

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

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Joe Keller, right, and his wife, Carol Keller, pray the rosary in an exercise room turned makeshift church dwelling behind the home of Donnie and Rhonda Mills on Dec. 19, 2021, prior to Resurrection Parish's first Mass together since the Dec. 10 tornadoes destroyed their church building. The Mills' facility provides a temporary worship space as the parish determines the next steps. **Page 14**



Created to love

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For the unborn

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COURTESY OF NEENA GAYNOR

Attendees make a cold loop or more around the Hancock County High School track at the Hancock County March for Life on Jan. 22, 2022 to pray for an end to abortion and healing for all who need it. [Read the full article on westernkycatholic.com.](#)

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Front page photo courtesy of James Kenney.

Submissions

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

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

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

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To report suspected abuse, call the Kentucky Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597- 2331 (Toll Free) or contact your local Commonwealth Attorney. To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church, call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) at 270-852- 8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish) at 270-880-8360. You may also visit the Office of Safe Environment (owensborodiocese.org/safe) for more information. To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by bishops, go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562.

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A Word From Bishop Medley

Charity and prayers from across U.S. have helped us serve our communities after the tornadoes

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In January 2010, Haiti was struck by an earthquake that left tens of thousands dead and hundreds of thousands homeless. Haiti, already the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, seems to be plagued by natural and manmade disasters. Pope Francis, acknowledging Haiti after a recent explosion killed scores of people, prayed for "poor Haiti."

Dioceses across the United States took up special collections to support the recovery efforts in Haiti spearheaded by Catholic Relief Services. The tragic story of Haiti had been extensively reported in our American media.

I was ordained on February 10, 2010 as the fourth bishop of Owensboro. One of the first bits of information to cross my desk in those early weeks was that our local diocesan collection for Haiti had brought in more than \$240,000. There had been many special appeals in the diocese before this and many since then, but this collection stands as a well-deserved record of the Catholics of western Kentucky responding to our neighbors in need.

As early as the first day after the tornadoes of December 2021 impacted many communities across western Kentucky, I began to hear from bishops and pastors across the United States assuring us of help. Naturally I thought back to that special appeal for Haiti in 2010 and could not have imagined an event in our own diocese that would have made us the recipients of such extraordinary charity.

On the Monday morning after the tornadoes, Su-

san Montalvo-Gesser, the director of our Catholic Charities of western Kentucky, asked me if she could apply to Catholic Charities USA for a \$10,000 emergency relief grant. Of course I supported that and she related quickly back to me that they would send her a grant request application but that we should expect to receive the grant. Within an hour, she heard back from CCUSA that we could forget the application and they would be sending us \$250,000 immediately. This news gave me true confidence that the Diocese of Owensboro would be able to make a real impact in helping individuals and communities recover from this natural disaster.

In the first week of January 2022 we heard again from Sr. Donna Markham, OP – president of CCUSA – that we would be receiving an additional grant of \$1 million.

In the meantime, dioceses and parishes across the United States had made direct gifts or sponsored special collections to respond to the extraordinary need. The parishes of our diocese have contributed \$380,000 to date. Dioceses, individual parishes around the country, foundations and individual givers have contributed more than \$4,870,000. We have received contributions from more than 5,300 donors.

A happy challenge is now to find our niche for responding to human needs among the services of FEMA, Red Cross, and many other help organizations and churches. Our priorities will be to help individuals and families recover and resettle, and to

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2022

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

FEB 1	9:30 a.m. Mass – St. Mary High School, Paducah
FEB 2	10 a.m. Blessing of Catholic Charities Offices – Owensboro
FEB 3	10:30 a.m. Mass – Owensboro Catholic High School, Owensboro
FEB 8	8 a.m. Mass – St. Mary of the Woods School, Whitesville 6 p.m. Mass for World Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
FEB 9	12:30 p.m. Mass – St. Romuald Interparochial School, Hardinsburg
FEB 11	12:15 p.m. Ribbon Cutting for Catholic Charities Offices – Owensboro
FEB 13	11 a.m. Sunday Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro 2 p.m. Confirmation – Immaculate Parish, Owensboro
FEB 15	Catholic Conference of Kentucky Meeting – Louisville
FEB 16	Bishops of the Province Meeting – Louisville Bishops of the Province Meeting – Louisville
FEB 17	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield
FEB 19	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. John the Evangelist Parish, Paducah
FEB 20	10 a.m. Sunday Mass – Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro
FEB 21	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
FEB 22	10 a.m. School Mass – St. Mary Middle School, Paducah
FEB 23	Catholics at the Capitol – Frankfort
FEB 26	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah
FEB 27	2 p.m. Rite of Election – St. Leo Parish, Murray

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assist St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield and Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs to rebuild and repair.

I was deeply impressed in 2010 with the response of Catholics of western Kentucky to the extraordinary needs of our sisters and brothers of Haiti. From a most different perspective I am now grateful and humbled by the charity and prayers from all across the United States to assist us in helping our neighbors in need so close to home. ■

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Journeying Together

Pope Francis wants to hear from you!

The Holy Father has called for a Synod of Bishops to be held in October 2023 in Rome. In preparation, he wants to hear the voices of the People of God, the voice of the Church! Your participation and input are a vital piece of the Synod process.

Contact your parish and make plans to be a part of the listening sessions that are happening there right now. Then make plans to join Bishop Medley for regional listening sessions in March.



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

For more information, visit
owensborodiocese.org/synod

Happy anniversary to our priests!

In February we celebrate the anniversary of:
Fr. Pat Bittel
Ordained 2/20/1982
Pastor of St. Martin Parish,
Rome

Disciples Response FUND APPEAL 2021-2022

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Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

First name as it appears on card _____ Signature _____
Please send to: Disciples Response Fund Appeal, 504 Mulberry Street, Uniontown, KY 40381
270-822-4416 or email: disciplesresponse@owensborodiocese.org

Diocese of Owensboro - Disciples Response Fund 2021-2022 ANNUAL APPEAL		Total Amount Pledged \$
Suggested Pledge	12 Monthly Payments	Amount Enclosed \$
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,440.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00	Balance to be Paid \$
<input type="checkbox"/> \$840.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$600.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	Payment Terms <input type="checkbox"/> One Time Pledge <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Monthly Payments
<input type="checkbox"/> \$420.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$240.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Gifts	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00	
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Seeing long road ahead for Ky. tornado recovery, Catholic Charities asks for continued assistance

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Families across western Kentucky continue to face the long-term impact of the tornadoes that hit during the night of Dec. 10, 2021 – but Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro is working to accompany these survivors every step of the way.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, the director of Catholic Charities, explained that tornado recovery is both “short-term and long-term.”

Short-term needs include shelter, clothing and medical needs. Long-term needs include repairing and rebuilding homes affected by the tornadoes. Catholic Charities has been providing financial assistance through gift cards sent to and distributed by parishes.

The deadline to apply for FEMA and/or SBA loan assistance is Feb. 11, and as of Montalvo-Gesser’s Jan. 20, 2022 conversation with The Western Kentucky Catholic, FEMA registrations were already at 14,800. Catholic Charities has been attending, assembling and coordinating with LTRO (Long Term Recovery) organizations in the 12 counties that were affected: Fulton, Hickman, Graves, Marshall, Lyon, Caldwell, Christian, Hopkins, Muhlenburg, Logan, Ohio and Warren.

Montalvo-Gesser added that they will also be helping Grayson County, which is not included in the LTRO, but which sustained some tornado damage.

“We will have the CAP (Counseling Assistance

Program offered by the diocese) and other crisis counseling available to all the tornado survivors,” said Montalvo-Gesser. “We’ll have that emotional and spiritual care.”

Currently, Catholic Charities expects the overall recovery to take two to four years.

Montalvo-Gesser said the average FEMA award that people typically receive is about \$9,000, but that the maximum FEMA award – if someone has lost “absolutely everything” and has nothing left – is \$36,000.

“Now, can you rebuild a house on that?” she asked. “No, you cannot.”

This is where Catholic Charities will step in: to help their neighbors across western Kentucky to heal and slowly rebuild their lives.

Montalvo-Gesser encourages Catholic business owners, especially those with lumber and building materials, to consider offering supplies at a reduced cost. Catholic Charities also plans to coordinate with area parishes to house volunteers and make meals for those involved with rebuilding.

“I’m really appreciative for our bishop and all the good people who have freely given of their time and talent to help – it’s just amazing,” said Montalvo-Gesser of Bishop William F. Medley.

She said the outpouring of monetary donations from people across the country has been incredible. But since this work is ongoing – and will be for a long time – she hopes people will continue giving.

Besides tornado recovery, Catholic Charities

must continue its everyday operations like offering immigration legal services, resources for those experiencing homelessness, and crisis pregnancy care – which includes the St. Gerard Life Home in Owensboro. Montalvo-Gesser is counting on donations to keep these other ministries going.

“My goal is to rebuild 350 homes, but Catholic Charities cannot do it alone,” she said. “We’re like the boy with the loaves and fishes, but if the boy with the loaves and fishes isn’t there, the people aren’t fed.” ■

How to help

Monetary donations may be given digitally via owensborodiocese.org/give/. Checks may be mailed, with “Tornado Disaster Relief” written in the memo, to Catholic Charities, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY, 42301. To learn more about ways to help, call the McRaith Catholic Center at (270) 683-1545.

Opening their home to tornado-displaced Resurrection Parish, couple hosts Christmas Eve Mass with bishop



COURTESY OF JAMES KENNEY

Ashley Marsili, left, the wife of Dcn. Mike Marsili, center, reads the first two readings during Resurrection's Christmas Eve Mass with Bishop William F. Medley.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Celebrating Mass in a 20-by-25-foot metal outbuilding on Dec. 24, 2021 for the displaced community of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, the image that came to Bishop William F. Medley's mind was "there was no room at the inn' - except that a couple had opened their homes that Christmas Eve night."

"I felt the gratitude that the congregation could be together again - but that they were still stunned," Bishop Medley later told *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

The bishop had driven the hour-and-a-half to Dawson Springs from Owens-

boro that day, wanting to open the Christmas season with the Resurrection community.

Resurrection had been among the buildings lost to the historic tornadoes that hit western Kentucky during the night of Dec. 10, 2021. The strong winds had torn out windows and ripped off parts of the roof, exposing the interior of the little church to the elements.

In the following days, parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills offered the use of their outbuilding, which is used primarily as an exercise room, as a substitute church for the time being.

The parish gathered for Mass for the first time since the tornadoes on Sunday, Dec. 19. Their second gathering was that Christmas Eve.

"Their doors have always been open to everybody," said Dcn. Mike Marsili, who with pastor, Fr. David Kennedy, serves Resurrection and also its sister parishes of Holy Cross in Providence and Immaculate Conception in Earlington.

Dcn. Marsili told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* that over the years, the metal building has seen poker games, barbecues, post-volleyball dinners and weight lifting. Now, it would see the celebration of the Eucharist.

The deacon, whose children grew up alongside the Mills' children, said it is a Mills family tradition to welcome everyone, Catholics and Protestants alike, for community.

"Donnie's dad always barbecued or did fish fries on the weekends and Donnie has continued that," said Dcn. Marsili.

So it was nothing unusual to host Mass for their parish. In fact, it is something of a family tradition.

"His mom and dad hosted Mass in their basement until they built the church in Marion," said Dcn. Marsili of St. William of Vercelli Parish in Marion.

