



Gentle, kind leader Page 12



Español Página 28



Forgiveness Page 17



Awareness and empowerment

Heidi Reyes-Taylor speaks about the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative during a Mass on Feb. 8, 2022, the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita and Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. [Page 6](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, the director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, explains the significance of the décor at the entranceway of the new Catholic Charities building, after it was blessed by Bishop William F. Medley on Feb. 2, 2022. *Page 5*



- 8** 'The seeds he planted are still blooming'
Priest's martyrdom inspires family's faith to this day
- 10** 'The call is to who you are'
Religious sisters share how their discernment paths converged
- 17** 'Forgiveness is possible in every situation'
Rwandan genocide survivor speaks to crowd at St. Agnes

Front page photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead.

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.

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY  **Catholic**

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro

Published monthly, 10 times a year at
600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

Telephone (270) 683-1545

Email wkc.editor@pastoral.org

Publisher Bishop William F. Medley

Editor Elizabeth Wong Barnstead

Contributors Riley Greif, Tina Kasey

Send change of address requests to
molly.thompson@pastoral.org

View current and archived issues at
westernkycatholic.com/wkc-archives

The Western Kentucky Catholic is a member of the
Catholic Media Association.

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

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

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

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.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5 Features | 22 Faith Formation |
| 14 Around the Diocese | 23 Archives |
| 18 Upcoming Events | 24 Youth |
| 20 Anniversaries | 26 World |
| 21 Evangelization | 27 Español |

A Word From Bishop Medley

This Lent, let us resolve to fast from hostilities toward each other

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The beginning of the season of Lent brings to us many images and traditions. Foremost among these are practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday we hear Jesus admonish us, “When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet; when you pray ... go to your inner room; when you fast, do not look gloomy.”

We will do well to recall that the word “Lent” means “Spring” and that the season generally parallels the end of winter and the promise of new life made so abundant in Spring. Likewise in our Catholic tradition we see a connection between this holy season and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Parishes will often strive to schedule additional opportunities to celebrate this sacrament. For those who may have found that a long time has passed since you confessed your sins, the 40 days of Lent lie before us as an invitation come to this font of grace, to clean the slate, to celebrate the mercy of God.

I wish to propose a particular brand of reconciliation, which may or may not include sacramental reconciliation. Over the past couple of years I hear more and more people speak of anger or alienation from family, friends, coworkers and colleagues. Very often this has come from differences over politics and recent elections or attitudes about the pandemic and questions about vaccines, masks and mandates. It seems that the ability to politely and respectfully disagree has been lost.

I suppose this is not totally new. It has been said that where two or more are gathered there is God; but there is also likely to be lively disagreement.

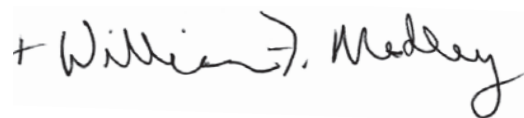
Has your family or circle of friends been harmed by such disagreements? Are you willing to embrace as a Lenten project reconciliation with those with whom you disagree? No winners. No losers. Just family peace and kindness. Just a setting aside of tensions.

Our inclination to be alienated by these matters is aggravated by social media where all too often tolerance has been abandoned for insults and bullying. It surely doesn't help that most of us get our news today from highly partisan networks. Political parties must share the blame when they ridicule any notion of compromise or even dialogue.

But as Jesus said when he overheard the apostles arguing over who would be first in the Kingdom of God, “It cannot be that way with you.”

This Lent we might resolve to pray better and more often, to dig a little deeper in sharing what we have with those who have little, and maybe we can fast from hostilities with family and friends.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR MARCH 2022

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

MARCH 1	6 p.m. Serra Club Dinner – Briarpatch in Owensboro
MARCH 2	12:05 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MARCH 4	6 p.m. Grace Marriage Dinner – Bluegrass Hall of Fame, Owensboro
MARCH 6	6 p.m. Mass with Murray State University Campus Ministry Students – St. Leo Parish, Murray
MARCH 8	8:15 a.m. School Mass – Christ the King Catholic School in Madisonville 6 p.m. Synod Regional Listening Session – Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson
MARCH 10	8 a.m. School Mass – Trinity High School, Whitesville 6 p.m. Synod Regional Listening Session – Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
MARCH 13	10:30 a.m. Closing Mass for YOUTH 2000 and Institution into Ministry of Lector for Conrad Jaconette – Brescia University, Owensboro 2 p.m. Scouting Mass – St. Anthony Parish in Browns Valley
MARCH 14	9 a.m. Senior Conversations – Owensboro Catholic High School, Owensboro 6 p.m. Synod Regional Listening Session – Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville
MARCH 17	3 p.m. Zoom Meeting with Priests of the Diocese
MARCH 19	10 a.m. Synod Regional Listening Session (Spanish) – Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville
MARCH 20	11 a.m. Confirmation – St. William Parish, Knottsville
MARCH 21	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center (MCC) 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – MCC 6 p.m. Synod Regional Listening Session – Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro

Continues on page 4

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Bishop's calendar continued from page 3

MARCH 22	10 a.m. Paducah Office 6 p.m. Synod Regional Listening Session – St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
MARCH 24-26	Conference at Loyola University Chicago
MARCH 27	2 p.m. Synod Regional Listening Session (Burmese) – Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green
MARCH 29	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Pius X Parish, Calvert City
MARCH 30	9:45 a.m. School Mass – St. Joseph Interparochial School, Bowling Green 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro
MARCH 31	6 p.m. Confirmation – Sts. Joseph & Paul Parish, Owensboro

Synod 2021-2023

Bishop Medley wants to hear from you at one of the following Regional Listening Sessions:

- March 8 | 6-8 PM | Holy Name
- March 10 | 6-8 PM | Holy Spirit
- March 14 | 6-8 PM | Sts. Peter & Paul
- March 19 | 10 AM-12 PM | Sts. Peter & Paul (Spanish)
- March 21 | 6-8 PM | Blessed Mother
- March 22 | 6-8 PM | St. Thomas More
- March 27 | 2- 4 PM | Holy Spirit (Burmese)

Even if you did not attend a parish listening session, you are invited to attend.

Your voice matters!

owensborodiocese.org/synod



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

PROMISE TO PROTECT | PLEDGE TO HEAL



You are invited to join Bishop William Medley in prayer

April 21, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.

St. Stephen Cathedral
610 Locust St. Owensboro, KY

Pray for protection and healing for all impacted by child abuse.

Live-streamed at ststephencathedral.org/live

2021-2022 Disciples Response FUND APPEAL

Please check one: Bill and Mrs. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Other

PLEASE PRINT BELOW

First name _____ Surname name _____ Last name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please credit my gift to (Parish Name and City)

Ways to Give
Give online: owensborodiocese.org/give
Text to Give: "FundR" to 844-866-2081
Mail your gift: Fill out your credit card information below
QR: One-Time One-Time Other
Credit Card Number: Exp. Date:

Print name as it appears on card _____ Signature _____
Please return this Disciples Response Fund Appeal, with cash, check, or money order, to: 610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301
If you need assistance, please call Maria Hanks, Director of Development and Design at 502-662-6100 or email mhanks@owensboro.org

Suggested Pledge	12 Monthly Payments	Total Annual Pledge
St. Stephen Society <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,400.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,200.00	\$120.00 \$100.00	\$1,400.00 \$1,200.00
Circle of Compassion <input type="checkbox"/> \$940.00	\$78.33	\$940.00
Circle of Mercy <input type="checkbox"/> \$600.00	\$50.00	\$600.00
Circle of Grace <input type="checkbox"/> \$420.00 <input type="checkbox"/> \$360.00	\$35.00 \$30.00	\$420.00 \$360.00
Other Gifts <input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$10.00	\$120.00

Amount Enclosed \$ _____
Balance to be Paid \$ _____

Payment Terms
 One-Time Pledge 12 Monthly Payments

Giving IN Gratitude

Please return your pledge card today or scan the QR code to give online.

Fr. Garner incardinated in Diocese of Lexington

The Office of the Bishop recently announced that Bishop William F. Medley has granted excardination to Fr. D. Andrew Garner, and Fr. Garner has now been incardinated in the Diocese of Lexington.

Fr. Garner first began serving in the Diocese of Lexington in June 2018 so that he could be near to his aging parents. His mother died soon after he moved there and his father is now deceased as well.

The Office of the Bishop shared that "Bishop Medley is sorry to lose such a gifted priest as Fr. Garner."

Fr. Garner was ordained in 2001 and served in a variety of capacities in the Diocese of

Owensboro including: Chair of the Religion Department at Owensboro Catholic High School, a member of Priest Personnel, a Consultant, Director of Ecumenism, as well as pastor and associate pastor in several of the Diocese of Owensboro's parishes.

"Bishop Medley is tremendously grateful for Fr. Andy's priestly ministry and is happy that the Diocese of Lexington will continue to benefit from his service there," said the message from the Office of the Bishop. "Please keep Fr. Andy in your prayers that his ministry in the Diocese of Lexington will bring him great joy."

-WKC

'Beacon of light' gets a new home as bishop blesses Catholic Charities offices

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Feb. 2, 2022, Bishop William F. Medley blessed the new home of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

The building is a small repurposed house which was formerly the home of the late Bishop John J. McRaith, the third bishop of Owensboro, after he retired in 2009. (Bishop McRaith died in 2017.)

It is located next door to the McRaith Catholic Center, the pastoral center and home of the central offices of the diocese. Catholic Charities used to be located in the pastoral center, but their ever-expanding resources and services – including ongoing relief efforts for the December 2021 tornado disaster – eventually required that they move to a larger space.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities, said they are retaining the pastoral center's mailing address in order to continue the close relationship with the diocesan offices.

Following Mass with diocesan staff, Bishop Medley walked across the parking lot to Catholic Charities. Pandemic social distancing guidelines made it impossible for all staff to join him for the blessing, but the Catholic Charities employees were able to be present.

"May God, true light of the world, who commanded us to help one another as brothers and sisters, and to be a beacon of light in the darkness, bless this Catholic Charities building with the light of his presence, and look kindly on all who enter



RILEY GREIF | WKC

(Left) The exterior of the new home of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, which was formerly the home of the late Bishop John J. McRaith. (Right) Assisted by Susan Montalvo-Gesser, the director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, Bishop William F. Medley blesses the new Catholic Charities building on Feb. 2, 2022.



here," prayed Bishop Medley.

Accompanied by Montalvo-Gesser, who carried a small bowl of holy water, the bishop walked from room to room and sprinkled holy water throughout.

Bishop Medley commented that the mission of Catholic Charities – helping the vulnerable and marginalized of society – aligns with the house's former resident.

"One of (Bishop McRaith's) legacies was that the poor would come to his house time and time again – and he would help them," said Bishop Medley of his predecessor's habit of opening the door to anyone and giving them money without exception. "It's a great memory of him today."

