó en la Iglesia el año jubilar de la misericordia. Con su lema: “Misericordiosos como el Padre” el Papa Francisco, a ejemplo de nuestro Señor Jesucristo en los evangelios, desea provocar en nosotros una actitud de “Encuentro” de “Salida”. A Jesús lo encontramos siempre en movimiento, dinámico en actitud de encontrarse con el enfermo, el preso, el extranjero, el pecador. Que no nos quedemos en lo cómodo de nuestros ya definidos horarios y círculos. Que nos cuestionemos como miembros de esta gran familia de los cristianos que somos, qué tan misericordiosos estamos siendo hacia nosotros mismos para empezar y luego con el prójimo. Y no solo con nuestros más cercanos, con nuestros amigos, familiares o grupos parroquiales con los que con frecuencia nos sentimos más agusto. El Papa nos invita a descubrir nuestras periferias. ¿Cuáles son las periferias de Owensboro, Paducah, Bowling Green y demás? ¿Quiénes son esos hermanos que por una razón u otra se han distanciado y añoran un abrazo, una palabra, un poco de escucha, una visita, otra invitación, una bienvenida y otra oportunidad? Este

El Obispo Medley abre la Puerta Santa

El 13 de diciembre del 2015, el Monseñor Medley abrió la Puerta Santa de la Diócesis de Owensboro para el Año de la Misericordia en la Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro.

Los peregrinos están bienvenidos visitar a la catedral y caminar en oración por la Puerta Santa durante el Año de la Misericordia, que se termina el 20 de Nov. del 2016. Una puerta santa es una puerta en una iglesia de importancia local, como la catedral de una diócesis, simbolizando a Cristo, quien el Papa Francisco dice es la única forma de entrar en comunión con Dios.

El Año de la Misericordia



El Obispo Medley abre la Puerta Santa el 13 de dic. del 2015. Foto por TJ Stinnett.

La Diócesis forma un nuevo equipo de comunicación

La Diócesis de Owensboro recientemente formó un nuevo equipo de la Oficina de Comunicación para servir y evangelizar mejor en nuestra Diócesis. Ellos son:

Tina Kasey, directora de comunicación; Elizabeth Barnstead, editora y coordinadora de las publicaciones diocesanas y TJ Stinnett,

especialista de los medios de comunicación.

El equipo ayudará a promocionar la misión de la diócesis a través de las iniciativas por escrito y por las redes sociales. Si usted tiene noticias o fotos para compartir con ellos, favor de mandarlos por email a wkc.editor@pastoral.org.

año se supone debe ser un tiempo de redescubrir y recurrir al tan hermoso sacramento de la confesión y de renovarnos.

Yo los invito a ustedes y a mí mismo a que durante este año pensemos en cómo es que podemos ser mejores misioneros de misericordia en nuestras ciudades. Que nos abramos a una creatividad valiente fuera de lo que ordinariamente hacemos y salgamos al encuentro de los otros. Esto significa visitar los hogares, los parques donde está el partido de futbol, lugares de trabajo, incluyendo traba-

jadores del campo, lugares de diversión, las cárceles etc... La misericordia con frecuencia se confunde con la caridad en forma de despensa o algo similar, pero en realidad es que va más allá... Lo cierto es que muchas veces incluso nuestra simple presencia y escucha de una hermana u hermano pueden ser un signo enorme de misericordia.

Dios los bendiga
Cristóbal Gutierrez
Oficina del Ministerio Hispano



Obispo William Medley predicando durante la misa en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la iglesia católica del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson, Kentucky.



Rosa Rosales y Juan Medina recrean la aparición de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.



Los hombres de la comunidad hispana de la parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús posan para una foto después de bailar la danza folclórica "Danza de los Viejitos" típica de Michoacán, formada a través de ritmos antiguos e instrumentos tradicionales.

Alegría Encontrada en Nuestra Virgen de Guadalupe

POR SUSANA SOLORZA

Alegría en la esperanza; eso es lo que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe invoca el día de su fiesta, el 12 de diciembre para tantos de nuestras comunidades en la Diócesis de Owensboro. Fue una oportunidad para honrar a la madre de nuestro Creador, que viene hablando el idioma de los perdidos y olvidados. En ella, encontramos nuestra casa dentro de nuestra Iglesia, al igual que lo hizo San Juan Diego en 1531 en una cerro, Tepeyac, en el país de México. Ella se acercó a él con su atuendo real, piel morena, y palabras aztecas, para proclamar que en su vientre llevaba el Salvador del mundo, trajo esperanza. Y de esa esperanza, la alegría brota de nuestras comunidades en forma de celebraciones eucarísticas, rosarios, bailes, convivio, comida, y una continuación de la tradición.