And so, on the night of Christmas Eve 2021, the people of Resurrection Parish came together to celebrate their resilient community, and the gift of God come to earth.

Approximately 45 people filled the space snugly, but the weather was mild and several people stood outside the doorway. Bishop Medley presided, and was joined by Dcn. Marsili, Fr. Kennedy, and Resurrection's former pastor Fr. Frank

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Roof. The “sacristy” was an extra bedroom in the Mills’ house.

The bishop became “really choked up when he talked about seeing the damages,” said Dcn. Marsili.

Two weeks prior, Bishop Medley spent a day driving 400 miles across western Kentucky to visit the impacted communities. And just one week earlier, he had flown in an airplane over the tornadoes’ paths with a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament, blessing all those below.

“I’ve had several parishioners come up to me and say they had never seen the bishop like that before, and that it meant a lot to them,” said Dcn. Marsili. He added that “it was more than the fact that he got emotional; it was that he was really, really compassionate.”

Dcn. Marsili said that besides his ordination to the permanent diaconate in 2017, this was the most meaningful liturgy he has ever participated in.

Per tradition, Fr. Kennedy gave the homily, which included retelling the Christmas story to the children in the congregation. But the bishop did offer a few words at the end of Mass.

“He told us that the cross is not the end of the story – the Resurrection is,” recalled Dcn. Marsili. “He said ‘Your church is named for that – and your church will rise again.’”

Dcn. Marsili admitted that he had wondered if they would rebuild the church, considering that it was small and in a more outlying area: “But when the bishop said that, it sealed the deal. It meant a lot to the parishioners to hear that.”

Since then, the makeshift “church” has hosted Mass every weekend as well as every Thursday morning.

“That was our tradition so we are continuing that,” said Dcn. Marsili. ■

Hopkinsville parishioners ride out tornado in church, praying the rosary

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI, CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Jenny and Bill Rush and other parishioners at Sts. Peter and Paul Church In Hopkinsville, Kentucky, were nearly finished praying the rosary after an early morning Mass on New Year's Day when an isolated tornado shook the church, much to their surprise.

As the storm roared, the group prayed all the louder, Jenny told Catholic News Service Jan. 3.

"We kept praying even though the lights were flickering," she said. "It was exhilarating and terrifying, but at the same token it was spiritually uplifting to realize that even as we were praying the 'Memorare' she (Mary) was holding us. I honestly believe she was holding us."

Bill watched what parishioners describe as the "great window," expecting it to break "because the storm was so loud." It survived intact.

The storm passed in minutes. Except for a downed tree, a few missing shingles and minor water damage to another building, the church escaped serious harm, Father Richard Meredith, pastor, said in an email.

He described the storm as "roaring like a freight train and the church booming like a drum."

"Lights went out and it passed in under two

minutes," the priest wrote, adding that the cleanup in the downtown area and the east side of the city of 31,000 where the storm struck was continuing. No injuries were reported.

Nearby homes and businesses, including Mount Olivet Baptist Church, along the storm's mile-long path, sustained extensive damage, local officials reported.

National Weather Service meteorologists toured the storm's path to survey damage with Randy Graham, Christian County emergency management director afterward. Meteorologist Christine Wielgos told WHOP Radio that based on the damage, the twister generated maximum winds of 115 miles an hour and stayed on the ground for about a mile.

The area was not under a tornado watch or warning when the tornado developed at about 9:30 a.m. local time. Wielgos said the tornado developed so quickly that it was on the ground and dissipated before forecasters they saw evidence of the event on weather radar.

The National Weather Service said six other tornadoes struck western Kentucky communities Jan. 1. On Dec. 10, 2021, tornadoes raked the western portion of the state, with one storm causing catastrophic damage and dozens of deaths and injuries along a 200-mile path. ■

Dcn. Mike Marsili looks forward to serving as assistant director of vocations



LAURA RIGSBY | WKC

In this Sept. 16, 2017 file photo, newly-ordained Dcn. Mike Marsili receives the Book of the Gospels from Bishop William F. Medley during the Mass of Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, when Dcn. Marsili and his deacon class were ordained.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Following his appointment as the Diocese of Owensboro's new assistant director of vocations, Dcn. Mike Marsili says he is "excited to be working in that part of the diocese's ministry."

"God's call goes out – that part has been consistent over the centuries," said Dcn. Marsili, whose appointment was announced on Jan. 3, 2022. Yet, "in this culture there are so many things to drown (the call) out."

Ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2017, Dcn. Marsili currently serves, and will continue

to serve, Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, Immaculate Conception Parish in Earlington and Holy Cross Parish in Providence.

He said he looks forward to assisting young people through the vocational discernment process.

"In my own case – there was always that idea of a call – what do you do with that? How does that come to the surface, to the forefront?" he said.

Dcn. Marsili said his work will involve "a lot of administrative work and paperwork."

As a member of the vocations office, however, he knows they will also offer guidance to young

men considering the priesthood, as well as young women contemplating religious life, and men discerning the permanent diaconate.

He said his experience on the Deacon Advisory Board, and on the Selection Committee of that board, will undoubtedly provide insights in that area.

He said he plans to travel soon with Fr. Daniel Dillard, the diocesan vocations director, to meet the seminarians and get to know them more.

Seminary is no guarantee of becoming a priest, Dcn. Marsili pointed out. He emphasized that the entire time of seminary is "still a discernment process."

"Ordination was never something I was going to take for granted, and I know they don't, either," he said of the seminarians.

Dcn. Marsili is glad to see that the diocese, and the Catholic Church as a whole, is emphasizing a focus on the Eucharist "as the source of our faith. Everything centers around that."

In recent years he has seen a "comeback" of parishes offering Adoration and holy hours – which he said vocations often flow from.

Dcn. Marsili has been married for 44 years to his wife, Ashley, and his children are grown and married.

He said he stays involved with his parishes and the Knights of Columbus, and is eager to meet and serve the faithful of western Kentucky.

He added that he loves listening to people, "especially over a meal – that I've cooked!" ■



FILE PHOTO
Heidi Reyes-Taylor is based in Owensboro.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Human trafficking happens everywhere – even in western Kentucky, according to a case manager with the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative of Catholic Charities of Louisville, Inc.

“Human trafficking is considered a form of modern slavery,” said Heidi Reyes-Taylor, the case manager for Bakhita’s newly-established Owensboro satellite location. “This is modern-day slavery, one hundred percent.”

And human trafficking is not limited to the exploitation of minors, she added.

“It’s also adults,” said Reyes-Taylor in a Jan. 10 interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

But Reyes-Taylor and her team with Bakhita seek to change the narrative for human trafficking survivors and “empower the person to create a sustainable life,” she said.

From exploitation to *empowerment* ***Bakhita Empowerment Initiative now serves western Kentuckians impacted by human trafficking***

Bakhita has served communities in Kentucky since 2008. Besides its headquarters in Louisville, and the Owensboro satellite, it also has a satellite in Lexington.

The Owensboro office is the first of its kind in western Kentucky – which Reyes-Taylor said had been in the works for two years. She started in the position in May 2021.

“They knew there was a need in western Kentucky,” she said.

Exploitation

What defines human trafficking?

Reyes-Taylor explained that human trafficking “is the exploitation of sex and also exploitation of labor.”

Sadly, both forms of trafficking have been discovered in western Kentucky. While sex trafficking is self-explanatory, she said labor trafficking has been discovered at massage parlors, farms and restaurants, to name a few.

“We (as in the general public) aren’t as comfortable talking about labor trafficking because we consume those products,” said Reyes-Taylor.

Human trafficking does not discriminate based on who someone is, she added.

“Anyone could be a victim of human trafficking, regardless of their socio-economic bracket, regardless of age, regardless of race,” she said. “It really could happen to anyone.”

According to Polaris Project’s Kentucky Spotlight

of their 2019 National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics, 310 victims were identified, 107 traffickers were identified and 28 trafficking businesses were identified between January 2019 and July 2020.

There were a total of 136 trafficking cases – including 84 sex trafficking cases, 28 labor trafficking cases, eight sex and labor trafficking cases, and 16 “not specified” cases – within that timeframe, according to Polaris.

Unfortunately, according to the report, this data does not represent the full scope of trafficking in Kentucky.

“Lack of awareness of human trafficking or of the National Hotline can lead to significant under-reporting, particularly among labor trafficking populations or by certain racial or ethnic groups,” stated the report.

Empowerment

Reyes-Taylor emphasized that unlike some other programs for human trafficking survivors, Bakhita focuses specifically on the “empowerment” aspect.

“We are not here to just fix your problems and send you back out into the world,” she said.

For instance, they refer to clients as “program participants” in order to help them emancipate themselves and start over with independence and confidence. Bakhita accompanies and walks alongside participants as they navigate the best route for their lives.

Reyes-Taylor, who currently has seven active cases,

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said she frequently goes over resources with participants, such as how to find a therapist or financial help.

“It’s a program participant-oriented program,” she said.

According to Bakhita’s webpage, accessed at www.bakhitaempowerment.org, “This approach restores power, which is vital to achieving self-sufficiency.”

Reyes-Taylor added that some other programs end assistance once a person becomes an adult.

“But we offer it for all ages,” she said – since any age can be impacted.

Saintly inspiration

The Bakhita Empowerment Initiative takes its name from St. Josephine Bakhita, who lived from 1869-1947 and survived kidnapping from her native Sudan as a child and subsequent enslavement for many years.

In the trauma of her experiences, St. Josephine Bakhita forgot the name her parents gave her and never remembered her original name. Her kidnapers gave her the name “Bakhita,” meaning “fortunate.”

After being bought, tortured and sold by several owners, she ultimately ended up with an Italian family where she served as nanny to the family’s daughter. She encountered Christianity when she and the daughter visited with the Canossian Sisters in Venice, which led her to enter the Catholic Church.

With her new baptismal name of Josephine, she eventually entered the Canossian novitiate and became a religious sister. She was assigned to a convent in Schio, Italy, where she became a beloved figure. Immediately after her death in February 1947, the people of Schio petitioned for her canonization, which finally took place in 2000.

Everyone’s responsibility

In October 2021, the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative presented a virtual national labor trafficking conference. It hoped to increase the capacity of organizations to address labor trafficking, address trends specific to labor trafficking, and highlight and problem-solve challenges related to labor trafficking. This was their second conference on the topic.

“Labor trafficking doesn’t always get the attention it needs,” said Reyes-Taylor.

This is just one of the many resources they offer, however. In 2022, Reyes-Taylor plans to give eight Spanish-language presentations, and several in English, to spread more awareness about human trafficking.

She said the presentations will be open to the public, “because everyone should know what’s happening in the community.”

People who should be particularly invested in this topic include, but are not limited to, “business owners, teachers, counselors, volunteers, religious groups, and people in law enforcement,” she said.

The Bakhita staff themselves are constantly doing training to stay up-to-date on the issues.

“Human trafficking is ever-evolving so we do a lot of training,” said Reyes-Taylor.

She said human trafficking is a “very macro issue that becomes a micro issue in our community.”

“If we don’t open our eyes and ears to what’s happening in our community, we become bystanders,” she said.

Learn more about the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative at www.bakhitaempowerment.org. ■

Presentation & Mass

On Feb. 8, 2022, feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita and the World Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking, Bakhita Empowerment Initiative will sponsor two events to spread local awareness about human trafficking. All are welcome to attend both events.