In these new facilities, not only is there space for Montalvo-Gesser and Catholic Charities' paralegal,

Miguel Quintanilla, to work comfortably, but they also have workspaces for Brionna Greer, the AmeriCorps VISTA member; Khaibar Shafaq, case manager and paralegal working primarily with the Afghan refugees in the diocese; Alex Reid, the volunteer coordinator overseeing volunteer efforts with tornado recovery; and Alyssa Magnuson, who is transitioning into the role of Catholic Charities' new, full-time administrative assistant. Currently Charlotte Hedges works as administrative assistant for both Catholic Charities and the Marriage & Family Life office.

There is also an office for Heidi Reyes-Taylor, the case manager for the Owensboro satellite location of Bakhita Empowerment Initiative of Catholic Charities of Louisville, which works with human trafficking survivors and awareness.

Continues on page 6

Office blessing continued from page 5

Since everything is so new and they have kept busy with tornado relief, the Catholic Charities employees haven't had much chance to decorate yet, but the entranceway does feature several mementos of those who inspire their mission.

This includes framed photos of Bishop Medley, Bishop McRaith, and the late Sr. Fran Wilhelm, OSU, who was instrumental in starting Hispanic ministry in western Kentucky and who died in 2020. There is also a John Deere mug that once belonged to Bishop McRaith (who was a farmer) and a painting of the late Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU, a human rights activist who died in early 2021.

Since the blessing took place on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, (often called Candlemas from the tradition of blessing and distributing candles on that day), Bishop Medley also blessed small candles bearing the Catholic Charities logo in English and in Spanish.

"This has become a place of holiness for those who wish to serve the poor," he said.

Donations are still needed!

Catholic Charities' daily work of providing food and housing resources; coordinating counseling resources for individuals, couples and families; operating the St. Gerard Life Home (a home for those experiencing a crisis pregnancy and have chosen life for their baby); offering immigration legal services and more continues even amid the ongoing tornado recovery work. To donate to their ministry, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/give/> and select "Catholic Charities" for general Catholic Charities contributions, or "Tornado Relief - Catholic Charities" to donate directly toward tornado recovery efforts. Those wishing to donate to the tornado disaster relief may mail a check with "Tornado Disaster Relief" in the memo to: Catholic Charities, Diocese of Owensboro, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY, 42301.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, stands outside a mobile unit donated to her office by Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens.

Catholic Charities receives mobile unit from New York

On Jan. 27, Msgr. Alfred LoPinto, the president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens (CCBQ), presented the keys to a mobile unit van to Al Thompson, a volunteer with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro. Thompson later drove the van from New York back to Owensboro.

The van, which is a modified recreational vehicle meant for CCBQ to distribute food and items, was cumbersome for CCBQ to navigate through the narrow streets of New York City and spent most of its time parked. When CCBQ learned about the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes that had ravaged western Kentucky, they decided that they wanted to donate the van to those who were organizing assistance for survivors.

The donation was facilitated by Sr. Donna Markham, CEO of Catholic Charities USA.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, looks forward to using it as her team helps those living out in the far-reaching rural areas of western Kentucky.

Right now the van still says "Catholic Charities Brooklyn & Queens" but Montalvo-Gesser hopes to soon have it updated with the logo of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

-This was based in part on a report from The Tablet, the newspaper of the Diocese of Brooklyn

With presentation and Mass, human trafficking awareness the focus of Feb. 8 events

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Human trafficking, contrary to popular belief, does not usually start with being kidnapped by a stranger.

In fact, it is more likely to start with a family member, a romantic partner, or someone else the trafficked person already knows and trusts, according to Amy Nace-DeGonda, assistant program director for the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative of Catholic Charities of Louisville.

On Feb. 8, 2022, she and Heidi Reyes-Taylor, case manager for the Owensboro satellite location of the Bakhita Empowerment Institute, gave a presentation at Brescia University in Owensboro on commercial sexual and labor exploitation within human trafficking.

The day coincided with the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking, as well as with the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, who lived in the 19th and 20th centuries and, after living for many years as an enslaved person, eventually became Catholic and entered the Canossian Sisters.

“An abuser is really smart,” said Reyes-Taylor during the talk, which was presented in-person and via livestream. “They are able to ‘learn’ a person and find how they can use them.”

Nace-DeGonda explained that people can be trapped into being trafficked through “force, fraud, or coercion.”



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

The Congolese Choir of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green lead a traditional song during the Feb. 8, 2022 Mass celebrating the memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita and the Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking.

Force can be perpetrated through physical restraint, physical violence or physical harm. Fraud is the use of false promises as a form of grooming, to ensure compliance.

Nace-DeGonda said an example of coercion would be for an abuser to demonstrate through psychological manipulation that “if you don’t do what I want you to do, I will physically harm you or someone you love.”

Unfortunately, coercion is the “hardest to prove,” said Nace-DeGonda, since “you cannot take the fear someone causes you, out of your body, and show it to someone.”

Reyes-Taylor explained that Bakhita Empowerment Initiative discourages the public – as in those who are not professionally trained to work with hu-

man trafficking survivors – from trying to identify human trafficking via “red flags.”

She said misinformation “red flags” like stories of a mysterious white van at the curb or finding a rose on one’s windshield, are often shared on social media in a misguided attempt at stopping human trafficking. The fact is, she said, these stories “can create a false narrative,” and move the focus away from the real issue.

Spreading misinformation like this can also perpetuate stereotypes, create unnecessary fear, and is ultimately harmful to actual trafficking survivors, she said.

So how can the public raise the right kind of awareness about human trafficking?

Nace-DeGonda and Reyes-Taylor suggested learn-

Continues on page 8

‘The seeds he planted are still blooming’

Priest’s martyrdom inspires family’s faith to this day



COURTESY OF SOLORZA FAMILY

Susana Solorza, mother of Susy Solorza, prays in Capilla de San José (Chapel of St. Joseph) at Rancho El Pino, Chihuahua, Mexico, around 1993. This chapel is located on the same ranch where Susy Solorza’s great-grandfather and family would hide Padre Maldonado in their house.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Feb. 10, 1937 – Ash Wednesday – a priest named Padre Pedro de Jesús Maldonado was attacked by henchmen of the Mexican government in yet another instance of the religious persecution of Christians in Mexico at that time.

He was severely beaten and left for dead after the henchmen mockingly made him eat several Hosts which had fallen out of a pyx he was carrying (actually fulfilling the priest’s last wish to receive Jesus before dying).

Local women petitioned for the 44-year-old priest to be taken to the hospital, where he died from severe cerebral damage the following day.

On May 25, 2000, Pope St. John Paul II canonized “Padre Maldonado” as he is commonly known – confirming what many people already believed: this priest was a living saint.

Susy Solorza, a teacher at Holy Name of Jesus

Catholic School in Henderson, is one of those people, and for good reason. Her great-grandfather and other family members were among the Catholics who routinely hid Padre Maldonado from the authorities.

“In my family we call him Padre Maldonado or ‘El Padre’ – ‘the priest,’” she said in a Jan. 19 interview with *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

Faith of your children

Solorza said both her paternal grandmother and her maternal grandfather were baptized by Padre Maldonado, who “dressed as a rancher, going from ranch to ranch” in disguise so that he could celebrate Mass in people’s homes.

When government officials came by to look for the priest, Solorza’s great-grandfather would hide Padre Maldonado in a secret place in their house.

Solorza said relics of his cassocks have been kept in her extended family, and she and many of her

Continues on page 9

Human trafficking awareness continued from page 7

ing about supply chains, since many companies use labor exploitation at some point; donating to legitimate human trafficking awareness agencies; attending events that promote human trafficking awareness; sharing accurate information; and supporting fair-trade, sustainably-sourced businesses – especially local businesses.

Later, at 6 p.m. that evening at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, Bishop William F. Medley presided at a Mass celebrating the memorial of St.

Josephine Bakhita and the Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking.

In his homily, Bishop Medley said he realized that St. Josephine Bakhita was born only a few years before his grandparents.

“So that’s not that far removed from our history,” he said. And even today, human trafficking itself persists across the world.

The bishop said human trafficking may sound like a more sophisticated title, “but it means the

same thing as slavery: one human being is exploiting another.”

The Mass also featured a presentation by Reyes-Taylor about the work of the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative, and music by the Congolese Choir of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green.

To learn more about the work of the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative, visit www.bakhitaempowerment.org.

Martyr priest continued from page 8

relatives have pictures of Padre Maldonado in their homes.

“His face has always been familiar, kind of like a family member,” she said. “Kind of like a grandfather... the majority of the people he served felt that way.”

Solorza, who was born in El Paso, Texas, said Padre Maldonado also served in El Paso as he ministered all over the region. Her family members who resided in those days in Chihuahua, Mexico (not far from El Paso), had a ranch with a chapel dedicated to St. Joseph – where Padre Maldonado would celebrate Mass.

Before Solorza’s immediate family moved from Texas to Kentucky, they would join extended family for a yearly visit and Mass at the little chapel in honor of Padre Maldonado. As they drove out to the chapel, Solorza and her siblings were retold the story of his martyrdom.

“My mom always told us ‘the seeds he planted are still blooming,’” said Solorza.

She is grateful to have been raised in a faith-filled environment, especially crediting the faith of her paternal and maternal grandmothers who dedicated their lives to “service in the Church.”

Solorza shared a story which has been passed down through the generations.

“One of my great-grandfathers was out walking and the soldiers stopped him and asked him where to find Padre Maldonado,” she said. He refused to tell them.

The soldiers told him: “We may not take your faith, but we’ll take the faith of your children and descendants.”

That account is one of the reasons why Solorza and her four siblings find it crucial to hold onto their Catholic faith, which their ancestors fought so

hard to maintain.

Solorza and her husband, John Shelman, live this out by intentionally teaching the faith to their two young sons, Santiago and Luca.

Domestic church

Solorza said she reflected on the Mexican Catholics’ commitment to the faith during the March 2020 shutdown when the COVID-19 pandemic first struck the United States, and businesses and churches were closed for several months.

This included a temporary suspension of public worship, which meant no one could receive the Eucharist.

“Whether I was five years old in Mexico or 20 years old in college, I always had the opportunity to find a Catholic church where I could receive the Eucharist,” said Solorza. “Not once, in all my life, had being present at Mass been out of my reach. This pandemic brought my family’s past experience of not being able to celebrate Mass to life for me.”

The first Sunday they were able to return to Mass, Solorza cried as they walked into Holy Name of Jesus Parish and were welcomed by the entire parish staff.

“To this day, as my husband and I wrestle with two toddlers during Mass, those moments where I am most frustrated, I think back to the beauty of sitting in this pew, sharing this time, singing these songs with my family and our fellow parishioners,” she said.

She said the martyrdom of Padre Maldonado, and the faith of her great-grandparents, are the foundation on which her own parents built their domestic church.

“Today, John and I draw from our own families and their journeys of faith to build this chaotic, bilingual, multicultural domestic church of our own,” she said.