Celebrando la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la diócesis

Parroquias y comunidades en la Diócesis de Owensboro celebraron la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el 11 y 12 de diciembre. ¡Aquí hay algunas fotos de las celebraciones de este año!



Las mujeres de la comunidad hispana de la parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús realizan una danza folclórica de México durante la celebración en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.



Padre Carmelo Jimenez Salinas.



La misa en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la iglesia católica del San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree, Kentucky.



Mariachi durante la misa en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la iglesia católica del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam.

¡Comparta sus noticias con el Católico de Kentucky Occidental!

Mande fotos y artículos al Católico de Kentucky Occidental a wkc.editor@pastoral.org antes del 15 de cada mes anterior a la publicación.

Catholic schools transmit faith, encourage vocations

BY FR. JASON MCCLURE, DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS AND VICAR FOR CLERGY, DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO



Fr. Jason McClure

In the November issue of *The Western Kentucky Catholic*, I dedicated my article to the importance of family, “the domestic church,” in cultivating vocations and promoting a culture of vocation awareness.

As we prepare to celebrate Catholic Schools Week this month, we are reminded of another very important tool within our Church for encouraging vocations and discernment among children and youth.

Catholic schools have as their most important purpose, the transmission of the Catholic faith to our students. Helping children and youth discover and understand their intrinsic value as a human being, the love God has for them, and grow in their faith in and love for God, leads also to a desire to want to follow and serve him. Our Catholic schools provide a context within which vocations and discernment can and should be encouraged on a daily basis.

The theme for this year’s Catholic Schools Week, “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service” highlights the mission of Catholic education to help our children and youth grow in their relationship and belief in Jesus Christ, know their Catholic faith, and be prepared for life-long mission and service in the Church.

As I have traveled throughout the diocese this

year, visiting with students in all grades, I have encouraged them to begin praying every day, “God, what do you want me to do for you?” Our Catholic schools provide an environment where such a prayer is not only welcome, but encouraged. In a world where prayer is often frowned upon in the public domain, it’s comforting to know that there

is still a place where prayer and faith are nurtured and where vocations are cultivated.

The Vocations Office is in the process of developing a Vocation Plan for the Diocese of Owensboro. This plan will include new initiatives, including but not limited to a greater effort to be present in our Catholic schools and look for ways

Ursuline sisters host presentation on Fr. Paul J. Volk

To kick off the Year of Mercy on Dec. 8, 2015, Ursuline Sister of Mount St. Joseph Ruth Gehres was asked to present a condensed version of her Aug. 22, 2015 retreat day, “Journeying With Father Paul Volk,” for the Ursuline Sisters at the Motherhouse.

Her hour-long talk on the priest who brought the Ursuline Sisters to what is now Maple Mount occurred in the Saint Ursula Community Room, and featured several of Father Volk’s possessions that were borrowed from the Maple Mount Museum.



Left: This silver chalice and the pix were both used by Father Paul Joseph Volk, who invited the Ursuline Sisters to Daviess County. **Right:** Sister Ruth Gehres, OSU, who has written much about the history of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph, gives her presentation from a computer so the sisters could see her photos of Father Paul Joseph Volk. Photo courtesy of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph.

to support the schools as they include discernment and vocations in their religion curriculum.

Several studies have shown that most priests and religious first thought about ministry at about age 11 and then had that thought reinforced during their junior year in high school. The result of these findings was the Focus 11 Program, first introduced in the Archdiocese of Detroit in 1989.

This is an intentional effort by the diocesan Vocations Office to promote vocations to all ages, but with a particular emphasis on 6th-graders (11-year-olds) and 11th-graders. Building on the research and the experience of other dioceses, we will be

focusing on these populations within our schools and parishes as part of our Vocation Plan.

I'm excited about our Vocation Plan and our upcoming efforts to work with Catholic schools to foster discernment and vocations. I ask you to

join me in praying for the success of our Catholic schools and that young men and women have the courage to say yes to the vocation to which God is calling them. ♦

Contact our Office of Vocations

☎ (270) 683-1545 ✉ jason.mcclure@pastoral.org

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

'A little bit of heaven here on earth' ...
Continued from page 9

uplifting their sense of dignity and self-worth," she said.

Community

Fr. Petri was approaching his ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of Owensboro when he realized he still had some questions.

"I was very happy in the diocese," he said. "I love the people of western Kentucky and felt very much at home with them."