- 11 a.m. presentation on “Human Trafficking 201: Commercial Sexual & Labor Exploitation,” at C.E. Field Center at Brescia University in Owensboro.
- 6 p.m. Mass with Bishop William F. Medley at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

What should you do if you suspect human trafficking?

If someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To connect a potential victim to services, or to request information or support, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by Polaris Project, at 1-888-373-7888 (available 24/7). Bakhita Empowerment Initiative staff are available M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with some limited availability after hours and on weekends.

‘That’s how my heart was created to love’

Parish steps in to help young woman enter religious life

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Morgan Murray, a young adult member of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, had done “all the things an adult does” – from getting established in her career, buying a house and getting a dog – and yet she felt “restless.”

“There were no more boxes to check,” said Murray. She loved her job as a pediatric nurse practitioner, and yet felt something was missing.

The only place where she felt peace was praying in the perpetual adoration chapel inside the church.

Then one weekend, her pastor, Fr. Richard Meredith, gave a homily about marriage and the importance of praying for one’s future spouse. This idea had never occurred to Murray, so she started praying for her future husband.

Murray was praying for her future husband one day in adoration in January 2019 when she heard the Lord say to her: “Why are you looking for a spouse when I am the perfect spouse?”

She thought, “Lord, what’s that supposed to mean?”

Murray later described the experience as being “like an invitation, very gentle, personal, and patient.”

She asked God what she should do. A few minutes later, Fr. Meredith walked into the chapel – and the Lord said “talk to him.”

Shortly thereafter, Murray began going to her pastor for monthly spiritual direction, and looking into religious communities. She spoke with some

communities on the phone and attended some “come-and-sees” (a colloquialism for short visits of discernment to religious communities).

“None of them were bad, but they were just not the right one for me,” she said. She became more involved at her parish and did a lot of spiritual reading: “I was ‘hungry.’”



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Morgan Murray, seen at her parish of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, is discerning with the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan.

Murray said this period was “kind of like courting. I was being drawn closer and closer to the Lord. For the first time, I didn’t know what was next, and I was ok with that.”

Murray found herself at the church every day, whether serving as a member of parish council, lead-

ing sacramental prep, and participating in other parish activities “to have an excuse to be here more.”

And then the COVID-19 lockdown happened.

A nurse religious sister

With the March 2020 news that COVID-19 had reached the United States, governmental and religious leaders decided to suspend public gatherings as healthcare workers were swamped with the onslaught of coronavirus cases.

Bishop William F. Medley joined with the other U.S. bishops to temporarily suspend public Masses in order to fight the spread of the virus. The Diocese of Owensboro’s announcement about closing the churches was sent out the evening of Monday, March 16. The news was given to the faithful of Sts. Peter and Paul that following Tuesday.

This meant Murray could not do her regular 6 a.m. Wednesday holy hour. So she decided to improvise in order to still spend time with Jesus.

“I parked my car on the hill by the door of the church because that was the closest I could get to the tabernacle,” she said. As the weather warmed up, she started praying in the Mary garden outside the church.

Out of the blue, someone sent her a link on Twitter about a religious sister who was a nurse and taking care of COVID-19 patients. Part of the story detailed how the sister had to modify her religious habit to account for her personal protective equipment.

“I thought, ‘I’ve got to find out who this is,’” said

Continues on page 12

Discerning religious life continued from page 11

Murray, whose curiosity was raised as a medical professional herself – and as someone still actively discerning religious life.

She discovered that the sister belonged to the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan – and that besides professing the three evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, these sisters profess a fourth vow of Service of the Poor, Sick, and Ignorant. Through this, every sister receives a particular obedience to engage in formal studies so that she can serve the Church in a professional capacity. Their ministries include serving as doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians and canon lawyers.

Murray was able to visit their convent in Knoxville, Tenn., in January 2021. Then she did a come-and-see at their Alma motherhouse.

Besides their commitment to live together in community, the sisters each commit to a daily holy hour – the context in which God called Murray.

Walking away at the end of the weekend, she realized “that’s how my heart was created to love.”

Student debt

Murray spoke with the vocations director, Sr. Teresa Mary, RSM, about entering – and encountered a new challenge: the fact that she could not bring debt into the community. Murray was still paying off her student loans from attending Vanderbilt University for graduate school.

Sr. Teresa Mary told her about the Labouré So-

ciety, (<https://rescuevocations.org>), a nonprofit that provides financial assistance through fundraising for individuals needing to resolve student loans in order to pursue a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

Murray was originally skeptical of this option, but after thoroughly researching it with Fr. Meredith, they found it was “absolutely honest, no gimmicks, no spin. And Labouré doesn’t profit from this.”

She agreed to partner with Labouré – but felt nervous doing a fundraising “ask” beyond family members.

Fr. Meredith advised: “Tell the parish your problem, and they can respond.”

Murray spoke after all the Masses one weekend, attempting to express her gratitude for all she’d received from the parish.

“The response from that point on, was incredible,” she said.

Donations began to flood in. Pat Puckett and Julie Tiell, a mother/daughter team of parishioners, joined with more than 10 other parishioners to do a bake sale fundraiser (unbeknownst to Murray). They raised \$3,100 in one weekend – and a parishioner later matched the donation so it raised a total of \$6,200.

To date, “pending approval from the Labouré Society Board of Directors, approximately \$49,000 has been raised in my honor,” said Murray, who remains overwhelmed by the support of her vocation.

Adventurous love story

Murray looks back on her formative years as paving the way for her calling. She attended Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School from preschool through eighth grade, and credits her teachers for “making the faith alive and integrated in the classroom.”

(Her mother entered RCIA and eventually became Catholic after Murray came home with religious education homework and questions her mom could not answer about the faith.)

Murray “fell in love with the Mass” as an altar server, and often accompanied her father on his holy hours at church.

Today, she knows she is in love “with the One who has been in pursuit of my heart all along. Even though I wasn’t always pursuing Him, He waited patiently for me and gently invited me to be His.”

Murray said that “restlessness” that she felt when she first started her career “ended up not being caused by a lack of something, but (that) I hadn’t been making room for the Someone who was calling me.”

“He and I are walking through this adventurous love story together, and I can’t imagine anything more fulfilling than that,” she said.

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in the Church on Feb. 2, 2022 (the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord) and in parish communities over the weekend of Feb. 5-6. Pray for all those in consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on this special day. ■

‘Unique’ Camino will provide adapted experience

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In September, Fr. Gary Clark will be leading a unique pilgrimage on El Camino de Santiago,

geared toward providing an adapted experience for those with physical limitations.

The “uniqueness” of this Camino is that it will be “set up for anybody who wants to go on it,” said

Fr. Clark, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah.

The trip will take place Sept. 20-30, 2022.

Fr. Clark said the focus is for older people or

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Camino continued from page 12

those with physical health issues. While the Camino is typically a walking-only pilgrimage, this experience will offer a bus that will accompany the walkers on the route so that anyone who becomes tired can ride to the next destination.

However, “this is not a sightseeing pilgrimage,” said Fr. Clark. “The Camino started out as a penance. People would walk to Santiago and back as their penance.”

He emphasized that people should still try to walk as much as possible, but that they will be able to “walk at their own pace.”

“Everyone should have a purpose for their Camino,” he said, and he urged pilgrims of this Camino to do the same.

Fr. Clark is working on a booklet with prayers and images, which he will give the pilgrims to guide them through the journey. He said each day will offer the opportunity to eat together and share about everyone’s experiences. There will also be daily prayer time available.

The day before they will arrive at Santiago, Fr. Clark will be walking with his reconciliation stole so that anyone can go to confession before arriving at their ultimate destination.

“It will be an opportunity to get rid of your sins, walking the Camino and allowing God to lighten your burdens through confession,” he said.

Another adaptation of this Camino is that pilgrims will stay in hotels, instead of the usual hostels.

“Meals will be provided since we’re trying to stay safe because of COVID,” said Fr. Clark.

He said when someone registers, they will receive information about how to physically train for the experience, as well as details on information sessions to prepare.

“This will be a time for healing, praying, and growing in community,” said Fr. Clark. ■

For more information or to register, contact Faith in Travel’s Kenny Trowbridge at Kenny@faithintravel.com or (270) 952-2913.



Walk the Way of St. James: El Camino de Santiago

Join Fr. Gary Clark on this sacred walking/bus healing pilgrimage. For more than 1,000 years, saints and laypeople alike have traveled on foot to St. James’s ancient burial site — experiencing the breathtaking countryside of Spain and awakening the soul. This magnificent pilgrimage was featured in the 2010 movie directed by Emilio Estevez and starring his father, Martin Sheen, called “The Way.”

Fr. Gary has made this journey several times and you will have the availability to choose daily if you want to walk or ride the motor coach! This is a great opportunity to heal the mind and soul.

When you sign up, you will receive more information about how to prepare spiritually and physically. Spots are limited and will sell out quickly!

For more information:

Contact Faith in Travel’s Kenny Trowbridge at kenny@faithintravel.com/270.952.2913 or Contact Fr. Gary at gary.clark@pastoral.com.



Your trip includes:

- 1 Overnight in Ponferrada
- 1 Overnight in Sarria
- 1 Overnight in Portomarin
- 1 Overnight in Palas de Rei
- 1 Overnight in Arzua
- 2 Overnights in Santiago
- 2 Overnights in La Coruna
- Breakfast daily
- Dinner Daily, except for Day 8
- Motorcoach airport to airport
- 2nd class train tickets from Madrid to Ponferrada
- Eng speaking Tour Manager
- Service of a local guide in La Coruna for city sightseeing
- \$1,899 per person Land Package
- (Air pricing and trip insurance available Jan, 2022)
- \$349 per person single room supplement

Trip Dates

September 20-30th, 2022

BUEN CAMINO!

IN BRIEF

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Aid to Church in Need calls for prayers for Myanmar on coup anniversary

YANGON, Myanmar (CNS) – The papal foundation Aid to the Church in Need has called for prayers Feb. 1, to show solidarity with the people of Myanmar on the first anniversary of the military coup. “It has been a year of terror and suffering, which has disrupted the course of this Asian country. The response of the military leadership to the massive demonstra-

tions against its abuse of power has been ruthless and brutal,” said a statement by the agency, which has been assisting persecuted Christians. Aid to the Church in Need said the day of prayer would remember the dead and intercede for the innocent civilian population, especially internally displaced people. “Let us pray for all these thousands on the move, many of them at risk of starving,” it said. “As fight-

ing intensifies, the church is faced with a task with which it is sadly familiar because of the conflicts that have plagued Myanmar in the past: to attend to the increasingly large number of (internally displaced people) on church grounds, in the jungle or in camps.” Nearly 1,500 people have been killed, including at least 50 children, and over 11,000 people have been arrested since the coup. ■



(Above) "Our house is gone," said Troy Morgan, middle, who attended Resurrection Parish's first Mass, on Dec. 19, at the home of Donnie and Rhonda Mills after the Dec. 10 tornado destroyed his family's home, along with the church building. "Seeing how Dawson Springs looked and the way our house looked, we feel very blessed to be alive; we should have been dead. But God protected us and took care of us." With Morgan is his youngest son, Jonathon, left, 11, and his wife, Mary.

(Below) Just before the first Sunday Mass at their temporary dwelling after the Dec. 10 tornado destroyed the Resurrection Catholic Church building in Dawson Springs, Donnie Mills is up early on Dec. 19 to make sure everything is prepared for the liturgy. He and his wife, Rhonda Mills, opened their home up to their fellow parishioners so that they would have a place to worship until a new church building can be constructed. The building behind their home has been converted from an exercise room to a place of worship. "Being able to keep our church family close has meant a lot," Rhonda Mills said, explaining their decision. "We wanted to keep our faith community alive."