COURTESY OF SOLORZA FAMILY

Susy Solorza’s older brother, Bayardo Solorza, sits beside their uncle Eugenio, who is holding their younger brother, José, in their grandparents’ living room in Anahuac, Chihuahua, around 1997. A picture of Padre Maldonado hangs alongside pictures of other family members, as he has always been considered a part of the family.

Listen to José Solorza tell the story of his faith journey through the intercession of San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado on the “Finding Faith” podcast: <https://apple.co/34EsGtY>.

Did you know?

Hiding priests was common among the faithful during the 1926-1937 religious persecutions of Christians in Mexico. St. Toribio Romo, another Mexican priest who was ultimately martyred by the authorities, was sometimes hidden by the family of the great-grandmother of Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez, director of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

‘The call is to who you are’

Religious sisters share how their discernment paths converged before finding their true ‘homes’

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

After considering the other’s religious community in the early days of their discernment journeys, two religious sisters are happy to maintain a friendship between communities – but know they are each where God meant them to be.

Sr. Anna Maria Haycraft, DCJ, today the provincial superior of the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus (South Central Province), grew up knowing many women religious, including the Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville.

And Mother John Mary Read, CP, today the mother superior of those same Passionist nuns, discerned Sr. Anna Maria’s Carmelite community before fully realizing her call to cloistered contemplative life.

“The call is to who you are,” said Sr. Anna Maria in a Jan. 14, 2022 interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic, during which she and Mother John Mary shared their vocation stories.

‘I loved the sisters’

Mother John Mary, who grew up in Elberfeld, Ind., was influenced early on by the example of women religious.

“I was taught by the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand,” she said of her grade school, St. James Catholic School in Haubstadt, Ind. “I just loved to

be with the sisters. I pretty much wanted to be a sister since sixth grade.”

Mother John Mary, (or Teresa Read as she was known at the time) grew up in a Catholic family. But “my peers were not raised that way and I did not have any Catholic influences in my life,” she said.

As she got older, “I put God on the back burner, but I knew every breath was from him – though I fell away from him seriously for a number of years,” said Mother John Mary.

Following a conversion experience in the early 1990s, Teresa started attending daily Mass and connecting with other faith-filled young adults.

“That whole desire to be a religious sister came flowing into me,” said Mother John Mary. At the same time, she wondered if she was called to marriage.

For two years Teresa served on NET Ministries, which stands for National Evangelization Teams, and involves traveling around the country to lead Catholic youth retreats.

One of her friends on NET was discerning with the Passionist nuns, and though Teresa was not interested in entering that community, she asked her friend if one of the nuns might be willing to give her spiritual direction.

A Passionist nun was indeed available and provided some spiritual direction for her life. During this time, Teresa also learned about the Carmelite

Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus and visited their convent in 1995.

“I loved it, but this wasn’t where I was called,” she said.

Supernatural joy

Sr. Anna Maria (or Maria Germaine Haycraft, as she was known at the time) was five years old when she first experienced the call to religious life. Her kindergarten teacher at Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville was Sr. Audrey Gold, AD, who belonged to the Sisters of the Lamb of God.

Sr. Audrey was legally blind and deaf, and Sr. Anna Maria remembers how the sister “lived that supernatural joy.”

“As a little five year old, I thought, ‘I don’t know what she has but I want it,’” said Sr. Anna Maria. “She was living that supernatural call that God had already planted in my soul.”

Sr. Anna Maria said that throughout her childhood, her faith was nurtured by the Sisters of the Lamb of God, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, the Passionists, and many priests – all of whom lived out “the rich faith of the Church.”

She said every Easter, Lent, or any time “anything was going on liturgically,” the Haycrafts would go to the Passionist monastery to attend Mass, and the Haycraft boys would assist as altar servers.

“I genuinely knew there was this call within my-

Continues on page 11

Discerning 'home' continued from page 10

self,” said Sr. Anna Maria, recalling that at vocations awareness events she would often go up at the “vocations call” – like an altar call, except it was an invitation for young men and women who were open to the priesthood or consecrated life to stand up and be prayed over.

After high school, however, she came to a crossroads: “I had a desire to be a mom and have many children like my own mother,” she said.

One day, when Maria was a young adult, the Haycrafts attended a vocations event was in McQuady on Divine Mercy Sunday.

One of the speakers was Sr. Francis Teresa Scully, DCJ, the director of the Carmel Home in Owensboro, which is a residential care facility operated by the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus. The Carmel Home has a perpetual adoration chapel open to the public, and Maria’s mother prayed in adoration there every Monday – and had gotten to know Sr. Francis Teresa.

Maria’s dad encouraged her to go up at the vocations call. So she did.

And later, Sr. Francis Teresa told Maria’s mother “I’d like to talk to your daughter.”

Maria was not entirely opposed to the idea, but was more inclined to focus on her own ideas for her life at the time.

“It’s your vocation, but I can’t force your decision,” her mother told her. Sr. Anna Maria realizes today how grateful she is that “my mom respected my choice.”

Prior to meeting with Sr. Francis Teresa a few days later, the young woman went into adoration, knelt, and prayed, “God, I’m scared to death, but whatever your will, so be it.”

Then “this automatic peace came upon me,” she said.

A proposal

As Teresa discerned entrance into the Passionist monastery, she found herself drawn to the liturgy of the hours and “the monastic life of recollection.”

She was struck by “remaining in the presence of God for the world” as a cloistered nun.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Mother John Mary Read, CP, (left) and Sr. Anna Maria Haycraft, DCJ, (right) each discerned with the other’s religious community before entering their present communities.

“Consecrated to God, we become a prayer for the world,” she said. “The desire kept growing.”

Though Teresa knew she was not called to the Carmelites, her spiritual director gave her a biography of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity – ironically who happened to be a Carmelite.

“Her gift to the Church was insight into the indwelling of the Trinity and how we are all temples of God,” said Mother John Mary, explaining how this helped her understand the depth of contemplative life.

Teresa stayed with the Passionists for a live-in visit on March 19-25, 1995. On the last day, the feast of the Annunciation, Teresa took some extra prayer time as the nuns went into a chapter meeting.

“I was praying over the scriptures,” she said; specifically, the Annunciation when Gabriel came to Mary. Then she received the words “I want you to be my bride.”

“It was like he proposed to me,” said Mother John Mary.

She entered on August 27, 1995, so that she could wake up and do the office of readings at 1 a.m. at the start of the feast of St. Augustine, whom she relates to through her own conversion.

“My heart was on fire,” she said, explaining that she felt the Paschal mystery had not yet “fully opened up to me, but the Lord was drawing me to enter even more and more into the Passion of Jesus. Not just for me – but for the whole Church, and diocese, and nation.”

Overwhelming joy

Maria visited the Carmelite Sisters’ provincial house in St. Louis on Feb. 22, 1998.

“God takes us where we’re at in life,” she said. “He drew me by our apostolates, by our care for seniors, and care for little children.”

She prayed and ate with the postulants, and noted that part of the sisters’ charism was “a family spirit.”

“God was pointing at multiple things that reminded me of home,” said Sr. Anna Maria, who

Continues on page 13

Bishop Medley: Louisville will have a ‘gentle, kind’ leader in Archbishop-elect Fabre

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Archbishop-elect Shelton J. Fabre, going to the Archdiocese of Louisville in Kentucky from the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in Louisiana, is “a gentle man; a kind man,” according to Bishop William F. Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro in Kentucky.

Pope Francis’ appointment of Archbishop-elect Fabre and his acceptance of the resignation of Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz (who has reached retirement age at 75) were publicly announced on Feb. 8, 2022.

Bishop Medley told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* in a Feb. 14, 2022 interview that he had gotten to know Archbishop-elect Fabre personally when serving with him on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church.

That committee, in fact, was what ultimately released “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love,” the USCCB’s 2018 pastoral letter against racism.

And that letter is what brought Bishop Fabre to visit the Diocese of Owensboro in September 2019, when Bishop Medley invited him to speak on the letter and the issues of racism. (This was one of only a few occasions that Bishop Fabre had traveled to Kentucky.)

Bishop Medley told the WKC that a year or so prior to the release of “Open Wide Our Hearts,”

Fr. Anthony Shonis – then-director of the diocese’s Ongoing Formation of Priests – had wanted to offer a presbyteral day on the topic of racism.

(Presbyteral day is a time for the priests of the diocese to come together for formation and community.)



TINA KASEY | WKC

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre (left) with Bishop William F. Medley (right) at Bishop Fabre’s Sept. 19, 2019 presentation on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2019 document, “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism” at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

Fr. Shonis had asked Bishop Medley if he could invite Bishop Fabre to speak to the priests. Bishop Medley in turn asked if Fr. Shonis would be willing to wait until a pending USCCB document on that very topic was finished and released.

As a result, “we actually had (Bishop Fabre)

booked before ‘Open Wide Our Hearts’ was released,” said Bishop Medley.

“Open Wide Our Hearts” in 2018 was a good starting point for people in the Catholic Church to discuss racism, said the bishop, but he pointed out that the frequent violence against people of color – such as the 2020 killing of Louisville resident Breonna Taylor – remains an ongoing tragedy.

Louisville in particular continues to suffer “with racial disharmony,” said Bishop Medley, who was ordained and served as a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville until his 2010 ordination as Owensboro’s bishop.

As Archbishop-elect Fabre is a Black leader in the Church and community, Bishop Medley said he is grateful that the incoming archbishop has been chosen for Louisville.

In working with Archbishop-elect Fabre, “I observed a real mediator and reconciler – even among the bishops,” said Bishop Medley.

Though he will have “big shoes to fill” as he follows Archbishop Kurtz, Archbishop-elect Fabre has “been recognized among his peers as a very effective leader,” said Bishop Medley. Plus, “he’s coming to a Church which will receive him warmly.”

Bishop Medley was touched when, at the Feb. 8 press conference announcing the new archbishop’s appointment, Archbishop-elect Fabre referenced the ongoing recovery of western Kentucky after the Dec. 10 tornadoes.

“I would be remiss if I did not remind our nation

Continues on page 13

Bishop-elect Fabre continued from page 12

of the many challenges that remain as a result of Hurricane Ida,” said Archbishop-elect Fabre during the press conference, referencing the historic hurricane’s destruction throughout the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in August 2021.

“However, I would be equally remiss if I do not also mention our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Owensboro who were profoundly affected by the devastating tornadoes of December 10, particularly calling to mind, and referencing the 77 souls lost in what has been termed the deadliest storm in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky,” Archbishop-elect Fabre continued. “Please know of my heartfelt prayers for all those affected as I offer my assurance of support to the ongoing relief.”

Bishop Medley said he looks forward to having Archbishop-elect Fabre as the province’s metropolitan, which refers to the archbishop who not only serves in his archdiocese, but who also works to foster unity among the dioceses of his province.

In the case of the Archdiocese of Louisville, its suffragan dioceses are Covington, Knoxville, Lexington and Owensboro in Kentucky, and Memphis and Nashville in Tennessee.

Discerning 'home' continued from page 11

identifies herself as someone who is very devoted to her family and the idea of home.