However, it became increasingly clear through his discernment "that I needed to live in community."

He decided to look into the Dominican order, having friends and professors who were Dominicans.

Fr. Petri is now academic dean at Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., and knows he has found a home with his community.

He explained that while the priesthood and re-



This vintage postcard from Christmas 1971 features Fr. Micheas Langston, second from right, during his time as a military chaplain in Vietnam. Image courtesy of St. Meinrad Archabbey.

ligious life are called a "higher calling" than other vocations like marriage, "all that means is that in religious life you should have all the tools you need to grow into holiness."

Regardless of religious community or charism, he said, "every order brings a new reflection of some aspect of the grace that God wants to give the Church and the world." ♦

Jamaica: A land of contrasts

BY DONNA MURPHY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

During my recent Mission Immersion trip to Jamaica, I discovered an internal landscape of contrasting emotions as I reacted to the beautiful loving people of Jamaica, sweeping from the majestic mountains of exuberant solidarity with the people to a rutted valley of frustrated compassion with the situations that confront them daily.

The journey between those extremes ricocheted in my heart as rapidly as the terrain of Jamaica changes. Our capable driver regularly beeped the horn while rounding sharp turns in the narrow twisting roads, alerting oncoming traffic of our approach. My mind gave me no such warnings, and I often found myself jerked and jostled from joy to frustration, from pride to disgust.

I traveled to this land of contrasting beauty eager to serve people I did not know, willing to share my physical and human resources, and expecting to be blessed by them in the process. I was not disappointed, and found truth in Pope Francis' comment: "I can say that the most beautiful and natural expressions of joy which I have seen in my life were in poor people who had little to hold on to" (Evangeli Gaudium, paragraph 7).

The Jamaica most often visited bustles with resort hotels peopled with tourists, quaint shops selling colorful souvenirs, and sunny beaches where non-natives sun themselves before returning home.

Jamaica also bustles with a dissimilar landscape

Dear Cursillistas: Making another Cursillo?

BY MARY HAGAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Owensboro now offers a second Cursillo called Cursillo de Cursillos (CDC). The local movement is preparing to present a CDC to Cursillistas on Dec. 1-4, 2016, at Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center. If you have wanted to renew your friendships in a cloistered atmosphere and begin again to engage in prayer, sacrifice and works of mercy for the success of this weekend, please let us know.

The CDC is meant for Cursillistas who are leaders in our diocese's Cursillo movement, and for Cursillistas who are currently discerning whether to make Cursillo their primary apostolate.

The weekend begins on Thursday evening and goes through Sunday evening. It will be based on your original Cursillo weekend consisting of 15 rollos and five meditations.

The CDC team consists of five lay leaders and one priest. Leaders are assigned to table groups, allowing everyone an opportunity to share the message of each rollo, which is followed by a question-and-answer session. The participants are asked to share their impressions of the weekend right be-

fore Mass ends on Sunday evening.

The CDC will have Mass, Way of the Cross, prayers and chapel; Pilgrim's Guides will be used. Cursillistas should bring their own but some will be on hand as well.

One Cursillista named Dave, who experienced a CDC, said: "The CDC reenergized and renewed more deeply my convictions that the Cursillo movement is a very important and beautiful part of God's plans to make his Son's good news a reality in our world today."

We have the next year to discern and prepare to be renewed in a Catholic atmosphere of God's love, peace, and joy.

Mary Hagan is lay director of the Diocese of Owensboro's Cursillo movement. ♦



Learn More

To learn more about the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Owensboro, contact Mary Hagan at (270) 240-4778 or email haganm95@yahoo.com.

among the local communities, far from the elegance of luxury hotels. Shacks constructed of plywood or cinder block and roofed with sheets of tin house families consisting mostly of single mothers and their children, occasionally accompanied by an aging parent.

Littering the roadsides are quickly constructed

shops containing subsistence items by which a family ekes out the most meager income in order to afford to send their children to school. Local folk sit in the sun surrounded by extended family after a day of laborious work, relaxing at a pace of life

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The invitation was always open for mercy

*Year of
Mercy*
JUBILEE YEAR 2015-2016

BY JULIE WARD MURPHY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

An extraordinary event took place on Dec. 8, 2015. On this date the Jubilee Year of Mercy was given to us as a gift. I just can't help but experience this feeling of great humility that just oozes out of Pope Francis. When he speaks he makes me feel warmth and tenderness. I don't think that there has ever been a time that I haven't smiled when I see him on TV or even just look at a picture of him.