(Above) After the Dec. 10 tornado in Dawson Springs destroyed much of the Resurrection Catholic Church building, parishioner Beri Zapananick helps clean up around the outside of the building on Dec. 22 as the resurrection statue, untouched amidst the devastation of the building it was attached to, is loaded up for transport to its temporary storage. "What we lost is the building," she said. "What we still have is our community."

'What we still have is our community'

PHOTOS AND STORY BY JAMES KENNEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

After the Dec. 10, 2021 tornado devastated Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, the members of this small Catholic community are determined to stay together despite the loss of their church building. After removing everything they could from the crippled church building, they "built" a new, temporary, church in a small building behind the house of parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills. ■

James Kenney is the coordinator of the photojournalism program at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.



(Above) Resurrection Parish pastor, Fr. David Kennedy, raises the Eucharist during the first Mass celebrated by the parish after the Dec. 10 tornado destroyed its church building. Resurrection's Dcn. Mike Marsili, left, says that though the transition has been difficult, "I am pleased that our parish community is staying together. As bad as the storm was, it didn't scatter us any. But Fr. (Kennedy) and I know there is a lot of work ahead. You can see it moving forward; it gives us hope."

Forty-ninth anniversary of Roe v. Wade recalled as faithful pray and walk for life around diocese



COURTESY OF OCS 4-6 CAMPUS

During the school day on Jan. 21, 2022, the students of Owensboro Catholic School System's 4-6 Campus gather at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro to pray the rosary in solidarity with all Catholic schools across the diocese, with the intention being for those participating that day in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley presides at exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, following Mass for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on Jan. 22, 2022, the 49th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe V. Wade decision to legalize abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.



COURTESY OF NEENA GAYNOR

Fr. Terry Devine, the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Hawesville and St. Columba Parish in Lewisport, prays to begin the first-ever Hancock County March for Life on Jan. 22, 2022 at the Hancock County High School track. Hancock County Pro-Life Coalition's first planning meeting will take place on Feb. 7, 2022 from 6-7 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception parish hall.

Snapshots of parish life from St. William in Marion

St. William of Vercelli Parish in Marion has been keeping busy. Here are some highlights of recent activities at the parish. ■



COURTESY OF REBECCA WOODALL

Longtime parishioner, Allen Summers, gives RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) candidates a tour of the church and shows them how he sets up for Mass. The RCIA class is led by Brandie Ledford.



COURTESY OF CHRISSY ELLIOTT

Trace Elliott, age 11, from St. William's Confirmation class, helps to sort gifts for storm victims in Eddyville, Ky.

Three Kings Project aims to bring hope to tornado victims



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Just days after the devastating tornadoes during the night of Dec. 10, 2021, people work on clearing the damage at St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield.

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

As families continue to rebuild their lives following the devastating tornadoes of Dec. 10, 2021, the Ursuline Sisters and Associates are adapting a project begun by the Knights of Columbus to offer prayers and emotional support.

During Christmastide (Dec. 25 to Jan. 6), the Knights of Columbus chapter in Louisville began the “Three Kings Project.” It sought to emulate the three Magi from the east who brought gifts to the Holy Family. Mary, Joseph and Jesus were in a

temporary shelter. They were joyful, but surely concerned for their future. The wise men brought them the gift of hope and encouragement.

Surely each of us has the ability to lift someone’s spirits this winter.

The Three Kings Project asks people to:

- Write a note, a card or share a children’s drawing to inspire hope and joy.
- Make three of these cards, and address them as either “Dear Brother or Sister,” “Dear Family,” “Dear Friend,” or some other salutation.

- On the outside of the envelope, write “Three Kings Project.”

Initially these cards were sent to the Knights of Columbus. The Paducah, Ky., chapter forwarded about 30 of these cards to Ursuline Sister Martha Keller, who has been heading relief efforts through her ministry at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Fancy Farm, near Mayfield, which received the most severe damage.

Sister Martha has been handing out the cards to storm victims who she sees in need of a lift. She believes these needs will go on much longer than the Christmas season. She is asking for your support in continuing this service to those in need.

These cards should not include gift cards, snacks or small gifts. Just simple thoughts and prayers, letting the people who have lost so much know that they are remembered and are receiving prayers.

Once you’ve made three cards, place them in a larger envelope and mail them to:

St. Jerome Catholic Church
C/o Sister Martha Keller
P.O. Box 38
Fancy Farm, KY 42039

Whether you sign the cards or provide a return address is up to each individual. It is not essential, but it could lead to developing an ongoing relationship, Sister Martha said.

Please consider participating in the Three Kings Project immediately. We will likely continue distributing cards until Easter, but the sooner your positive thoughts can be shared, the more hope you can bring to these people who are living day to day. ■

This story originally was published on ursulinesmsj.org.

Deacon collaboration helps Indiana parish deliver funds to Kentucky neighbors

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Thanks to collaboration among several deacons, an Indiana parish was able to deliver \$18,500 to their tornado-stricken neighbors across the state line in Kentucky.

Dcn. Charlie Johnson of Divine Mercy Parish in the Diocese of Evansville was a classmate of Dcn. Jay W. VanHoosier, faith formation director for the Diocese of Owensboro, when the two were studying for the permanent diaconate.

Dcn. Johnson heard about the disastrous tornadoes that struck western Kentucky during the night of Dec. 10, 2021, and reached out to Dcn. VanHoosier.

“When I heard about the tornadoes, I texted him that Monday morning to see how things were in the diocese,” said Dcn. Johnson, who quickly learned that Kentucky had borne the brunt of the devastation.

Dcn. Johnson asked about Mayfield, which had been mainly in the news in the beginning.

“And that’s when he told me about Resurrection,” said Dcn. Johnson. Dcn. VanHoosier explained to his brother deacon that the small church in Dawson Springs had been destroyed by the tornadoes. The community of Dawson Springs itself was in shambles.

Dcn. Johnson contacted his pastor, Fr. Jose Thomas, to see if their parish could have a special collection. Fr. Thomas, and the parish, readily agreed.

Fr. Thomas wanted to make sure any monies raised would go directly to Resurrection Parish, so Dcn. Johnson checked with the Diocese of Evansville to confirm that they could write a check directly to the Kentucky parish.

Divine Mercy held a second collection the following weekend – Dec. 18/19, 2021 – which took place in the two churches within the parish: Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Schnellville, Ind., and St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in St. Anthony, Ind.

Despite rapidly organizing the collection, Dcn. Johnson was not immediately certain how or when they would get the money to Resurrection. But when he arrived at Mass that weekend, the parish’s music director told him that his brother-in-law is a deacon in Owensboro.

The Owensboro deacon, Dcn. Richard Murphy of St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, is friends with Dcn. Mike Marsili of Resurrection Parish.

Thanks to Dcn. Murphy’s assistance, Dcn. Johnson was able to get in contact with Dcn. Marsili and make arrangements to bring the donation to Dawson Springs in-person.

Dcn. Johnson told The Western Kentucky Catholic that Divine Mercy Parish has about 600 families in the two churches.

That weekend, they raised \$1,200 at the second collection. That following week, a parishioner came in with a check for \$5,000.

And by the time Dcn. Johnson and Fr. Thomas drove down to Dawson Springs on Dec. 23, 2021,



RILEY GREIF | WKC

A statue of the Blessed Mother and baby Jesus survived the tornado damages that impacted Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, in this photo from Dec. 15, 2021.

they had a check for \$18,500.

“I had no idea how bad things were until we went down there,” Dcn. Johnson admitted. “Whole blocks piled onto debris piles instead of buildings... unbelievable damage.”

But he knew it was nowhere near the immediate aftermath: “I was amazed at what had already occurred in terms of cleanup.” ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Schedule of 2022 fish fries in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: Canons 1250 and 1251 state that all Fridays are days of penance in the Catholic Church. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requests that Catholics abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent, and practice some form of penance on the other Fridays throughout the year. Due to fish being a popular Lenten Friday option in this part of the world, the tradition of Friday fish fries has become a common activity for many communities. Below is information for the 2022 fish fries offered within the Diocese of Owensboro, provided by the parishes and local community organizations. All questions about the individual fish fries should be directed to the parishes and organizations.

The following information is subject to change or cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Address: 602 Sycamore St, Owensboro
Drive-thru only | March 11, April 8
Serving time: 5-7 p.m. | Sr. Jeannette Fennewald, SSND, at (270) 926-4741

Christ the King Parish, Madisonville

Address: 1600 Kingsway Dr, Madisonville
Dine-in | March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8
Serving time: 5:30-7 p.m. | (270) 821-5494

Holy Name of Jesus School, Henderson

Address: 628 2nd St, Henderson; serving in school cafeteria or drive-thru at school parking lot
Dine-in, with option to do drive-thru only depending on COVID-19 situation (updates will be in parish bulletin, social media and websites) | March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1 (tentative due to spring break) | Serving time: 5:30-7 p.m. | Aaron Hauser at (270) 748-0325

Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green

Address: 4754 Smallhouse Rd., Bowling Green
Dine-in and carryout will be available | March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 11 | Serving time: 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Parish office at (270) 842-7777

Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council #1055

Address: 3028 Jefferson St, Paducah
Drive-thru only | Feb. 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8 | Serving time: 4-7 p.m. | (270) 443-3480

Mary Carrico Catholic School, Philpot

Address: 9546 Hwy. 144, Philpot (school gym)
Dine-in and carryout | March 4, 11, 18, 25
Serving time: 4:30-6 p.m. | Parish office at (270) 281-4802

Our Lady of Lourdes, Knights of Columbus Council #14290

Address: 4029 Frederica St, Owensboro
Dine-in, carryout, and drive-thru may be available (would not include drink or dessert)
March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8 | Serving time: 5 p.m.
(270) 684-5369

Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro

Address: 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro

Drive-thru only | March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8
Serving time: 5-6:30 p.m. | (270) 684-6888

St. Ann Parish, Morganfield

Address: 304 Church St., Morganfield
Dine-in and carryout | March 4, 18; April 1
Serving time: 5 p.m. | (270) 389-2287

St. Columba Parish, Lewisport

Address: 815 Pell St., Lewisport
Drive-thru and dine-in | March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8
| Serving time: 4-7 p.m. | (270) 927-8419

St. John the Evangelist Knights of Columbus

Address: 6705 Old US Hwy. 45 S, Paducah
Drive-thru only | March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8
Serving time: 4-7 p.m. | Paul Roof at (270) 556-3678

St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley

Address: 81 Church St., Owensboro
Dine-in or carryout | March 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8
Serving time: 5:50 p.m. | Parish office at (270) 764-1983

St. Pius X Parish, Calvert City

Address: 777 E. 5th Ave, Calvert City
Carryout only | March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8
Serving time: 5-7 p.m. | (270) 395-5747

Whitesville Lions Club, Whitesville

Address: 10345 Hwy. 54, Whitesville
Dine-in and to-go orders available | Feb 11, 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15
Serving time: Begins 5 p.m. | (270) 233-4332 (for to-go orders)

You could win a handmade quilt for only \$25!



Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner is making 36 blocks for this quilt.

The Ursuline Sisters' annual Quilt Club tickets are now available.