She entered on July 16, 1998 – the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Sr. Anna Maria still remembers the night before she left, sitting at the picnic table in her family’s backyard and eating watermelon with her father. He said to her, “Are you sure you want to do this?”

She replied “Daddy, I can’t even tell you the over-

Faith and science:


Allied in seeking the truth

A conversation with OCHS '84 alumnus and Vatican Observatory member Christopher M. Graney

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Recently, an astronomer at the Vatican Observatory (V.O.), together with his colleagues, found a new member of the solar system, orbiting beyond the planet Neptune. This “trans-Neptunian object,” or “TNO,” is currently called “2021 XD7.” It was first observed by Fr. Richard Boyle, SJ, on Dec. 3, 2021 using the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT) on Mt. Graham in Arizona. In light of this discovery, The Western Kentucky Catholic interviewed Christopher M. Graney, an adjunct scholar with the Vatican Observatory and a 1984 alumnus of Owensboro Catholic High School.

Read the interview at westernkycatholic.com/2022/03/01/faith-science-allied-seeking-truth/.



COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER GRANEY
Christopher M. Graney is based in Louisville and serves as an adjunct scholar with the Vatican Observatory.

whelming joy of my heart.”

In sharing their stories with The Western Kentucky Catholic, Sr. Anna Maria and Mother John Mary emphasized that for those called to religious life, God speaks to who they are and draws them to a community that best fits them.

For instance, “I have a deep love for the Passionists, but it is not the call God has placed within me,” said Sr. Anna Maria.

Mother John Mary’s community is also close

with their local Carmelite sisters, and she maintains a strong devotion to St. Elizabeth of the Trinity.

Mother John Mary recalled meeting Mother Angelica on a visit to EWTN during her discernment process. Mother Angelica had told her a person was called to “wherever you feel at home with them, and they with you.”

Sr. Anna Maria agreed. It is “the call God has ordered you to, and that manifests itself in the religious community you are called to,” she said.

Illinois volunteer happy to help ‘remarkable diocese’ in tornado relief efforts

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Patty McDonald had just closed on her townhome in Illinois and planned to spend the holidays with family and train to walk the Camino when she heard the news about the tornadoes that had devastated western Kentucky on Dec. 10, 2021.

McDonald, who retired from the banking industry, has volunteered in national and international disaster relief for years. So her first thought was to reach out to Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

McDonald explained that other Catholic Charities offices around the country could vouch for her and that she was happy to do all of the diocese’s required background checks and training required for volunteers.

Plus, unlike many messages that Catholic Charities has received from those wanting to travel out and volunteer, McDonald didn’t ask to be at ground zero of the tornadoes. The disaster recovery was in far too early of the process to even consider bringing untrained volunteers into the disaster zones.

McDonald said she was happy to simply answer the phones. So Montalvo-Gesser told McDonald she could come.

After her holiday time with family, McDonald arrived in Kentucky on Dec. 28.

Her task was filling in the areas that Miguel Quintanilla, Catholic Charities’ paralegal, usually addressed, such as answering phone calls for assistance. She also monitored the email inbox.

Quintanilla had been swamped with extra tornado recovery work – like the rest of the Catholic Charities staff – so the new volunteer provided welcome support.

“The first three weeks were very busy,” said McDonald. She was set up at a desk in the McRaith Catholic Center (the central offices of the diocese)



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Patty McDonald came from Illinois to volunteer with Catholic Charities to help with their tornado recovery efforts.

with her own temporary phone extension so the switchboard could transfer calls directly to her.

McDonald had never been to western Kentucky before coming to volunteer, but said her nephew had attended University of Kentucky. She had spent a lot of time in the Lexington area when he was a student, so she has a soft spot for the Bluegrass State.

“I did a bit of research and discovered that Owensboro is the fourth largest city in the state!” she

said. “It’s a large swath of land but you get to know it.”

McDonald volunteered with the recovery efforts after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and has volunteered with numerous non-profits throughout her life.

“I am taken with the whole idea of volunteer work,” she said, adding that somehow she has “always volunteered.”

But she has a particularly soft spot for the ministry of Catholic Charities.

“Catholic Charities will be the sought-after beacon when the lights go out,” she said.

McDonald also appreciated the ecumenical and communal efforts to aid tornado recovery.

“Owensboro Christian Church has been amazing as a partner,” she said, praising “some of those opportunities for that ecumenical outreach. Human need is human need, regardless of who you are.”

Her last day in Kentucky was Jan. 28, 2022, exactly a month since her arrival. Her next plan is to continue training to walk El Camino de Santiago, which she said she will do in memory of her husband, Greg, and her sister, Julie.

On working alongside the Diocese of Owensboro and Catholic Charities, she said she hopes to stay in touch.

“It’s a really remarkable group of people and a remarkable diocese,” said McDonald. “They were confronted with a catastrophic event and didn’t throw their hands up... (Instead they said) ‘How can we help and bring Christ to these people?’”

Office of Marriage & Family Life receives grant, partners with Knights of Columbus

BY WKC STAFF

The Office of Marriage & Family Life of the Diocese of Owensboro has big plans for 2022, which are made even bigger by the reception of a \$10,000 matching grant.

The office announced on Feb. 1, 2022 that they had received the grant from the Catholic Marriage Initiatives Fund, and that it is to be used specifically to expand existing marriage ministries or implement brand-new marriage ministries in the diocese.

The donor for the matching grant has asked to remain anonymous.

In the press release posted on owensborodiocese.org, Danny May, the director of the Office of Marriage & Family Life, stated that “Marriage ministry is a powerful tool for discipleship and evangelization.”

Through the Catholic Marriage Initiatives Fund, every diocese in the United States had the opportunity to apply for a matching grant, which could go up to \$50,000. The Owensboro diocese was one of five dioceses to receive an initial \$10,000 award in January 2022, which makes them eligible for additional matching grants of \$20,000 in 2023 and 2024.

The grant will fund a three-year project called “Living the Joy of Marriage” which will focus on ongoing marriage enrichment in English and Spanish. May said that the grant will fund four areas in 2022: Grace Marriage, a parish-based discipleship model for English-speaking married couples; Banqueta de Boda, a one-day marriage retreat offered around the diocese for Spanish-speaking couples; Life Giving Wounds, a ministry for adult children of divorce/separation; and Red Bird Ministries, a ministry for

parents affected by child loss.

In addition to celebrating this grant, May said his office is partnering with area Knights of Columbus to promote marriage and family life-based initiatives.

May said he initially connected with area Knights during Lent 2021 when his office helped coordinate a virtual Into the Breach study series, which is a men’s virtue-based program created by the Knights of Columbus.

This put him in touch with Leonard Walther, a parishioner of St. Joseph in Bowling Green and a Knights of Columbus insurance field agent. May and Walther started discussing other ways the diocesan office could collaborate with the Knights.

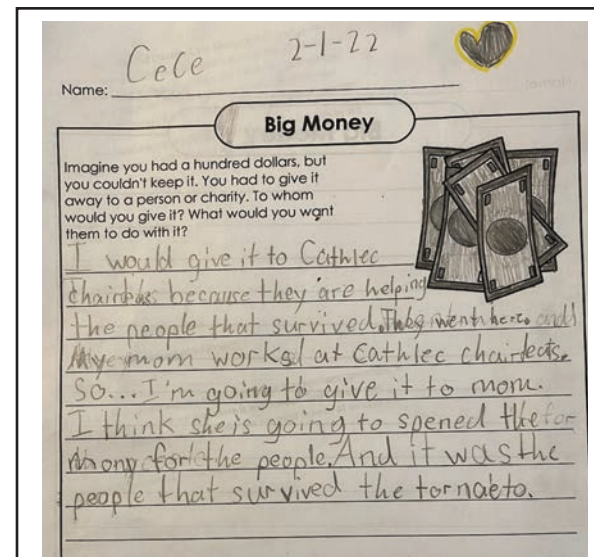
Currently the plan is to promote Grace Marriage involvement through the Knights’ many networks around the Diocese of Owensboro, though May says much more is coming down the road.

Learn more at <https://www.catholicmarriagefund.org/>.

Learn more and register

The next two Come and See events in the Diocese of Owensboro’s Grace Marriage program are:

- Saturday, March 5 at St. Alphonsus Parish in St. Joseph
 - Saturday, April 23 at St. Leo Parish in Murray
 - Learn more and register at owensborodiocese.org/grace-marriage
- Find out more about the Knights of Columbus “Into the Breach” series at kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html.



COURTESY OF SUSAN MONTALVO-GESSER

Seven-year-old wants to follow in mom's footsteps

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, was surprised and touched when she saw some recent schoolwork from her youngest daughter, CeCe Gesser.

In response to the prompt, which was “Imagine you had a hundred dollars, but you couldn’t keep it. You had to give it away to a person or charity. To whom would you give it? What would you want them to do with it?” the seven-year-old wrote:

“I would give it to Cathlec Chairteas because they are helping the people that survived. They went here. My mom works at Cathlec Chairteas. So... I’m going to give it to mom. I think she is going to spend the money for the people. And it was the people that survived the tornado.”

'Forgiveness is possible in every situation'

Rwandan genocide survivor speaks to crowd at St. Agnes

BY TINA KASEY, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

"We don't know why she's here (at St. Agnes) but we are grateful," Lisa Burke told The Western Kentucky Catholic before Immaculée Ilibagiza spoke on Feb. 15, 2022. "It's the work of the Holy Spirit."

Burke has seen Ilibagiza through conferences and retreats three times. Three years ago she wrote a note at the conclusion of one of those retreats requesting Ilibagiza come to Uniontown, Ky., and speak at St. Agnes Parish.

"I don't know if she read the note," Burke said, "but I knew I wanted to bring her here."

Burke, part of a small prayer group at the parish that has been meeting for the past six years, told the group she'd love to bring Ilibagiza for everyone to hear her incredible story of hope, faith and forgiveness after surviving the 1994 Rwandan genocide in Africa. The group encouraged her to invite Ilibagiza and so she wrote a letter to Ilibagiza's booking manager. He responded with a date: Feb. 15.

"It never occurred to me that it wouldn't happen," Burke said.

Burke said she feels drawn to Ilibagiza because "she prays from her heart. I think I've learned how to pray from her."

Ilibagiza and seven other females (ages 7 to 51) survived for 91 days hidden inside a three by four foot bathroom, while one million men, women and children (mostly Tutsis) were wiped out in a horrendous planned attack in her country of Rwanda.



TINA KASEY | WKC

Immaculée Ilibagiza spoke to a crowd St. Agnes Parish on Feb. 15, 2022. Ilibagiza survived the 1994 Rwandan genocide that killed more than one million people, including most of her family.

There were two main tribes or ethnic groups in Rwanda: Hutu and Tutsi. Rwandans were split into these groups based on their "height and shape of their nose," Ilibagiza explained to the standing room-only group inside St. Agnes, holding a rosary in one hand.

"Sometimes families were split-up with brothers in different tribes."

Ilibagiza, a college student and daughter of teachers in their local village, was home for Easter break when the news broke that the president of Rwanda was murdered.