I can only speak for myself but I feel the Holy Spirit working through and in him. These feelings I have by no means undermine the extraordinary gifts that the other popes in my lifetime fulfilled. When I was a little girl the only pope that I remember, that really stands out, that I grew up with, was Pope St. John Paul II. I was only 13 years old when he became pope after the death of Pope John Paul I. Being just 13 I don't have many memories of Pope John Paul I, but I do remember that he wasn't pope very long because he died after only 33 days into his papacy.

I am very fortunate to remember what Pope John Paul II said to the world after his election from the conclave of cardinals guided by the Holy Spirit. He said; "Be not afraid!" That expression has stayed with me most of my life and ended up being the words of my dying husband 10 years ago. Steve used those exact words to his family on the day the Lord called him home: "Be not afraid!"

Because of this connection, and the 28 years that Pope St. John Paul II was our pope, I will always have a special devotion to this beautiful saintly man. When he died I truly was filled with pro-

found sadness.

Then I have for personal reasons of love and devotion to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. He was elected Pope on April 19th 2005. That was the day of my husband's funeral and burial. Steve also died on Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI birthday, April 16th.

I am sure so many others and readers of the WKC have a special memory or connection with a pope that has meant a great deal to them and has even strengthened their faith because of their great witness and teachings. That is why I am writing this article. I want to share with you my memories

and how they have shaped my life so much. Now through the gift of the Holy Spirit I once again get to see the Vicar of Christ shed his love on us through his wisdom and mercy. Pope Francis makes me feel good! I want to be as loving and forgiving as he teaches. May we all see what a God given gift we have in our Church... and learn from their holy example.

May this extraordinary Year of Mercy be fruitful to its fullest measure for the whole world!

Julie Ward Murphy is married to Kevin Murphy, and is an active member of Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro. ♦

Jamaica: A land of contrasts ...

Continued from page 28

our generation has forgotten. Many women struggle for survival hoping their daughters avoid the abuse they know is lurking down the road or in the next room.

These contradictory landscapes of Jamaica mirror the struggles discovered within myself as I interacted with their culture.

Overjoyed to serve them, I was challenged to grow in generosity by these experiences. Pride swelled as I grew to appreciate the dedication of the local Church who modeled the joy of living the Gospel, laying aside their own comfort and security to allay the overwhelming poverty of God's vulnerable poor.

Yet it remains unthinkable that such abject poverty continues to exist in a world where we connect with one another in cyberspace, but fail to connect on a level that meets the most basic human needs of one another.

Why did physical labor on a steep foreign mountainside among strangers provoke these emotions? Pope Francis says, "Life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others" (EG,10).

What is the measure of your life?

Donna Murphy is director of faith formation at St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro. ♦

Greeting with open arms: St. Joseph School welcomes immigrant, refugee children

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD,
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Twenty-eight percent of the students who attend St. Joseph School in Bowling Green come from families who are immigrants, refugees and/or minorities to the region – and principal Jan Lange could not be more proud of this progress.

“I think all of our students are learning from each other in that regard,” said Lange, who has served as principal for 14 years and has seen a trend of greater cultural diversity growing in her school.

Because Bowling Green is home to the International Center of Kentucky, a refugee resettlement agency, many Burmese refugees fleeing persecution in their homeland have come to the city for a fresh start.

Many families from Africa, Mexico and Central America also call Bowling Green home, although a number of these children were born in the United States after their parents emigrated.

For Lange, St. Joseph School’s system of working with and accommodating immigrant and refugee students fits into the mission of Catholic education. It certainly doesn’t hurt that diverse cultures are already found at St. Joseph Parish and Holy Spirit Parish, the two parishes that feed into the school.

“As adults we learn a lot from these kids as well,” said Lange of herself and the faculty and staff. The priests of the two parishes are very focused on building diversity, as are the school’s office assistant, Micki Simpson, who is bilingual, and St. Joseph Parish’s Hispanic minister, Gina Holmes.

Lange says that Hispanic children have been



Second-grade students lead the prayer in St. Joseph School’s morning assembly. Photo courtesy of St. Joseph School.

part of the framework that makes up St. Joseph School for many years, but the move toward welcoming Burmese students has been a more recent initiative.

The school has worked to provide financial assistance to families who need it, but Lange emphasized that this project goes beyond mere charity: “Everyone who receives financial assistance still pays a portion.”

“Our philosophy is that we’ll try to make it work for any Catholic family who wants a Catholic education for their children, no matter what culture they come from,” she said.

St. Joseph School does not have buses, so parents are the ones who drive their children to school every day. Families with adequate transportation work with fellow school families who do not, which has grown into parent-shared carpooling.