For the purchase of one \$25 ticket, you get 12 chances to win a handmade quilt! Drawings are held at noon on the first Friday of each month. (Watch them live on our Facebook page! www.facebook.com/ursulinesmsj)

Sign up by March 31, 2022, to be entered into all 12 drawings.
The first drawing will be on April 1. Only 2,500 tickets will be sold.

We sold out last year, so don't delay ordering your tickets!
270-229-2008 • carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org

Visit us online: ursulinesmsj.org
Click Get Involved, then Quilt Club or go directly to
ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-club



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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2022 BULLETIN BOARD

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

Belonging to Love: Prayer and Conversations online Feb. 10

Do you want to deepen your experience of God's presence and action in your life? If so, consider joining in the prayer and conversations with an Ursuline Sister and a spiritual director, brought to you by the Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Ministry. These monthly online sessions include time for inspiration, meditation and meaningful conversation. This contemplative prayer program takes place on the second Thursday of the month. These are free online Zoom presentations--donations are appreciated. Our next program is on Thursday, Feb. 10 from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CST. To register to receive the link, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/> Note: The next date will be Thursday, March 10.

Help us find our staff!

At Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center just outside of Bowling Green, Ky. Who we're looking for: We are looking for young adults, at least a year out of high school, who are available all summer, have a relationship with Jesus, enjoy working with kids, are hard-working, and get along well with others. Positions available: Summer staff, photographer/social media manager, healthcare provider. How you can help: We would greatly appreciate you telling your young adults about the opportunities at Gasper River. Encourage those you think would do well on staff and affirm the qualities you see in them. Please tell them where to find more information and how to apply. For more information: Visit our website at gasperriverretreatcenter.org. Applications close Feb. 27, 2022. If you would like us to send posters, please email gasper.program@gmail.com.

Seeking Catholic school principal

St. Mary Cathedral Grade School in Cape Girardeau, Mo., is seeking candidates for its principal position. Candidates need to be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church. They should have elementary school experience and a Master's degree in school administration. Contact Fr. Allan

Saunders, 615 William St., Cape Girardeau, MO, at (573) 335-9347 for applications or questions.

A Scout is Reverent

The upcoming Religious Emblems Mass with Bishop Medley will take place March 13, 2022 at a location to be determined soon. At this Mass, Bishop Medley confers the religious emblems that the youth have earned through the programs offered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers. Now is the time to begin working toward earning these emblems. They include for Cub Scouts: Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei and for Boy Scouts: Ad altare Dei and Pope Pius XII and Light is Life (Eastern Catholic) and for Girl Scouts and others: God is Love, Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary the First Disciple, The Spirit Alive, and Missio. For an introduction to these emblems and a presentation by the Catholic Committee on Scouting at your next meeting, please see the diocesan website's scouting page under Youth Ministry: <https://owensborodiocese.org/scouting/>.



Save the Date! Spring Women's Retreat

Saturday, April 30, 2022

"Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit" will be the theme of a spring Women's Retreat Day at Mount Saint Joseph. One area of focus will be Saint Hildegard of Bingen. The retreat will be led by **Ursuline Sister Cheryl Clemons, Ph.D.** The time is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. followed by Mass (optional).

To learn more or to sign up, call 270-229-0206

Email retreatcenter@maplemount.org

Online: ursulinesmsj.org/living-in-the-power/



**Mount Saint Joseph
Retreat Ministry**

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356

gasper river 2022 summer camp schedule

June 5-10

EXPEDITION 1
5TH/6TH GRADE

QUEST 1
7TH/8TH GRADE

June 12-15

EXPLORER 1
3RD/4TH GRADE

June 12-17

CAMP LIFE 1
HIGH SCHOOL

June 19-24

EXPEDITION 2
5TH/6TH GRADE

QUEST 2
7TH/8TH GRADE

**June 26-
July 1**

QUEST 3
7TH/8TH GRADE

CALLED TO LOVE
HIGH SCHOOL,
GIRLS ONLY

July 3-8

CAMP LIFE 2
HIGH SCHOOL

July 10-13

EXPLORER 2
3RD/4TH GRADE

July 10-15

EXPEDITION 3
5TH/6TH GRADE

July 17-22

EXPEDITION 4
5TH/6TH GRADE

QUEST 4
7TH/8TH GRADE

July 24-27

EXPLORER 3
HIGH SCHOOL

register at
gasperriverretreatcenter.org

Come to me and receive!

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus tells us, “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Mathew 11:28). I recently had the good fortune of attending a four-day retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani nestled on 2,200 acres in New Haven, Ky. Being new to Kentucky, this was my first time praying with the Trappist monks and participating in this silent retreat.

The above scripture was communicated to me a variety of ways on retreat and I would like to testify to the truth of our faith, that Jesus is good to his word. A retreat is a good place to be reminded of the presence and promise of our amazing God. At one of our two retreat talks given in the evening by one of the monks, he told us this retreat should not end when we go home. The gift of retreat is a new beginning with a deeper awareness of how much we are loved and how much God wants to work in and through our lives. Can we accept the invitation to come to Jesus and find the only thing that meets the deepest desires of our heart? Yes, while on retreat, but how do we live this in our daily realities?

The life of these contemplative monks is very different from the lives we lead. They pray communally seven times a day and attend Mass. They read the scriptures and do Lectio Divina for an hour each morning, they work for four hours each day in a variety of jobs to sustain the life of the monastery, and

they have very little contact with the outside world.

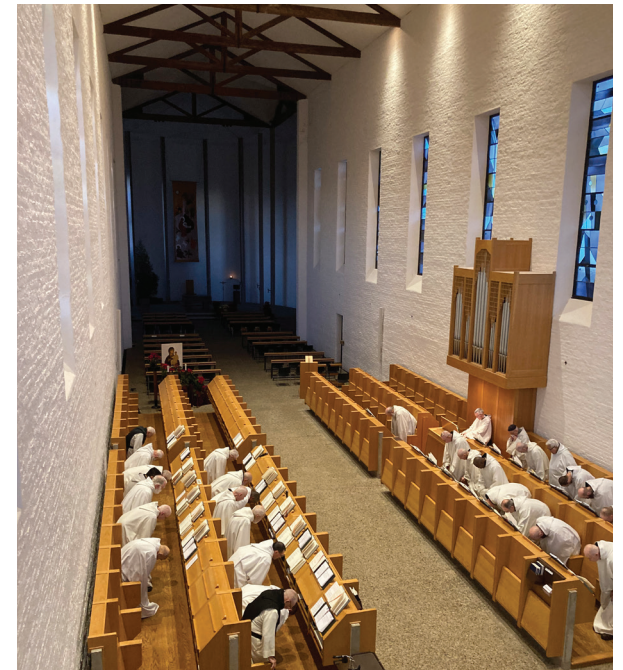
We, on the other hand, live in the busyness of the world, often have the television and news going 24/7, and struggle to experience the peace and joy of God in our chaotic lives. But the question remains, “Are you weary and burdened?” The answer for nearly all of us is yes! So how do we respond to the invitation to encounter Jesus and find rest?

Brothers and sisters, we find abundant life, meaning, purpose and rest in a daily relationship with Jesus! We try to find these elusive qualities in our lives in countless other ways; a glass or two of wine, a vacation, a walk, exercise, and more... All good things to be sure, but they cannot meet the deepest needs of the human heart. Only in God is our soul at rest and only by spending time with Jesus each day and surrounding ourselves with other disciples on the journey, will we find the hope, joy and rest that we long for.

As the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship offers the Encounter Love/Encounter Jesus event in the parishes of our diocese in 2022, I hope you will attend and experience a deeper encounter with Christ and be renewed in your growing relationship with God.

Peace in Christ,
Jeff ■

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



COURTESY OF DR. JEFF ANDRINI
The Trappist monks at prayer at the Abbey of Gethsemani in New Haven, Ky.

**25th Annual
YOUTH 2000**
A Eucharistic-Centered Retreat

March 11-13, 2022

**Ages 13-30
(270) 683-1545**

**Brescia University
Campus Center**

owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000




 Office of Youth Ministry
 DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

February Wedding Anniversaries

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

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Bob & Marian Davis, 54
John & Mary Medley, 61
Ralph & Rose Bemboom, 53
Vince & Joan Frey, 63

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Burnell & Mabel Hamilton, 52

Christ the King, Scottsville

Antonio & Veronica Lopez, 25

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Bernard & Betty Feltrop, 67
David & Gail Day, 40
Fred & Michaelene Guillerman, 56
John & Carlene Gabe, 59
John & Kathleen Prough, 50
Kenneth & Harriett Hite, 55
Lawrence & Darlene Smithhart, 51
Martin & Angela Hite, 25
Mike & Bobbie Willett, 59
Norman & Mary Anne Williams, 57
Richard & Doris Market, 59
Walter & Gail Clancy, 51

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Aidan & Rebecca Berinyuy, 5
Donald & Janet Mott, 54
James & Patricia Signorello, 55
Matt & Maura Day, 5
Peter & Kaye Buser, 55
Victor & Marti Billhartz, 53

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Charles & Patricia Hagman, 51
Denis & Martha Wheatley, 62

Immaculate, Owensboro

Bob & Mary Rumage, 57
Danny & Francele Warren, 52
Fred & Gloria Zinobile, 67
Gary & Pat Satterwhite, 62

Jim & Pat Krampe, 62
Rick & Kim Hayden, 40
Tony & Becky Dant, 50
William & Lynda Maddox, 55

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

George & Brenda Hardesty, 54
Kenneth & Agnes Harley, 52
Michael & Shelia Fulton, 52

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Dennis & Joni Blair, 52
Frank & Rita Cecil, 61
Guy & Linda Connor, 61
Wayne & Linda Winfield, 53

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

Johnny & Lauretta Hollis, 56

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Donnie & Becky Ervin, 54
Jack & Sue Miller, 57
Robert & Carolyn Mills, 55
Ronald & Mary Davis, 65
Wayne & Loretta Nally, 61

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Paul & Beverly Smith, 57

St. Ann, Morganfield

Kenny & Rosie Holt, 53

St. Anthony, Axtel

Homer & JoAnn Mattingly, 54

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

James & Faye Johnston, 60

St. Benedict, Wax

Dwight & Brenda Johnston, 56
Ruel & Louise Patterson, 54
Tom & Judy Croghan, 55

St. Charles, Bardwell

Mike & Ruth Elder, 54
Ron & Dawn Kupper, 57

St. Columba, Lewisport

Dwayne & Joyce Duncan, 52

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

David & Sandra Hayden, 53
John & Beatrice Ellegood, 40

St. Edward, Fulton

Rick & Marie Smith, 50

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Cletus & Peggy Russelburg, 55

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

David & Venessa Alexander, 40
Mike & Dana Mitchell, 25
Paul & Terry House, 54

St. Francis of Assisi, Guthrie

Sheril & Virginia Howard, 54

St. Henry, Aurora

Philip & Dianna Alvey, 52

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Jim & Dorothy Roberts, 54
Lee & Connie Roberts, 52

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

John & Anna Drury, 53
Kenny & Jeannie Spraggs, 51

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Carroll & Sue Hughes, 56
Gerald & Norma Jenkins, 55
Tom & Pat Volk, 54

St. Joseph, Central City

David & Jean Simpson, 60

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Bob & Joanne Deweese, 55
Dennis & Brenda Poteet, 54
Jordan & Maribel Ray, 10