TINA KASEY | WKC

Immaculée Ilibagiza presented Lisa Burke with a rosary at the conclusion of the event. Burke had invited Ilibagiza to St. Agnes Parish after hearing her speak three other times.

Her father, realizing what was coming, told her family to pray and then found a place to send Ilibagiza.

"We were Tutsi...my father wanted to keep me safe so he sent me to a friend's house, who was Hutu, to hide," Ilibagiza told the crowd. "We couldn't speak, we couldn't flush toilets, and we had to sleep on top of each other," she said.

She said she spent a lot of time asking why. She went from anger to fear to not caring whether she lived or died.

However, it was the rosary her father gave her be-

Continues on page 17

At SEEK22, college students learn through witness of their peers

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD,
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Saturday night, in the middle of Eucharistic Adoration during SEEK22, the conference organizers announced that priests were available for confession – and Corey Kibbel observed that “about 200 students stood up” to get in line.

Kibbel, the team director for the FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) team at Murray State University in Murray, Ky., said the number was approximate, but even then it was close.

“I saw all that come to fruition at Adoration,” he told The Western Kentucky Catholic in a Feb. 9, 2022 phone call.

SEEK22, an annual conference led by FOCUS, took place this year from Feb. 4-6 in a hybrid format due to COVID-19 pandemic adaptations. Instead of converging at one location, SEEK22 collaborated with campuses to make the opportunity accessible to all. Organizers also streamed

the talks so that those watching virtually could still participate.

According to FOCUS’s press release, nearly 12,000 students participated in campus gatherings, including larger regional events in Dallas, Texas, and Knoxville, Tenn.

The FOCUS teams from Murray State and also Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky., were able to take groups of students to the University of Tennessee Knoxville location, since it was within drivable distance.

Margaret White, the FOCUS team director at WKU, said 32 of her students were able to attend in-person and eight watched virtually.

She said many of her students said they were happy to be able to attend Mass and Adoration “shoulder-to-shoulder with people my age.”

It was invaluable “for our students to see that through the witness of other college students,” she said.



COURTESY OF ALEX KAUFMANN
The students from Murray State University on Feb. 6, 2022 at the conclusion of SEEK22 in Knoxville, Tenn.



COURTESY OF MARGARET WHITE
The students from Western Kentucky University on Feb. 6, 2022 at the conclusion of SEEK22 in Knoxville, Tenn.

Forgiveness is possible continued from page 16

fore she hid that brought Ilibagiza immense peace. She began to pray it a hundred times a day. Those prayers, especially the Lord’s Prayer, planted the seeds of forgiveness in Ilibagiza.

“Every time I got to the part asking God to ‘forgive those who trespass against us,’ I couldn’t say it,” she said. Eventually though, Ilibagiza realized that if she could believe God for the rest of the prayer, she needed to be able to pray the entire prayer and forgive, even those who were killing family, friends and

neighbors.

After 91 days, when Ilibagiza was able to leave that bathroom, she had lost half of her body weight and found that her entire family, save one brother studying abroad, had been brutally murdered.

“I screamed and cried for five minutes,” she said, emotion showing on her face. “I realized that God is my Father. My only father now.”

Ilibagiza called her experience in that tiny bathroom as “life-changing.” Those months of prayer pre-

pared her to be able to forgive those who killed her family, she said.

“I learned through this experience that with God, all things are possible.” Even forgiveness.

“I want to tell you this, forgive everyone. Forgiveness is possible in every situation,” Ilibagiza said.

At the conclusion of Ilibagiza’s talk, she presented Burke with the rosary she had held onto all night.

“Her courage is amazing,” Burke commented. “It makes me want to be courageous.”

MARCH 2022 BULLETIN BOARD

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

Precious Blood Parish Mission, March 6-9, 2022

Come join us for our 2022 four-day Parish Mission. Fr. John Mark Ettensohn, OMI, Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate will be leading us and has been a missionary oblate for the past 36 years. He has preached retreats and parish missions for over 22 states and Canada. He currently resides at Sacred Heart Parish in Oakland, Calif. The parish mission theme is NO IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS, GOD IS WITH US...NOW WHAT? What does God's presence with us really mean for us, especially during this time of pandemic? What is its purpose? Why does God seem so distant, especially when there is a critical need? The key topics for all four nights are: 1) Coming to know who God really is; 2) The Suffering and Death of Jesus on the Cross; 3) God never stops loving us; 4) Dear Lord, Bring us to Life. All morning mission talks will begin immediately following the 8 a.m. Mass Mon, Tues, and Wed in the parish hall. All evening sessions will be in the church beginning Sunday at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions please contact the mission coordinator, Mary June Cecil, (502) 939-3633, mjpikes67@gmail.com.

Belonging to Love: Prayer and Conversations online March 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, March 10 from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CST. To register to receive the link, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcen-

ter@maplemount.org or sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/> Note: The following program date will be Thursday, April 14.

A Scout is Reverent

The upcoming Religious Emblems Mass with Bishop Medley will take place March 13, 2022 at St. Anthony Parish in Browns Valley. 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. The Board of Review will take place at two locations on Jan. 29, 2022, both at 9 a.m.: one location will be Daviess County Public Library and the other location will be St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green. 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/>.

Ursuline Associates and Sisters Day June 25

Ursuline Associates will gather for their annual Associates and Sisters Day on Saturday, June 25 on the campus of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. The keynote speaker will be Father Larry Hostetter, president of Brescia University, Owensboro, Ky., which was founded by the Ursuline Sisters. Father Larry will speak about the university's new Caritas Center and the theology of caritas. Father Larry became an Associate in 2014, with Sister Sharon Sullivan as his contact Sister. A complete schedule of the event will be available later. Ursuline Associates are lay men and women who wish to be affiliated with the mission and spirit of

the Ursuline community and want to carry gospel living, as exemplified in the life of Saint Angela Merici, into their own daily lives. If you would like more information about becoming an associate, contact Doreen Abbott, coordinator of Ursuline Partnerships, at 270-229-2006 or email associates.ms@maplemount.org. You can also visit this webpage: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/associates/>

Women Shaped by Faith Saturday, July 9 at Mount Saint Joseph

Local fitness expert Theresa Rowe will lead "Women Shaped by Faith: Shaping Bodies & Hearts for God's Purposes" on Saturday, July 9. This will be an inspiring and motivating day of whole-person wellness to develop and nurture spirit, mind and body. Rowe will teach on the health benefits of combining our faith, mindset and fitness, using biblical principles for daily application. Also included is a Pilates for the Soul Mat Workout, specifically designed for every level of fitness. Please bring your own exercise mat. The retreat takes place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56.) Rowe is a TV and radio host of "Shaped by Faith." She is also an author, fitness expert and motivational health and wellness speaker. The \$30 fee includes lunch (the cost is \$40 at the door). To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or register online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/event/shaped-by-faith/> (Note: This event was rescheduled from its original date in February.)

Mass and confession times in the Diocese of Owensboro

Did you know you can access Mass times on the diocese's website? Visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/find-a-parish/> for a list of parishes, Mass times and more. As confession times are subject to change, visitors are encouraged to contact the parishes directly for their most up-to-date confession schedule.

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 pm. | 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 | 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 pm. | (270) 395-5747

Whitesville Lions Club, Whitesville

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

*Living in the Power
of the Holy Spirit*



SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, April 30

9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium

During the Easter season, Christians joyfully celebrate the gifts of Life and Hope flowing from the Risen Jesus. But how do 21st-century believers access first-century gifts? The link—the channel—is the Holy Spirit. One of the most important Western Catholic witnesses to the role of the Spirit is Saint Hildegard of Bingen, a 12th-century German Benedictine nun and a Doctor of the Church. We will explore her insights. The day will include prayer, reflection, and small-group sharing.

The \$45 fee includes lunch. For those who wish, a Sunday Mass will be available at 4:15 p.m.

To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/living-in-the-power/>



PRESENTER: Ursuline Sister Cheryl Clemons, Ph.D., has been offering retreats, parish missions, and RCIA programs for over 25 years. With extensive training in theology, Scripture, spirituality, and spiritual direction, she

brings to her annual Women's Retreat a deep love for and study of prayer and spirituality.



**Mount Saint Joseph
Retreat Ministry**

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

March Wedding Anniversaries

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



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.org.



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!

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Bill & Darla Wimsatt, 40

Ray & Nelda Best, 40

RC & Margaret Keith, 65

Christ the King, Madisonville

Jim & Ann Miner, 25

William & Bonnie Burns, 52

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Charles & Karen Nunley, 58

Jerry & Jewell Williams, 63

Lonnie & Dee Kennedy, 53

Paul & Mary Wilder, 53

Paul & Nina Drury, 63

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Harold & Joan Neighbors, 53

Juan & Sonia Nieto, 25

Larry & Marie Wilson, 52

Mark & Magdalena Mang, 54

William & Jennifer Mackin, 10

Immaculate, Owensboro

George & Linda McGee, 40

Wes & Tara Clark, 10

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Dennis & Gloria Ramage, 60

James & Marilyn Young, 54

William & Sarah Kemper, 60

Sacred Heart, Russellville

James & Ruth Dauley, 53

St. Ann, Morganfield

Alvin & Mary Austin, 51

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Dan & Gail Dailey, 53

St. Anthony, Axtel

Bobbie & Mary Moore, 65

Luke & Bethany Kennedy, 5

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Charles & Ann Hamilton, 57

David & Marilyn Lewis, 40

Gary & Elaine Strain, 53

St. Anthony, Peonia

Brandon & Jaclyn Higdon, 10

St. Benedict, Wax

Damon & Reva Stasel, 55

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Jack & Rose Riggs, 65

Jerry & Barbara Hayden, 56

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Raymond & Carol Hill, 60

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Tony & Lita Pfingston, 55

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

John & Lynda Oldham, 57

Pat & Betty Robinson, 57

Warren & Tonie Hatton, 25

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Gene & Suzanne Cash, 40

Sam & Courtney Englert, 25

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Jim & Mary Jane Nelson, 57

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Aubrey & Monselle Willett, 51

George & Doreen Gates, 52

Kerry & Darlene Simmons, 50

Thomas & Helen Ellington, 69

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Roger & Stella McClure, 51

St. Leo, Murray

Tommy & Maureen Thompson, 25

St. Mark, Eddyville

Terence & Susan Carlin, 54

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Jim & Barbara Pinkston, 60

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Jerry & Lauren Martin, 5

Vince & Barbara Brown, 60

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

Joe & Pat Clements, 40

St. Pius X, Calvert City

David & Donna Carr, 52

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Richard & Veronica Trangas, 25

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Cletus & Teresa Nimmo, 25

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Charles & Becky Cheatham, 25

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Lloyd & Mary Helen Nash, 51

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Joe & Louise Doyle, 52

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Matt & Brenda Walters, 51

Michael & Christine Canella, 50

Mike & Jessica Davis, 5

Randy & Jackie Froehlich, 25

Terry & Barb Larbes, 50

St. William, Knottsville

Devin & Chasity Berry, 10

Zachary & Allison Sheldon, 10

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

William & Donna McDaniel, 50

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Joe & Jennifer Chaudoin, 53

Stephen & Carole Keel, 10



Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

Quilt Club

Sister Mary
Celine

We have new Quilt

Club tickets!