St. Joseph School also participates in the free and reduced federal lunch program, which is a big help to students and families considering a transition from the public school system into the Cath-

olic school. Outside the classroom, the athletic teams are also working to better integrate students of immigrant and refugee backgrounds.

Lange said that just as with St. Joseph’s non-Catholic students, the non-Anglo students help their peers and teachers “learn how alike we are.”

“We have students who are Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim; we learn about their beliefs as well as they’re certainly learning about ours,” said Lange.

“I think that shows who we are called to be as Catholics,” she added. ♦



Celebrate Catholic Schools Week!

This year’s National Catholic Schools Week is Jan. 31-Feb. 6. To learn more, visit ncea.org/our-services/catholic-schools-week.

Works of Mercy box

The students in the religious education program at Precious Blood Parish are participating in the Works of Mercy! Throughout the Year of Mercy the students will write about their work and put it in a special "Works of Mercy" box, with the goal of completely filling the box by November 2016. Photo courtesy of Sister Rosanne Spalding, OSU.



Anna Michae Word

St. Mary High School grad among 2016 Who's Who

Anna Michae Word, a 2012 graduate of St. Mary High School in Paducah and current student at Murray State University, was recently selected to be among the 2016 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

This honor is bestowed on students from nominations by campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory, and is selected based on students' academic achievement, community service, extracurricular leadership and potential for continued success. Word is the daughter of Mike and Peggy Word, and is involved in Gamma Beta Phi and Alpha Chi honor societies. She also currently serves as president of the Kentucky Education Association Student Program for the Paducah Regional Campus at Murray.

Word will student teach this spring and graduate with highest honors in May 2016, with a degree in elementary education. ♦

A time for prayer and fellowship – NCYC style



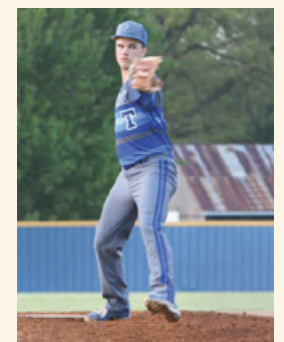
Pictured here, (L-R), are Owensboro seminarian CJ Glaser; Indianapolis seminarian Jeffrey Dufresne; Springfield, Ill. seminarian Michael Meinhart and Indianapolis high school student Santiago Albarran. These four altar servers kneel as Fr. Louis Merosne lifts high the monstrance bearing the Eucharist. Photo courtesy of Corey Bruns.

From Nov. 19-21, 276 youth and adult leaders hailing from the Diocese of Owensboro learned, prayed, served and celebrated at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Events included daily Mass, confession opportunities, adoration, workshops, and time to meet youth from across the country. This year drew about 23,000 participants.

Trinity senior signs with Kentucky Wesleyan College baseball team

Allen Howe, a senior at Trinity High School in Whitesville, recently signed with Kentucky Wesleyan College to begin as a student in fall 2016 and play for their baseball team.

Howe played a significant role on Trinity's varsity team starting for four years: in his 2015 campaign, he batted .290 with 25 runs, 27 hits, 19 RBIs and one home run. He held an impressive on base percentage of .451, and on the mound, Howe had 24 Ks in 23 IP with a .90 ERA. Howe recently stated in a Trinity press release, "I can't thank my family, coaches and teammates enough for all the help and support over the years. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to play baseball at the next level at KWC." Photo courtesy of Trinity High School.



Holy Door of Mercy opens at St. Stephen Cathedral

Year of
Mercy
JUBILEE YEAR 2015-2016



Bishop Medley opens the Holy Door of the Diocese of Owensboro on Dec. 13, 2015.

On Sunday, Dec. 13, Bishop Medley formally opened the Diocese of Owensboro's Holy Door. It will be used by pilgrims during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, also known as the Year of Mercy, which began on Dec. 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception. A holy door is a door in a church of local significance, such as the cathedral of a diocese, symbolizing Christ, who as Pope Francis says, is the only way of entering communion with God. St. Stephen Cathedral was selected to be the home of our diocese's holy door as it is the mother church of our diocese, and all are welcome to come visit it during the Year of Mercy. Photos by TJ Stinnett, Office of Communications. ♦



A framed description of a holy door hangs on the sealed doors prior to the opening by Bishop Medley.



Before being formally opened by Bishop Medley, the doors had been "sealed" closed.

¡El Católico de Kentucky Occidental ahora se ve diferente!
Aparte de otros cambios de diseño gráfico, ahora se encuentra la sección
en español en medio del periódico, en vez de atrás.