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Charles & Dorothy Harris, 55
Jerry & Norma Erwin, 56
Randy & Sandy Gossum, 54
Robert & Rose Coplen, 71

St. Leo, Murray

Joe & Linda Ohnemus, 52

St. Martin, Rome

Bill & Jane Shelton, 71

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Eddie & Alo Byrne, 53
Sam & Sherry Holinde, 53

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

David & Peggy Morris, 52
Fred & Sharon Coomes, 51
Gene & Donna Brant, 40
Jimmy & Marty Johnson, 58

Joseph & Tiffany Howard, 10
Marvin & Mary Ann Bickwermer, 54

Mike & Rebecca Greenwell, 5

St. Mary, Franklin

Lewis & Helen Garst, 61

St. Mary, LaCenter

Jim & Marie Funk, 55

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Charles & Barbara Peltier, 59
Gary & Cheryl Heim, 51
John & Gina Spiller, 10
William & Emma Hockaday, 5

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

Jerry Wayne & Beverly Duncan, 56
John & Judy Moore, 51

St. Pius X, Owensboro

David & Patricia Jones, 54
Frankie & Betty Clark, 67
James & Penny Howard, 62
Mike & Janet Schwartz, 51

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Ken & Michaelanne James, 60
Roger & LaDonna Barton, 25

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Scott & Marie Caraway, 25

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Audie & Lana Chaney, 52
Robert & Vurble Mahoney, 65
Tom & Lucy Neal, 61
Virgil & Colene Jennings, 75

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Hong & Cathy Khang, 53
Jim & Kathleen Ariagno, 57
Tom & Patricia Fritsch, 57

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Al & Mary McKeown, 59
Chad & Audrey Stoerger, 5
Larry & Phyllis Stovesand, 52
Ronald & Joan Boyum, 40

St. William, Knottsville

Scott & Melissa O'Bryan, 10
Stanley & Barbara Roberts, 50
William & Bonnie Lanham, 10

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Randy & Elizabeth Belcher, 55
Vincent & Linda Cecil, 54

Sacramental registers reveal bonds of early Catholic communities

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

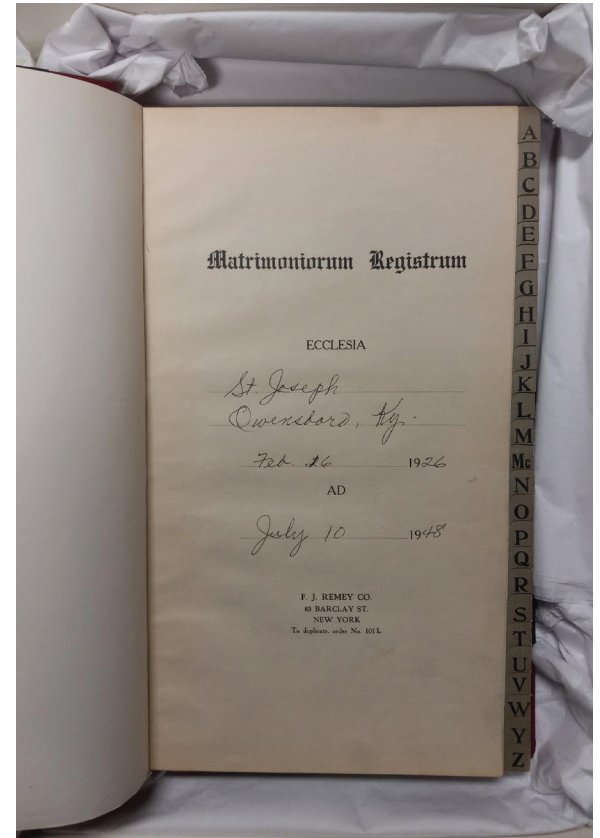
It's February and the stores are no doubt filled with chocolates, roses and more heart decorations than a cardiologist convention. St. Valentine's Day is just another day that Catholics can stand back and truly appreciate how deeply rooted and influential our beloved faith is on Western culture. Catholic or not, it is a feast day that nobody wants to be left out of. This is a perfect time of year for the archives to showcase its bound sacramental registries. I know. It may seem like a stretch connecting these books to Valentine's Day. However, I assure you, they are some of our oldest and most love-laden books. Their pages are filled with marriages and baptisms that came as a result of those blessed unions. Many dating back to the 1800s, they are definitely a history lesson of Catholic love and family in our diocese.

Some of these registers date as far back as 1848; that means they could hold the marriage records of your great, great, great, great, great, grandparents... romantic! In all seriousness, one of the primary missions of the archives is to assist researchers. One of the most common researchers we help is genealogists. These records can paint a picture of an individual that is otherwise largely lost to time. These are obviously records of major life events, such as marriages and confirmations, but they can also offer a more personal look. This is possible because priests would oftentimes comment on the individual. Anecdotes

or remarks on the piety of the individual and their family can be seen throughout the pages of these registers.

Though the archives directs parishioners to the parish of their baptism when they are inquiring about more modern administered sacraments, we keep these older texts. There are a couple of reasons for this. One circumstance that puts these into our hands is that a church closes and the archive is the best fit for the register. Another reason is that the register is historic and requires preservation. The archive is temperature, humidity, and light controlled and the artifacts and documents are stored in archival grade, acid-free boxes. All precautions are taken to assure the safety of the objects. This is simply not possible in all of our parishes.

Besides being a wealth of information, the books themselves have a history; they are more than records, they are artifacts. To many, these may appear to be nothing more than old books, but to historians and lovers of history, they have a life of their own and beautiful stories that they want to share. It is absolutely incredible to think of the lives these little objects have lived. Sitting on the desk of a priest who served his congregation on horseback, in a room lit by lamps and heated by a wood-burning stove, a quill recorded the sacraments upon their pages. Entire lives of entire communities lay upon these pages. Before phones, cars, even as far back as before the American Civil War, some of these tomes were



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES
Marriage register of St. Joseph Parish in Owensboro dating from 1926.

preserving the most important moments of our ancestors' lives.

These books illustrate the connectedness of Catholic communities. A couple's marriage record could be recorded on one page and years before you can find that they received the sacrament of Confirmation together. These books are a beautiful treasure and hopefully, now, you have some love for them as well. ■

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

Gaspar River rings in the New Year, *looks forward to Tower #68 as biggest highlight of summer 2022*

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The 2021 Christmas/New Year's Camp at Gaspar River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green was happy to be back in full swing.

"The energy was off the charts!" said Ben Warrell, Gaspar's director, of the retreat which took place Dec. 29, 2021-Jan. 1, 2022. "The kids were so excited to be back at camp and each day was filled with joy."

He said they had more than 40 campers signed up this year, though they lost a few because of sickness, so they ended up with 36 campers in the end.

Warrell said there was a "good mix" of eighth graders and high school aged youth, and that this year's theme was the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

"We watched Christmas movies and processed them towards our theme; we folk danced; had a gift exchange; New Year's Party; zip line; vertical playground; giant swing; and Jacob's Ladder along with daily Mass, confession and adoration," said Warrell.

He added that all the campers went to confession on New Year's Eve "and got rid of what comes between them and Jesus and started the New Year with clean souls!"

Olivia Romero, Gaspar's program director, told The Western Kentucky Catholic that most of the campers had been to Gaspar before, and enjoyed "reuniting and building community."

"I always love this camp because it allows more time for the campers to hang out, which was even more meaningful after Christmas Camp being virtual last year," said Romero. "They were a great group of teenagers, and it was a great camp."

Warrell said Gaspar's biggest plan for 2022 - which will be their 15th summer of camp - is a new climbing tower.

"We received a grant for \$50,000 to complete Tower #68," said Warrell.

The tower is named #68 after Logan Davis, a Gaspar River regular who tragically died in a single-vehicle accident in 2020 right before his senior year at Owensboro Catholic High School. Davis, who was on OCHS's football team, had 68 as his football jersey number.

The teen was known for his friendly, joyful spirit and his way of inspiring other people's faith. As soon as the tower had been donated to



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Campers help each other on Jacob's Ladder during Christmas/New Year's Camp at Gaspar River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green, which took place Dec. 29, 2021-Jan. 1, 2022.

Gaspar River, Warrell and his staff knew it would be named for Davis.

Warrell said the tower will have a beginner and advanced climbing sides, a rappelling side, and a free flight element - which involves wearing a full body harness, getting hooked into the belay device and jumping.

"If there is enough money left, we hope to add a new drop line off of the tower as well," said Warrell. "This amazing gift will help young people grow in self-confidence, self-esteem and most importantly in faith!"

Romero added that she, too, looks forward to this coming summer, especially since "we will have a new generation of summer staff coming in."

"It is always exciting to have new voices and perspectives on our staff," she said.

Warrell added that Gaspar will have two different camps for two different age groups each week this summer. Registration and schedules are already available on www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org. ■

Black History Month 2022: *Black health and wellness*



FILE PHOTO

F. Veronica Wilhite is the director of the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Black Catholic Ministry.

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE,
SPECIAL TO
THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY
CATHOLIC

This year's theme for Black History Month, "Black Health and Wellness," examines how American healthcare has served the African-American community from slavery, through "Jim Crow,"

the Civil Rights Movement and into the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Historically, Black Americans have not been full participants in the American healthcare system as consumers nor as providers. Economic and racial barriers along with historical mistrust of the medical system have been instrumental in the exclusion of Blacks from this system.

Transported from Africa to America with no knowledge of the language or culture, many slaves survived the inhumane and unhealthy environment of the slave ships as well as the plantations. Many unnamed and unknown African "healers and midwives" provided slaves and often whites with "folk remedies" of plant and herbal cures along with rituals from their African roots. In 1721, Onesimus,

an enslaved African, described to Cotton Mather the African method of inoculation against smallpox. The technique, later used to protect American Revolutionary War soldiers, was perfected in the 1790s by British doctor Edward Jenner's use of a less virulent organism.

Historical records are sparse, but Philadelphia, James Durham (Derham), is considered to be the first African American physician in the United States. Born into slavery in 1762, he became an assistant to doctors who purchased him. After buying his freedom he established a practice in New Orleans where he successfully treated patients during an outbreak of yellow fever in the 1780s.

In 1837 the first Black doctor in America, James McCune Smith, received his MD from the University of Glasgow in Scotland after having been denied admission to several universities in the United States. Dr. McCune Smith was one of the most well-known Black intellectuals, abolitionist, and activists in America.

David Jones Peck was the first Black person to graduate from medical school in the U.S. In 1847 he received his medical degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago. He was an active abolitionist but closed his unsuccessful medical practice and migrated to Nicaragua in 1852.

After 10 years of working as a nurse, Rebecca Lee Crumpler, MD, became the first Black woman in the U.S. to receive an MD in 1864 at the New England Female Medical College in Boston. After the Civil War she worked with other Black doctors in Rich-

mond, Va., but later returned to Boston where she treated women and children.

Segregation and racism within the medical profession continue to have a profoundly detrimental impact on the Black community. For more than 100 years the AMA actively reinforced or passively accepted racial inequalities and the exclusion of Black physicians. It wasn't until 1966 that African Americans were admitted to all U.S. medical schools and it wasn't until July 30, 2008 that any public acknowledgement by the AMA of these exclusions was addressed.

In order to foster health and wellness, Black people have had to rely on self-determination, mutual aid and social supports to build needed facilities, to train more healthcare providers and to foster community support for wellness initiatives. We now have three Black medical schools whose goal is to train Black doctors: Howard University, Meharry Medical School and Morehouse Medical School.