You could win a beautiful handmade quilt! Each \$25 ticket entitles you to all 12 monthly drawings between **April 1, 2022** and **March 2023**. Get your tickets fast – last year we sold out! Just 2,500 tickets are available. Thanks for your support.

270-229-2009

carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org

Or purchase online: ursulinesmsj.org



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph
8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356

License No. 0290

What's new in evangelization?

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

When you hear the word “evangelization” what word or image comes to mind? Pause for a moment and consider the feelings this word conjures up. For some it means sharing God’s love with others or welcoming people in Jesus name. These positive reactions show we have made some progress in the last 60 years. For others, the image may be of a TV evangelist or someone on your front porch inviting you to their church, and the feelings are rather negative.

In the documents of Vatican II 1962-65, the word “gospel” appears 157 times, “evangelize” 18 times and “evangelization” 31 times. These words focus on the core mission of the Church, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Pope Paul VI described the mission this way in 1975: “the church exists to evangelize... that is to proclaim Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit so that people in our times will open their hearts to him...”

In 1983, St. Pope John Paul II said, “This New Evangelization is new, not in the content of the message of the Gospel, but in its ardor, methods, and expression.” The U.S. Catholic Bishops put it this way, “The New Evangelization is a call for all of us to have a deeper encounter with Christ, best expressed in a simple, confident, informed, and joyous witness to the faith, which attracts others and invites them to wonder what secret is motivating the Christian disciple” (Living as Missionary Disciples, 7).

So what is new? It is new that the mission is for every baptized member of the Church. It is the responsibility of each member to open their hearts to Jesus and to be transformed into a person who is a

joyful witness to the faith. The witness of each member of the Church and the realization that it is not just for our priests and lay ecclesial ministers, but it is something all of us need to be engaged in, and in fact, this very thing gives ultimate meaning and purpose to our lives.

The mission of the Church is to be a place of God’s loving presence and this is up to every one of us in our homes, workplaces and even our parishes. It is much more about how we live and how we treat others that will help us to be a Church of “attraction” that Pope Francis is calling us to be.

Our new mission is: “To be missionary disciples of Jesus, making present the kingdom of God.”

As we begin our Lenten Journey, I invite you to discover God’s intimate and unconditional love by carving out 15 minutes each day to try some new forms of prayer. Go to this link: <https://owensborodiocese.org/evangelization/> and click on the top item in the left column, “Lenten Prayer Challenge.”

May God fill you full this Lent and send you on mission!

Peace in Christ,
Jeff

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

Mount Saint Joseph Sale of Antique and Vintage Items

Saturday, March 26

7 a.m.–4 p.m. (Doors open at 7)

In Mount Auditorium

**Photos of the items for sale will be on the Ursuline Sisters website at this link starting March 9:
ursulinesmsj.org/antique-sale/**

Items important to the Ursuline Sisters’ history are being saved for a museum, but there will be antique and vintage items for sale such as dressers, accent chairs, desks, curio cabinets, lamps, wall decorations, drinkware, vases, candleholders, china sets, and even display cases from the former Anderson’s Department store.

Credit cards, checks, cash accepted. Buyers must remove items that day. All sales final.

Questions? Contact Martha Alle: 270-229-4170
martha.alle@maplemount.org



Most of the sale items came from inside the former Mount Saint Joseph Academy/Conference and Retreat Center which will be deconstructed later, so everything must go!



8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999

12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56

Saying 'yes' to God



FILE PHOTO

Dcn. Jay W. VanHoosier is the Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Owensboro.

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

The Feast of the Annunciation on March 25 has tremendous significance for Christians. It falls exactly nine months before Christmas. Therefore, it marks the very starting

point of the Incarnation. It is when Christ was conceived. Now, in God's eternal plan, he knew that Mary would say yes to his request to be Mother of his Son. After all, God is beyond time and knows all that was, is, and will be. He also made Mary full of grace from the moment of her own conception. However - and this is a mystery of God - he never took Mary's free will from her. She always had the choice to respond differently to God's request. She could have said no. Mary knew at that moment that saying yes would change the plans that she had for her life. But she had the humbleness - the humility - to listen to the message. She had the faith to believe that this message was truly from God and the courage to obey it.

We too are given requests by God on a daily

basis. He does this by presenting us with situations that do not always fit into what we might have planned for ourselves - not always what we want to do or say. More importantly, these situations are always opportunities to share Christ to others - in our words and actions. What is our reaction to these situations? Remember, like Mary, we have free will and can always say no. One need only to look at the world around us to realize that no is said far too often. However, also like Mary, we have the freedom to say yes. Like Mary, we need to look deep into our hearts and find the humility to listen, the faith to believe that God truly know what is best, and then the courage to obey. We need to constantly pray for the grace to let the humility, the belief, and the courage to fill our entire being - so we can say yes to God - and become co-operators with Him in his plan for the world - namely, sharing the light of Christ to everyone we meet.

If we do say yes to God's request in our lives, and try to co-operate in the situations with which he presents us, we have to possibility and privilege to spiritually do what Mary did physically. We have the possibility and privilege to bring Christ into the world for others to see.

Mother Mary, pray for us.

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.

25TH ANNUAL
YOUTH 2000
A Eucharistic-Centered Retreat

March 11-13, 2022
Brescia University
owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000

Marian Shrine

Special talks by:

Leah Darrow
Catholic Speaker and Author

Fr. Nathan Cromly, CSJ
President of Saint John Institute

LOOKING FOR FUN
AND FAITH THIS
SUMMER?

REGISTER FOR CAMP AT
Gasper River
Catholic Youth Camp
& Retreat Center

3RD TO 12TH GRADERS

270-781-2466

GASPERRIVERRETREATCENTER.ORG

What did the Lenten season look like in 1950?

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

Most of us have heard stories of how much more demanding the Church was in our grandparents' time. How much different was it though, really? How much more difficult would Lent be this year if we practiced as they did, say, 70 years ago? Well... you might be surprised.

Mortification is a term that is relatively foreign to most in our current society. It is the practice of denying oneself bodily comforts and pleasures. This helps us die to ourselves and draws us closer to Christ in His Passion. Mortification was a more prevalent theme in the Church in years past. In our current time, as Catholics, we focus heavily on utilizing our spiritual rigor to positively affect the world and those around us. Though this was also true of previous generations, there was also much more of a focus on personal suffering than there is now. In 1950, in an attempt to make fasting and abstinence rules more uniform, our first bishop, Bishop Francis Ridgley Cotton, released new guidelines for fasting and abstinence that were to be observed by all Catholics aged 21-59 during the Lenten season in the diocese.

So how much different are the guidelines of 1950 to the ones we currently observe? Though abstaining from meat on Lenten Fridays is consistent in both, the differences are significant. The most obvious difference between our current rules and those of 1950 is the number of days fasted. We currently fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; two small meals and one average meal are permitted on these days. The 1950 guidelines instruct all Catholics of the appropriate age to fast every single weekday of Lent and the Holy Days designated. So, the 1950 guidelines had our grandparents fasting 33 days during Lent as opposed to our current two. The guidelines also "urged" "above all to refrain altogether from attendance, during the penitential season of Lent, at shows, parties, dances and such like public amusements."

Though these measures may seem unnecessary or cruel to many in our day and age, the Church authorities of years past were simply acting on what they believed was best for the salvation of souls. In the guidelines the bishop encouraged the priests to "endeavor... to impress upon all the necessity of penance and mortification if we wish to save our souls." This was



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Several priests in an audience with Pope Pius XII in 1950, the same year the new guidelines were issued. Priests from the Diocese of Owensboro pictured are Frs. Charles DeNardi, Thomas Libs, Ed Russell, Rudolph Carrico, Leo Dienes, and Joseph Spalding.

also not all the result of Bishop Cotton's ascetic insistencies. The Catholic hierarchy all throughout America was pushing to further standardize the practices.

So, are you going to attempt the Diocese of Owensboro Lenten guidelines of 1950 this Lent? Maybe you could make an internet challenge out of it and go viral. Whatever you do I hope it deepens your relationship with Christ. I suspect most of us will stick with more modern Lenten practices, however, especially since a good hair shirt is so hard to find now a days, even with the internet!

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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Confirmandi ‘journey with’ communities impacted by tornadoes

BY ROBIN MURPHEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Confirmation is a special moment in one’s life-long Catholic faith journey. On Feb. 11, 22 young men and women said “I do” to being strengthened and sealed by the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro.

Over the past few months, they have experienced and lived their faith in many ways, embracing the call to missionary discipleship. On Jan. 22, the Confirmandi, parents and sponsors journeyed with Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs and Immaculate Conception Parish in Earlington, accompanying one another in a day of spiritual discipleship (service).

The journey began with candles lit for each of the Confirmandi and those impacted by the December storms, brightening Lourdes’ sanctuary as adorers prayed and parishioners celebrated Mass for the encounter and safety of the pilgrims and the Resurrection and Immaculate Conception communities.

In the communities, they walked with one another experiencing the aftermath of the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes and listened to the people and communities’ stories (past, present, future). They witnessed a community coming together to rise again in a small outbuilding to encounter Christ in the Eucharist and one another.

The confirmation pilgrimage concluded with a communal Holy Hour and Adoration at Immaculate Conception with and for all the communities gathered. Dcn. Mike Marsili shared the depths of the pil-



COURTESY OF ROBIN MURPHEY

Our Lady of Lourdes Confirmation family hears the story of Resurrection Parish on Jan. 22, 2022.

grimage encounter in his homily: “As disciples, you have come to us, to walk briefly in our shoes, to talk with us, to listen to us, to pray with us, to suffer with us, because we are members of one body of Christ.” “It is by the Paschal Mystery...that we, the members of his body, may endure suffering, but we never suffer alone (or rejoice alone).”

That is not the end of the story, the experience, or the accompaniment. A bond, a connection, a friendship was born. At Confirmation, Dcn. Mike and his wife, Ashley, brought the spirit and commu-

nity of Resurrection and Immaculate to the Confirmation celebration, continuing to accompany, walk, and rejoice with the young men and women in their Catholic faith journey. The communities’ vision is to continue journeying together as the encounter with Christ and one another through this spiritual discipleship has touched many hearts and minds and brought together communities across the diocese.

Robin Murphey is the director of faith experiences at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro.

YOUTH 2000 to welcome Leah Darrow, Fr. Nathan Cromly

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

This March, the annual Eucharist-centered youth retreat, YOUTH 2000, will celebrate its 25th anniversary, and welcome two special keynote speakers.

Lisa Bivins coordinator of YOUTH 2000 and treasurer of the Marian Shrine Committee of the Diocese of Owensboro, said the March 11-13 retreat will feature Leah Darrow, a Catholic speaker and author; and Fr. Nathan Cromly, CSJ, the president of Saint John Institute in Colorado.

Youth 2000 is an international organization whose United States' office is based in Dallas. The western Kentucky YOUTH 2000 is the longest-running one of its kind in the country. The retreat is cosponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Bivins said Fr. Cromly came in the early years of western Kentucky's YOUTH 2000 retreats, and so the committee was happy to bring him back for their 25th anniversary. Darrow is friends with YOUTH 2000 committee member Mary Katherine Wathen.

"The foundation of YOUTH 2000 is to build leaders for the future," said Bivins in a Feb. 10 phone call with The Western Kentucky Catholic. She said Darrow will give her testimony, which includes Darrow's conversion experience while participating in America's Next Top Model.

Bivins said Fr. Cromly leads a program for business people to merge their business life with their Catholic faith.

Additionally, "he leads retreats for young people to give them direction in their life," she said. "He is so joyful about the Gospel message for young people and how they can change the world."

Miraculously, YOUTH 2000 has been able to prevail even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. YOUTH 2000 in 2020 took place March 6-8, right before the pandemic took the United States by storm. In July 2021, after necessary delays and much prayer and discussion, YOUTH 2000's 24th-annual retreat took place.

Wathen said it was a "God thing" when she found out that Darrow would be available for the weekend

of 2022's YOUTH 2000. She looks forward to Darrow speaking to the needs of 21st-century teens.

"She has a very inspiring story," said Wathen. "There is always hope, and it's never too late. We all have made mistakes at one point in our lives - but there is God's mercy."

Wathen said she remembers attending YOUTH 2000 as a teen: "Now I'm 40 years old with six kids of my own!"

She said attending YOUTH 2000 "planted seeds that have lasted the rest of my life."

Learn more and register

YOUTH 2000 will take place on March 11-13, 2022 at Brescia University.

- To register for the retreat, visit owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000.
- To learn more about Fr. Nathan Cromly, CSJ, visit www.saintjohninstitute.org.
- To learn more about Leah Darrow, visit www.leahdarrow.com.

Knights of Columbus blood drive team thanks teen volunteer for years of service

Paul Roof of Knights of Columbus Council #10962 and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Paducah writes:

As the Red Cross blood drive organizer since 1993 at Council #10962, I have had many people volunteer. The face of our blood drive, Lexi Roof, has been our sign-in volunteer since she was nine years old, and is finishing up her senior year in high school. We will miss her beautiful smile. Our past blood drive on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022 had a total of 45 units donated. Over the years the St. John's community has donated 2,553 units of blood to the American Red Cross, which could be used to save as many as 7,600 lives (3 people/unit of blood). Thanks Lexi for the many hours of volunteering you have done over the years!



COURTESY OF PAUL ROOF

Dreaming of a synodal Church



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ

(Left) People of the Our Lady of Fatima region gather at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah on Jan. 15, 2022, to participate in a regional Encuentro. (Right) People of the Our Lady of Guadalupe region gather at St. Michael Parish in Sebree on Jan. 8, 2022, to participate in a regional Encuentro.

BY DCN. CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ, SPECIAL TO
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

"What are you discussing as you walk along?" Luke 24: 17

It sounds simple and we've heard this line so many times. But this is probably one of the most important questions for all of us to continue pondering and to feel challenged to delve into as Christians. And as we continue our parish and regional synod listening sessions, I believe the core challenge remains: are we truly listening to each other? Or have we fallen into the temptation to use the process to simply talk over each other, show off our teaching skills or dump our grievances?

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus is very interested in what the disciples have to say; he wants to hear their perspective; he gives them time to express themselves; he listens to their fears and to how they feel. Jesus does not appear to them and immediately start to preach or lecture, to chastise or complain. He begins with listening.

Recently, Fr. Julio Cesar Palarino, an Uruguayan

priest that serves in Argentina but visits our diocese every January, challenged many of us Hispanics to think through these challenges and questions. The truth of the matter is that the Hispanic community, just like everyone else, is not immune to the risks and temptations mentioned above. So every Saturday during the month of January, Fr. Julio offered introductory sessions about the synod process. In simple language he helped define terms such as synod and synodality, he shared a little bit about the history of synods and councils and finally encouraged communities to participate actively in their parish listening sessions.

Let us all continue trying to imitate what Jesus did on the road to Emmaus. Listen.

Deacon Chris Gutiérrez is the director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at <https://owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano/>.

Deacon Chris Gutiérrez is the director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry in the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at <https://owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano/>.

Myanmar cardinal appeals to Mary to protect his country

YANGON, Myanmar (CNS) -- Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon has sought the intercession of Mary for protection, healing and mercy for conflict-torn Myanmar, which has been in turmoil since the February 2021 military coup. "Our Lady becomes the mother of all people, of all races and all religions. The whole (of) Myanmar came here for healing and celebrating," Cardinal Bo said in a homily at the National Marian Shrine of Nyaunglebin Feb. 11, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. "But this year we have come here as a wounded nation, a wounded people." Ucanews.com reported that since 1902, thousands of Catholics, Hindus and Buddhists from across the Southeast Asian country have participated yearly in the Lourdes feast at the shrine, but this year the novena and celebrations were held online due to the coronavirus and political instability. Cardinal Bo highlighted the five wounds inflicted on Myanmar: the COVID-19 pandemic, the military coup, civil wars, the collapse of the economy and the displacement of people. "More than ever we need our Mother of Mercy in Myanmar today. Our pain is her pain," he said. "As a mother, she was with her son at the most needed time. Not abandoning us, she stands with the people of Myanmar today. She is the mother most faithful and most merciful." - Catholic News Service

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Que esta Cuaresma decidamos ayunar de las actitudes hostiles hacia los demás

Queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo,

El inicio del tiempo de Cuaresma nos trae muchas imágenes y tradiciones. Las más importantes entre ellas son las prácticas de orar, ayunar y dar limosna. En la lectura del Evangelio del Miércoles de Ceniza, escuchamos a Jesús amonestarnos: “cuando des limosna, no lo anuncies con trompeta...cuando vayas a orar, entra en tu cuarto, cierra la puerta... cuando ustedes ayunen, no pongan cara triste”.

Estaría bien recordar que la palabra “cuaresma” significa “primavera” y que el tiempo de Cuaresma generalmente es paralela al final del invierno y la promesa de una nueva vida tan abundante en primavera. Asimismo, en nuestra tradición católica vemos una conexión entre este tiempo santo y el Sacramento de la Reconciliación. A menudo las parroquias se esforzarán por programar oportunidades adicionales para celebrar este sacramento. Para aquellos que hayan descubierto que ha pasado mucho tiempo desde que confesaron sus pecados, los 40 días de Cuaresma se nos presentan como una invitación a venir a esta fuente de gracia, a hacer borrón y cuenta nueva, a celebrar la misericordia de Dios.

Deseo proponer un tipo particular de reconciliación, que puede incluir o no la reconciliación sacramental. En los últimos años, escucho a más y más personas hablar de enojo o alienación de familiares, amigos, compañeros de trabajo y colegas. Muy a menudo esto ha surgido por diferencias sobre la política y las elecciones recientes o las actitudes sobre la pandemia y las preguntas sobre vacunas, mascarillas y mandatos. Parece que se ha perdido la capacidad de estar en desacuerdo de forma educada y respetuosa. Supongo que esto no es

totalmente nuevo. Se ha dicho que donde dos o tres se reúnen, allí está Dios; pero también es probable que haya un intenso desacuerdo.

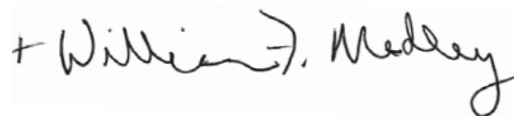
¿Su familia o círculo de amigos se ha visto perjudicado por tales desacuerdos? ¿Está dispuesto usted a aceptar como proyecto de Cuaresma la reconciliación con aquellos con quienes no está de acuerdo? Sin ganadores. Sin perdedores. Solo paz familiar y amabilidad. Sólo un dejar al lado las tensiones.

Nuestra inclinación a alienarnos por estos asuntos se ve agravada por las redes sociales, donde con demasiada frecuencia se ha abandonado la tolerancia por los insultos y la intimidación. Seguramente no ayuda que la mayoría de nosotros obtengamos nuestras noticias hoy de fuentes altamente partidistas. Los partidos políticos deben compartir la culpa cuando ridiculizan cualquier noción de compromiso o incluso de diálogo.

Pero como dijo Jesús cuando escuchó a los apóstoles discutiendo sobre quién sería el primero en el Reino de Dios, “no puede ser así con ustedes”.

Esta Cuaresma podríamos decidir orar mejor y más a menudo, profundizar un poco más en compartir lo que tenemos con los que tienen poco, y tal vez podamos ayunar de las hostilidades con familiares y amigos.

Atentamente en Cristo,



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MARZO DE 2022

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 DE MARZO | 6 p.m. Cena con el Club Serra – Briarpatch en Owensboro |
| 2 DE MARZO | 12:05 p.m. Misa de Miércoles de Ceniza – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro |
| 4 DE MARZO | 6 p.m. Cena del Programa Grace Marriage [Matrimonio de gracia] – Museo & Salón de la Fama de la Música Bluegrass, Owensboro |
| 6 DE MARZO | 6 p.m. Misa con Estudiantes de la pastoral universitaria de la Universidad Estatal de Murray – Parroquia San León, Murray |
| 8 DE MARZO | 8:15 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela Católica Cristo Rey en Madisonville
6 p.m. Sesión regional de escucha del Sínodo – Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson |
| 10 DE MARZO | 8 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad, Whitesville
6 p.m. Sesión regional de escucha del Sínodo – Parroquia Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green |
| 13 DE MARZO | 10:30 Misa de Clausura de YOUTH 2000 e Institución al Ministerio de Lector a Conrad Jaconette – Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro
2 p.m. Misa de Escultismo – Parroquia San Antonio en Browns Valley |
| 14 DE MARZO | 9 a.m. Conversaciones con los "Seniors" – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro, Owensboro
6 p.m. Sesión regional de escucha del Sínodo – Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville |
| 17 DE MARZO | 3 p.m. Reunión por Zoom con sacerdotes de la Diócesis |
| 19 DE MARZO | 10 a.m. Sesión regional de escucha del Sínodo (español) – Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville |
| 20 DE MARZO | 11 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Guillermo, Knottsville |

Continúa en la página 28

La ‘luz de esperanza’ recibe un hogar nuevo mientras el obispo bendice a las oficinas de Caridades Católicas



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Con Susan Montalvo-Gesser, directora de Caridades Católicas de Owensboro como asistente, el Obispo William F. Medley bendijo el nuevo edificio de Caridades Católicas el 2 de febrero de 2022.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El 2 de febrero de 2022, el Obispo William F. Medley bendijo el nuevo hogar de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

El edificio es una casa pequeña reutilizada que anteriormente fue el hogar del difunto Obispo Juan J. McRaith, el tercer obispo de Owensboro, después de su jubilación en 2009. (El Obispo McRaith fall-

ció en 2017).