African American communities need and continue to need doctors that understand the unique cultural traditions, perspectives, and concerns of Blacks. Black medical schools have been integral to meeting this demand and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have been instrumental in creating pipelines to these medical schools and others. Xavier University of Louisiana, the only Historically Black College or University affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in the country has a formidable and nationally known history of producing doctors, which can be credited to Norman Francis, the institution's long-serving president, who in the 1970s read a report that caused him great concern — the report sounded the alarm that the number of Black doctors in the U.S. was dwindling at a steady pace. Francis decided to put

Continues on page 25

How to use blessed candles

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

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is celebrated on February 2. For centuries, it has been a tradition to distribute blessed candles on this feast day. Maybe you have received a candle from this celebration or even from another source. How should you use it?

First of all, the blessing included in the Roman Missal summarizes the spiritual symbolism of this sacramental:

O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails. Through Christ our Lord. – p. 667

It is appropriate to leave the blessed candle in a prominent place in your home or on in a

prayer space. This is a reminder that Jesus, who is the light of the world, invites you to spend time with him in prayer. Then when you take the time for personal or communal prayer in your home, you can light the candle to help you stay focused on praying.

Candles provide a powerful spiritual character to an environment, which even the secular world recognizes. They can encourage a calmness of the heart and open us up to experience the light of God.

Another way to use blessed candles is to bring them out during severe weather. Traditionally Catholics would always light the blessed candle during a strong storm, invoking the power of God to protect their home. And as is so often the case, Catholic spiritual traditions have a practical element: the candle will be useful if the power goes out.

Last of all, if you are not able to use the blessed candles because they are no longer usable, it is best to dispose of it properly. Catholics are instructed to dispose of old sacramentals in a

way that shows reverence to them. All sacramentals can be either burned or buried in order to properly dispose of them. This type of disposal honors their sacred purpose and returns them to the earth in a dignified way. If a person is unable to do either, the sacramental may be dropped off at the parish office and someone on staff can take care of it.

Although this custom is not practiced everywhere, blessed candles can be saved and in some places where they are gathered together and melted down to create the Easter candle. You will need to contact your local parish or monastery to see if they do it.

If you are looking for something to enhance your spiritual life, you might consider using blessed candles to enlighten your soul, bringing it out of darkness. ■

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

Black History Month continued from page 24

his focus on becoming a major producer of Blacks in STEM and more specifically, Black doctors. Xavier now produces more Black students who apply to and graduate from medical school than any other college or university in the country.

This article would be incomplete without mention of Black physicians who have served the African American communities in Kentucky. Like the early

physicians in the United States these doctors were community activists and civil rights leaders in our communities:

Dr. Mary Ellen Britton, Thomas T. Wendell, Dr. Grace M. James, Dr. A. D. Kelly, Doctors Henry and Sarah H. Fitzbutler, Miss Mary Eliza Merritt, Dr. Reginald Claypool Neblett, Dr. Maurice F. Rabb, Dr. Orville Ballard, Dr. William Moses, Dr. W. T. Dinwiddie,

William Henry Ballard, Dr. John E. Hunter and Dr. Bush Alexander Hunter. You can read more about them at <https://kyhi.org/2020/02/01/kentuckys-african-american-men-and-women-of-medicine>. ■

F. Veronica Wilhite is the director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/Black-catholic-ministry.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

La caridad y las oraciones de todo EE. UU. nos han ayudado a servir a nuestras comunidades después de los tornados

Queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo,

En enero de 2010, Haití fue azotado por un terremoto que dejó decenas de miles de muertos y cientos de miles sin hogar. Haití, que ya es la nación más pobre del hemisferio occidental, parece estar plagada de desastres tanto naturales como los que han sido provocados por el hombre. El Papa Francisco, reconociendo a Haití después de que una reciente explosión mató a alrededor de 70 personas, oró por “pobre Haití”.

Las diócesis de los Estados Unidos realizaron colectas especiales para apoyar los esfuerzos de recuperación en Haití encabezados por Catholic Relief Services. La trágica historia de Haití ha sido ampliamente reportada en nuestros medios estadounidenses.

Fui ordenado el 10 de febrero de 2010 como el cuarto obispo de Owensboro. Uno de los primeros fragmentos de información que cruzó mi escritorio en esas primeras semanas fue que nuestra colecta diocesana local para Haití había recaudado más de \$240,000. Hubo muchas colectas especiales en la diócesis antes de esto y muchas desde entonces, pero esta colecta se destaca como un récord bien merecido de los católicos del Kentucky occidental respondiendo a nuestros prójimos en necesidad.

Tan pronto como el primer día después de que los tornados afectaran a muchas comunidades en Kentucky occidental en diciembre de 2021, comencé a escuchar de obispos y párrocos de todo los Estados Unidos asegurándonos que nos iban a ayudar. Naturalmente, pensé en esa colecta especial

para Haití en 2010 y no podría haber imaginado un evento en nuestra propia diócesis que nos hubiera convertido en los destinatarios de una caridad tan extraordinaria.

El lunes por la mañana después de los tornados, Susan Montalvo-Gesser, directora de Caridades Católicas de Kentucky occidental, me preguntó si ella podía solicitar a Catholic Charities USA [Caridades Católicas de EE. UU.] una subvención de ayuda de emergencia de \$10,000. Por supuesto que apoyé eso y rápidamente me contó que le enviarían una aplicación para hacer la solicitud pero que deberíamos contar con recibir la subvención. En una hora, CCUSA le respondió que podíamos olvidarnos de la solicitud y que nos enviarían \$250,000 de inmediato. Esta noticia me dio una verdadera confianza de que la Diócesis de Owensboro podría tener un impacto efectivo para ayudar a las personas y comunidades a recuperarse de este desastre natural.

En la primera semana de enero de 2022, escuchamos nuevamente de la Hna. Donna Markham, OP, presidenta de CCUSA, que recibiríamos una subvención adicional de \$1 millón.

Mientras tanto, las diócesis y las parroquias de los Estados Unidos habían mandado donaciones directas o habían realizado colectas especiales para responder a la extraordinaria necesidad. Las parroquias de nuestra diócesis han contribuido \$380,000 hasta la fecha. Diócesis, parroquias individuales de todo el país, fundaciones y donadores individuales han contribuido con más de \$4,870,000. Hemos recibido

Continúa en la página 27

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY FEBRERO DE 2022

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

1 DE FEB.	9:30 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Preparatoria Santa María, Paducah
2 DE FEB.	10 a.m. Bendición de las Oficinas de Caridades Católicas – Owensboro
3 DE FEB.	10:30 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro, Owensboro
8 DE FEB.	8 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville 6 p.m. Misa por la Jornada Mundial de Oración contra la Trata de Personas – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
9 DE FEB.	12:30 p.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Interparroquial San Romualdo, Hardinsburg
11 DE FEB.	12:15 p.m. Inauguración de las oficinas de Caridades Católicas – Owensboro
13 DE FEB.	11 a.m. Misa dominical – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro 2 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Inmaculada, Owensboro
15 DE FEB.	Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de KY – Louisville
16 DE FEB.	Reunión de Obispos de la Provincia – Louisville
17 DE FEB.	6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San José, Leitchfield
19 DE FEB.	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Juan Evangelista, Paducah
20 DE FEB.	10 a.m. Misa dominical – Capilla del Santísimo Sacramento, Owensboro
21 DE FEB.	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith (MCC), Owensboro 1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – MCC, Owensboro
22 DE FEB.	10 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela Secundaria Santa María, Paducah
23 DE FEB.	Católicos en el Capitolio – Frankfort
26 DE FEB.	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Francisco de Sales, Paducah
27 DE FEB.	2 p.m. Rito de Elección – Parroquia San León, Murray

Continuado de la página 26

contribuciones de más de 5,300 donantes.

Un desafío dichoso ahora es encontrar nuestra forma particular para responder a las necesidades humanas entre los servicios de FEMA, la Cruz Roja y muchas otras iglesias y organizaciones de ayuda. Nuestras prioridades serán ayudar a las personas y familias a recuperarse y reubicarse, y ayudar a la Parroquia San José en Mayfield y a la Parroquia Resurrección en Dawson Springs a reconstruir y reparar el daño.

Quedé profundamente impresionado en 2010 con la respuesta de los católicos de Kentucky

occidental a las extraordinarias necesidades de nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Haití. Desde una perspectiva muy diferente, ahora estoy agradecido y conmovido por la caridad y las oraciones de personas a través de los Estados Unidos que nos han hecho posible ayudar a nuestros prójimos necesitados tan cerca de casa.

Atentamente en Cristo, ■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

El Diácono Mike Marsili es nombrado el nuevo subdirector de vocaciones

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Después de su nombramiento como nuevo subdirector de vocaciones de la Diócesis de Owensboro, el Dcn. Mike Marsili dice que está "emocionado de trabajar en esa parte del ministerio de la diócesis".

"Durante los siglos el llamado de Dios es constante", dijo el Dcn. Marsili, cuyo nombramiento fue anunciado el 3 de enero de 2022. Sin embargo, "en esta cultura hay tantas cosas que nos impiden oír (el llamado)".

Ordenado al diaconado permanente en 2017, el Dcn. Marsili actualmente sirve, y seguirá sirviendo, en la Parroquia Resurrección en Dawson Springs, la Parroquia Inmaculada Concepción en Earlington y la Parroquia Santa Cruz en Providence.

Dijo que espera ayudar a las personas a través del proceso de discernimiento vocacional, que incluye discernir un llamado al sacerdocio, a la vida consagrada y al diaconado permanente. ■



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Caridades Católicas promete estar presente para la recuperación a largo plazo de los tornados

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Familias a través de Kentucky occidental continúan enfrentando el impacto a largo plazo de los tornados que azotaron esta área durante la noche del 10 de diciembre de 2021, pero Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro está trabajando para acompañar a estos sobrevivientes en cada paso del camino.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, directora de Caridades Católicas, explicó que la recuperación de un tornado es tanto “a corto como a largo plazo”.

Las necesidades a corto plazo incluyen vivienda, ropa y necesidades médicas. Las necesidades a largo plazo incluyen la reparación y reconstrucción de viviendas afectadas por los tornados. Caridades Católicas ha estado brindando asistencia económica a través de tarjetas de regalo enviadas a y distribuidas por las parroquias.

La fecha límite para solicitar la asistencia de FEMA y/o un préstamo de la SBA es el 11 de febrero y, hasta el 20 de enero de 2022, el día de la conversación de Montalvo-Gesser con el Católico de Kentucky Occidental, las inscripciones de FEMA ya habían llegado a 14,800. Caridades Católicas ha estado asistiendo, reuniendo y coordinando con organizaciones de Recuperación a Largo Plazo (LTRO por sus siglas en inglés) en los 12 condados que fueron afectados.

“Tendremos el Programa de Asistencia de Consejería (CAP por sus siglas en inglés) y otra consejería de crisis disponibles para todos los sobrevivientes de los tornados”, dijo Montalvo-Gesser. “Tendremos

ese cuidado emocional y espiritual”.

Actualmente, Caridades Católicas anticipa que la recuperación general tomará de dos a cuatro años.

Montalvo-Gesser espera que los dueños de negocios católicos, especialmente aquellos con madera y materiales de construcción, puedan ofrecer provisiones a un costo reducido. Caridades Católicas también planea coordinarse con las parroquias del área para albergar a los voluntarios y preparar comidas para las personas involucradas en la reconstrucción.