Está ubicado al lado de Centro Católico McRaith, el centro pastoral y hogar de las oficinas centrales de la diócesis. Caridades Católicas estaba ubicada en el centro pastoral, pero sus recursos y servicios en constante expansión –incluidos los esfuerzos de auxilio continuos después del desastre del tornado de diciembre de 2021– finalmente exigían que se mudaran a un espacio más grande.

Continuado de la página 27

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| | 10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith (MCC) |
| 21 DE MARZO | 1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – MCC
6 p.m. Sesión regional de escucha del Sínodo – Parroquia Santísima Madre, Owensboro |
| 22 DE MARZO | 10 a.m. Horas de Oficina en Paducah
6 p.m. Sesión regional de escucha del Sínodo – Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah |
| 23 DE MARZO | 8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – MCC |
| 24-26 DE MARZO | Conferencia en la Universidad Loyola de Chicago |
| 27 DE MARZO | 2 p.m. Sesión regional de escucha del Sínodo (birmano) – Parroquia Espíritu Santo, Bowling Green |
| 29 DE MARZO | 6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pío X, Calvert City |
| 30 DE MARZO | 9:45 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela Interparroquial San José, Bowling Green
6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Pío X, Owensboro |
| 31 DE MARZO | 6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro |

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, la directora de Caridades Católicas, dijo que están reteniendo la dirección postal del centro pastoral para continuar la estrecha relación con las oficinas diocesanas.

“Que Dios, verdadera luz del mundo, que nos dio el mandamiento de ayudarnos unos a otros como hermanos y hermanas, y que seamos una luz en las tinieblas, bendiga este edificio de Caridades Católicas con la luz de su presencia, y mire amablemente a todos los que entran aquí”, rezó el Obispo Medley.

'Las semillas que plantó todavía están floreciendo'

El martirio de un sacerdote inspira la fe de la familia hasta el día de hoy

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El 10 de febrero de 1937, Miércoles de Ceniza, el sacerdote llamado Padre Pedro de Jesús Maldonado fue atacado por secuaces del gobierno mexicano en otro caso más de la persecución religiosa de los cristianos en México en ese tiempo.

Fue brutalmente golpeado y dado por muerto después de que los secuaces burlonamente le hicieran comer varias hostias que se habían caído de un copón que llevaba (cumpliendo en realidad el último deseo del sacerdote de recibir a Jesús antes de morir).

Las mujeres locales solicitaron que el sacerdote de 44 años fuera llevado al hospital, donde murió al día siguiente debido a un daño cerebral severo.

El 25 de mayo de 2000, el Papa San Juan Pablo II canonizó al Padre Maldonado, confirmando lo que mucha gente ya creía: este sacerdote era un santo viviente.

Susy Solorza, maestra de la escuela católica Santo Nombre de Jesús en Henderson, es una de esas personas, y por una buena razón. Su bisabuelo y otros miembros de la familia estaban entre los católicos que habitualmente escondían al Padre Maldonado de las autoridades.

“En mi familia lo llamamos el Padre Maldonado o 'El Padre'”, dijo en una entrevista el 19 de enero con el Católico de Kentucky Occidental.

La fe de sus hijos

Solorza dijo que tanto su abuela paterna como su

abuelo materno fueron bautizados por el Padre Maldonado, quien “se vestía de rancharo, iba de rancho en rancho” disfrazado para poder celebrar la Misa en las casas de la gente.

Cuando los funcionarios del gobierno pasaban a buscar al sacerdote, el bisabuelo de Solorza escondía al Padre Maldonado en un lugar secreto de su casa.

Solorza dijo que su familia extendida ha conservado reliquias de sus sotanas, y ella y muchos de sus familiares tienen fotografías del Padre Maldonado en sus hogares.

“Su rostro siempre ha sido familiar, como un miembro de la familia”, dijo. “Algo así como un abuelo... la mayoría de las personas a las que sirvió se sentían así”.

Solorza, quien nació en El Paso, Texas, dijo que el Padre Maldonado también sirvió en El Paso y en toda la región. Los miembros de su familia que residían en esos días en Chihuahua, México (no lejos de El Paso), tenían un rancho con una capilla dedicada a San José, donde el Padre Maldonado celebraba la Misa.

Antes de que la familia inmediata de Solorza se mudara de Texas a Kentucky, se unían a la familia extendida para una visita anual y una Misa en la pequeña capilla en honor al Padre Maldonado. Mientras se dirigían a la capilla, a Solorza y sus hermanos se les volvía a contar la historia de su martirio.

“Mi mamá siempre nos decía 'las semillas que plantó todavía están floreciendo'”, dijo Solorza.

Está agradecida de haber sido criada en un ambi-



CORTESÍA DE LA FAMILIA SOLORZA
Susana Solorza, madre de Susy Solorza, reza en la Capilla de San José en Rancho El Pino, Chihuahua, México, alrededor de 1993. Esta capilla está ubicada en el mismo rancho donde el bisabuelo y la familia de Susy Solorza escondían al Padre Maldonado en su casa.

Continúa en la página 30

Continuado de la página 29

ente lleno de fe, especialmente acreditando la fe de sus abuelas paternas y maternas que dedicaron sus vidas al “servicio en la Iglesia”.

Solorza compartió una historia que se ha transmitido de generación en generación.

“Uno de mis bisabuelos estaba caminando y los soldados lo detuvieron y le preguntaron dónde encontrar al Padre Maldonado”, dijo. Se negó a decirles.

Los soldados le dijeron: “A lo mejor no podemos quitarte la fe, pero les quitaremos la fe de tus hijos y descendientes”.

Ese relato es una de las razones por las que Solorza y sus cuatro hermanos encuentran crucial aferrarse a su fe católica, que sus antepasados lucharon tanto por mantener.

Solorza y su esposo, John Shelman, viven esto enseñando intencionalmente la fe a sus dos hijos pequeños, Santiago y Luca.

Iglesia domestica

Solorza dijo que reflexionaba sobre el compromiso con la fe de los católicos mexicanos en marzo de 2020 cuando la pandemia del COVID-19 llegó por primera vez a los Estados Unidos, y las empresas y las iglesias estuvieron cerradas durante varios meses.

Esto incluía una suspensión temporal del culto público, lo que significaba que nadie podía recibir la Eucaristía.

“Ya sea que tuviera cinco años en México o 20 años en la universidad, siempre había tenido la oportunidad de encontrar una iglesia católica donde pudiera recibir la Eucaristía”, dijo Solorza. “Ni una vez, en toda mi vida, había estado fuera de mi alcance estar presente en la Misa. Esta pandemia trajo al presente la experiencia de mi familia en el pasado de no poder celebrar la Misa”.

El primer domingo que pudieron regresar a Misa, Solorza lloró mientras entraban a la Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús y fueron recibidos por todo el personal de la parroquia.

“Hasta el día de hoy, mientras mi esposo y yo luchamos con dos niños pequeños durante la Misa, esos momentos en los que me siento más frustrada, recuerdo la belleza de sentarme en esta banca, compartir este momento, entonar estos cantos con mi familia y nuestros compañeros feligreses”, dijo.

Ella dijo que el martirio del Padre Maldonado y la fe de sus bisabuelos son la base sobre la cual sus propios padres construyeron su iglesia doméstica.

“Hoy, John y yo nos basamos en nuestras propias familias y sus caminos de fe para construir nuestra propia iglesia doméstica caótica, bilingüe y multicultural”, dijo.

¿Sabía esto?

Esconder a los sacerdotes era común entre los fieles durante las persecuciones religiosas de cristianos en México entre 1926 y 1937. Santo Toribio Romo, otro sacerdote mexicano que últimamente fue martirizado por las autoridades, en ocasiones fue escondido por la familia de la bisabuela del Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

YOUTH 2000
Un Retiro con enfoque Eucarístico para Adolescentes

Marzo 11-13, 2022
Universidad de Brescia
Owensboro, KY

Marian Shrine
owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000

Sínodo 2021-2023

Sesión de escucha con el Obispo Medley en español, para delegaciones hispanas de todas las parroquias. Como parte del proceso del Sínodo de la Sinodalidad.

Sábado, 19 de marzo de 2022

10 AM - Mediodía

**San Pedro & San Pablo,
Hopkinsville**

902 E 9th St, Hopkinsville, KY 42240



owensborodiocese.org/sinodo



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/.

Joy Navan, M.A., LPA

Amend Psychological
 Services, PSC

877-732-8683 o 859-269-6465

*Sólo disponible a través de teleterapia.

Iris Gutiérrez, MSW, LCSW

Especialista en Salud Mental
 Disponible a través de
 teleterapia y terapia
 presencial.

859-469-0133

gutierreztherapy@gmail.com

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.

Soñando con una Iglesia sinodal



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

(Izquierda) Personas de la región Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se reúnen en la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree el 8 de enero de 2022 para participar en un encuentro regional. (Derecha) Personas de la región Nuestra Señora de Fátima se reúnen en la Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah el 15 de enero de 2022 para participar en un encuentro regional.

POR EL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ,
ESPECIAL AL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY
OCCIDENTAL

“¿Qué comentaban por el camino?” Lucas 24, 17

Suena sencillo y hemos escuchado esta línea muchas veces. Pero probablemente esta es una de las preguntas más importantes para que todos nosotros continuemos considerando y nos sintamos desafiados a profundizar como cristianos. Y mientras continuemos nuestras sesiones de escucha del sínodo parroquial y regional, yo creo que el desafío central sigue siendo, ¿nos estamos escuchando realmente unos a otros? ¿O hemos caído en la tentación de usar el proceso para simplemente hablar unos sobre otros, mostrar nuestras habilidades de enseñanza o desechar nuestras quejas?

En el camino a Emaús, Jesús está muy interesado en lo que los discípulos tienen que decir; él quiere escuchar su perspectiva; él les da tiempo para que se expresen; él escucha sus temores y cómo se sienten. Jesús no se les aparece de inmediato para comenzar a predicar o dar sermones, para castigar o quejarse. Él

comienza con escuchar.

Hace poco, el P. Julio Cesar Palarino, un sacerdote uruguayo que sirve en Argentina, quien visita nuestra diócesis cada enero, retó a muchos de nosotros los hispanos a pensar bien en estos desafíos y preguntas. La verdad del asunto es que la comunidad hispana, al igual que todos los demás, no es inmune a los riesgos y tentaciones mencionados anteriormente. Así que todos los sábados durante el mes de enero, el P. Julio ofreció sesiones de introducción sobre el proceso del sínodo. En un lenguaje sencillo, ayudó a definir palabras como sínodo y sinodalidad, compartió un poco sobre la historia de los sínodos y concilios, y por último alentó a las comunidades a participar activamente en las sesiones de escucha de sus parroquias.

Sigamos tratando de imitar lo que Jesús hizo en el camino a Emaús. Escuchar.

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez es el director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino en la Diócesis de Owensboro. Aprenda más en <https://owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano/>.