“Mi meta es reconstruir 350 viviendas, pero Caridades Católicas no puede hacerlo sola”, dijo Montalvo-Gesser. ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Los voluntarios cargan provisiones en un camión en el estacionamiento de la Parroquia San José en Mayfield el 15 de diciembre de 2021. Las provisiones se compartirán con los sobrevivientes de los tornados del 10 de diciembre.

Sinodo 2021-2023

Las sesiones de escucha se llevarán a cabo en las parroquias entre enero y febrero. Luego los invitamos hacer planes para asistir y participar en las sesiones de escucha regionales con el Obispo Medley. Es importante que hispanos/latinos junto con aquellos cuyo inglés es su principal lengua, juntos nos escuchemos.

Para más información: owensborodiocese.org/sinodo



Diócesis de
OWENSBORO



Por una Iglesia sinodal
comunión | participación | misión

De la explotación al empoderamiento

Bakhita Empowerment Initiative ahora atiende a los habitantes del oeste de Kentucky afectados por la trata de personas.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

La trata de personas pasa en todos lados - hasta en Kentucky occidental, según una coordinadora de servicios de *Bakhita Empowerment Initiative* [la Iniciativa para el empoderamiento Bakhita] de *Catholic Charities of Louisville, Inc.* [Caridades Católicas de Louisville, S.A.]

“La trata de personas está considerada una forma de esclavitud moderna”, dice Heidi Reyes-Taylor, la coordinadora de servicios para la nueva oficina satélite de Owensboro. “Esto es la esclavitud moderna, al cien por ciento”.

Y la trata de personas no se limita a la explotación de menores de edad, añadió.

“También son adultos”, dijo Reyes-Taylor el 10 de enero en una entrevista con el Católico de Kentucky Occidental.

Pero Reyes-Taylor y su equipo con Bakhita intentan cambiar el futuro de los sobrevivientes de la trata de personas y “empoderar a esas personas para crear una vida sostenible”, comentó.

Bakhita ha servido a comunidades en Kentucky desde el 2008. Aparte de tener su sede central en Louisville, tiene una oficina satélite en Owensboro y otra en Lexington.

La oficina en Owensboro es la primera de este tipo en Kentucky occidental - en el cual Reyes-Taylor dijo ha estado trabajando desde hace dos años. Ella empezó en este puesto en mayo de 2021.

“Sabían que era una necesidad en Kentucky

occidental”, comentó ella.

Explotación

¿Que define la trata de personas?

Reyes-Taylor explicó que la trata de personas “es la explotación de sexo y también la explotación laboral”.

Tristemente, ambas formas de la trata de personas han sido descubiertas en Kentucky occidental. Mientras la trata sexual se explica por sí misma, ella dijo que la trata de personas laboral ha sido descubierta en salones de masaje, granjas y restaurantes, para nombrar algunos.

“Nosotros (es decir el público en general) no nos sentimos tan cómodos hablando de la trata laboral porque consumimos esos productos”, dijo Reyes-Taylor.

La trata de personas no discrimina en base a quién sea la persona, añadió.

“Cualquier persona puede ser víctima de la trata de personas, independientemente de su nivel socioeconómico, de su edad y de su raza”, afirmó. “Realmente podría pasarle a cualquier persona”.

Según el informe centrado en Kentucky de *Polaris Project* de sus estadísticas de la Línea Nacional Contra la Trata de Personas de 2019, se identificaron 310 víctimas, 107 traficantes y 28 negocios de trata de personas entre enero del 2019 y julio del 2020.

Según *Polaris*, en ese período de tiempo se produjeron un total de 136 casos de trata de personas, de las cuales 84 fueron por motivos sexuales, 28 por motivos laborales, 8 por motivos sexuales y laborales

¿Qué debe de hacer si sospecha de la trata de personas?

Si alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para conectar una posible víctima a servicios o para pedir más información, llame a la Línea Nacional Contra la Trata de Personas al 1-888-373-7888 (disponible 24/7), operada por el *Polaris Project*. El personal de la Bakhita Empowerment Initiative está disponible de lunes a viernes desde las 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. incluyendo disponibilidad limitada fuera de horario y los fines de semanas.

y 16 por motivos “no especificados”.

Lamentablemente, según el informe, estos datos no representan el alcance total de la trata de personas en Kentucky.

“El desconocimiento de la trata de personas o de la Línea Nacional Contra la Trata de Personas, puede causar la falta de denuncias, sobre todo entre las poblaciones de traficantes laborales o por parte de determinados grupos raciales o étnicos”, señala el informe.

Empoderamiento

Reyes-Taylor destacó que, a diferencia de otros programas para sobrevivientes de la trata de personas, Bakhita se centra específicamente en el aspecto del “empoderamiento”.

“No estamos aquí para arreglar tus problemas y enviarte de vuelta al mundo”, dice ella.

Por ejemplo, se refieren a los clientes como “participantes del programa” para ayudarles a emanciparse y empezar de nuevo con independencia y confianza. Bakhita acompaña y camina junto a los participantes mientras navegan por la mejor ruta para sus vidas.

Reyes-Taylor, que actualmente tiene siete casos

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FOTO DE ARCHIVO
Heidi Reyes-Taylor

activos, dijo que con frecuencia repasa los recursos con los participantes, como por ejemplo cómo encontrar un terapeuta o ayuda financiera.

“Es un programa orientado a los participantes”, dijo ella.

Según la página web de Bakhita, a la que se accede en www.bakhitaempowerment.org, “Este enfoque restablece su poder, que es vital para lograr la autosuficiencia”.

Reyes-Taylor añadió que algunos otros programas ponen fin a la asistencia, una vez que la persona se convierte en adulto.

“Pero nosotros lo ofrecemos a todas las edades”, dijo ella ya que a cualquier edad puede verse afectada.

Inspiración por una santa

La *Bakhita Empowerment Initiative* toma su nombre de Santa Josefina Bakhita, que vivió entre 1869 y 1947 y sobrevivió al secuestro de su nativo Sudán

cuando era niña y posteriormente a la esclavización durante muchos años.

En el trauma de sus experiencias, Santa Josefina Bakhita olvidó el nombre que le pusieron sus padres y nunca recordó su nombre original. Sus secuestradores le dieron el nombre de “Bakhita”, que significa “afortunada”.

Después de haber sido comprada, torturada y vendida por varios propietarios, acabó en manos de una familia italiana donde sirvió de niñera a la hija de la familia. Conoció el cristianismo cuando ella y la hija de la familia visitaron a las Hermanas Canossianas en Venecia, lo que le permitió entrar a la Iglesia Católica.

Con su nuevo nombre de bautismo, Josefina, acabó ingresando en el noviciado canossiano y se convirtió en religiosa. Fue destinada a un convento en Schio, Italia, donde se convirtió en una figura muy querida. Inmediatamente después de su muerte, en febrero de 1947, los habitantes de Schio solicitaron su canonización, que finalmente tuvo lugar en el año 2000.

La responsabilidad de todos

En octubre de 2021, la *Bakhita Empowerment Initiative* presentó una conferencia virtual nacional sobre la trata laboral de personas. Su objetivo era aumentar la capacidad de las organizaciones para hacer frente a la trata laboral de personas, abordar las tendencias específicas de la trata de personas, destacar y resolver los problemas relacionados con la trata de personas. Esta fue su segunda conferencia sobre el tema.

“La trata laboral no siempre tiene la atención que merece”, dijo Reyes-Taylor.

Este es uno de muchos recursos que ofrecen. Sin embargo, en el 2022 Reyes-Taylor planea realizar ocho presentaciones en español, varias en inglés,

para promover la sensibilización de la trata de personas.

Dice que las presentaciones estarán abiertas al público, “porque todo mundo debe de saber qué está pasando en la comunidad”.

Las personas que deberían interesarse especialmente por este tema se encuentran, entre otras, “los propietarios de empresas, los profesores, los consejeros, los voluntarios, los grupos religiosos y las personas encargadas de hacer cumplir la ley”.

El personal de Bakhita realiza constantemente cursos de formación para estar al día con los temas.

“La trata de personas está en constante evolución, por lo que realizamos mucho entrenamiento”, dijo Reyes-Taylor.

Dijo que la trata de personas es un “problema macro que se convierte en un problema micro en nuestra comunidad”.

“Si no abrimos los ojos y los oídos a lo que está pasando en nuestra comunidad, nos convertimos en espectadores”, dijo ella.

Para aprender más sobre la Bakhita Empowerment Initiative visite www.bakhitaempowerment.org. ■

Presentación y Misa

El 8 de febrero del 2022 es la fiesta de Santa Josefina Bakhita, y la Jornada Mundial de Oración y Reflexión contra la Trata de Personas, la Bakhita Empowerment Initiative patrocinará dos eventos para concientizar a la población local sobre la trata de personas. Todos están invitados a asistir a ambos eventos.

- Presentación a las 11 a.m. sobre “Trata de personas 201: Comercialización sexual & explotación laboral”, en el C.E. Field Center en la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro.
- Misa a las 6 p.m. con el Obispo William F. Medley en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro.

Parroquias con ministerio hispano/latino

Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

107 13th Street, Beaver Dam, KY 42320
 Contacto: Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green

434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101
 Contacto: Sra. Gina Holmes o Padre Corey
 Bruns (270) 842-2525

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Guthrie

7600 Russellville Road, P.O. Box 297, Guthrie,
 KY 42234
 Contacto: Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez (270)
 265-5263 o (302) 438-7335

Parroquia de Santa María, Franklin

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

**Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús,
 Henderson**

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

**Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo,
 Hopkinsville**

902 East 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
 Contacto: Sra. Mayra Tirado (270) 498-6456

Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville

1600 Kingsway Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431
 Contacto: Padre Carl McCarthy (270) 821-5494
 o Padre Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-
 7737

Parroquia de San José, Mayfield

702 West Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066
 Contacto: Hermana Maria Luisa Morales Solano
 (270) 247-2843

**Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad,
 Morgantown**

766 Logansport Road, Morgantown, KY 42261
 Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (706) 284-
 0996, o Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray

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

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, KY 42303
 Contacto: Padre Juan Rene Kalombo (270) 903-
 8070

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001
 Contacto: Padre Basilio Az Cuc (270) 316-1421

**Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús,
 Russellville**

296 West 6th Street, Russellville, KY 42276
 Contacto: Padre Ken Mikulcik (270) 726-6963 o
 Diacono Edwin Pacheco (913) 542-8948

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree

57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455
 Contacto: Alyssa Maty (815) 207-3208 o Padre
 Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-7737

Terapeutas de habla hispana

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

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Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

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



Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe celebrada en Franklin



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE MARÍA MOLINA

El hermoso altar en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe está adornada con rosas y adornos en la Parroquia Santa María en Franklin durante la noche del 11 de diciembre 2021.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE MARÍA MOLINA

Las rosas adornan un pastel hecho en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Parroquia Santa María de Franklin.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE MARÍA MOLINA

Los feligreses de la Parroquia Santa María en Franklin se toman una foto al aire libre durante la noche del 11 de diciembre de 2021, mientras celebran la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe al día siguiente.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE MARÍA MOLINA

El P. Tom Buckman, párroco de la Parroquia Santa María en Franklin y la Parroquia Cristo Rey en Scottsville, celebra la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe con feligreses de la Parroquia Santa María durante la noche del 11 de diciembre de 2021.