

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY



Catholic

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'God took care of us'

Sterling and Karen Wallace, parishioners of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, stand inside their home on March 2, 2022. Their house was severely damaged when tornadoes ripped through western Kentucky on Dec. 10, 2021. In the three months since the storm, significant work has been done to rebuild the couple's house.

Read the story at westernkatholic.com.



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Christ is alive

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

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Praying for peace



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Young people hold a Ukrainian flag as Pope Francis speaks to visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican for the recitation of the Angelus prayer March 20, 2022. The pope condemned Russia's war on Ukraine, calling it a "senseless massacre" and "sacrilegious" attack on human life.

A message from the Bishop's Office

February 28, 2022

A single allegation of inappropriate conduct with a minor has been made against Reverend Richard Powers, a retired priest of the Diocese of Owensboro ordained in 1959. The allegation dates from 1977-78. This allegation has not been substantiated and requires further inquiry. Until the inquiry is completed, Fr. Powers will not participate in public ministry.

The Diocese of Owensboro takes very seriously any allegation of priest misconduct.

If you have any information that would assist the Diocesan Review Board and Bishop Medley, please contact the Diocesan Review Board Liaison, Molly Thompson, at 270-852-8353.

This notification is being published in the bulletins of every parish where Fr. Powers has served during his 63 years of priesthood.

Because the Church's first obligation with regard to all victims, whether alleged or substantiated, is for healing and reconciliation, the Diocese will reach out to every person who alleges that he or she was abused by anyone acting in the name of the Church, whether the alleged abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past.

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.

Front page: CNS photo/Bob Roller

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.

Chrism Mass: A time to renew

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

You are cordially invited to attend the Chrism Mass of the Diocese of Owensboro on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Owensboro Sportscenter.

The COVID-19 pandemic has preoccupied the world for more than two years. Over that time it has seen more the six million people infected and nearly one million die from the virus in our country alone. It has upended our lives, our families, our commerce, our recreation and travel, and our worship. It appears that the long crisis is coming to an end thanks to science and research that have produced effective vaccines, and thanks to all of us who made extraordinary sacrifices to limit the spread of the virus. A worldwide pandemic has taught us all of the vulnerability of our place on this earth and in creation.

One of the tremendous sacrifices of the early weeks of the pandemic was the suspension of public gatherings. I could never have imagined that the Catholic Church, almost worldwide, would have suspended public worship for nearly three months. Then when we began to return we were restricted by requirements for masking and distancing. Even as the situation lessened, many have continued to be anxious about returning to Mass. Let me add that for the elderly and those with fragile health this is a very reasonable decision.

But, back to the Chrism Mass. All the faithful have been invited to this celebration every year (with the exception of 2020 and 2021) but I particularly extend this invitation this year that we might celebrate our freedom to worship and the blessings of our community and the world in the end of a pandemic.

The Chrism Mass is so named because it is in

this Mass that the bishop consecrates the Sacred Chrism that is used for the ordination of priests, the confirmation of the elect and young people, and the dedication of altars. Also at this Mass the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens is blessed for distribution to all parish churches.

This Mass, which the bishop concelebrates with all the priests of the diocese, should be a manifestation of the priests' communion with the bishop. There is a renewal of priestly promises, recalling those promises spoken on their ordination day. In this renewal we are reminded that we recall the day that Jesus Christ conferred his priesthood upon his disciples and thus on all priests even until today.

It is especially fitting that young people preparing for Confirmation should attend, as the Sacred Chrism consecrated is the very oil with which their foreheads will be anointed. The same is true for all who will participate in the Easter sacraments at the Holy Saturday vigil. Dcn. Martin Ma Na Ling will serve as deacon of the Mass anticipating the consecration of his hands at his priesthood ordination on July 2 of this year.

Who of us knows who may receive the sacramental Anointing of the Sick using the Oil of the Sick to be blessed?

Please come to the Chrism Mass. Let's celebrate our common worship and make a sign of our joy in praying together. ■

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

BISHOP MEDLEY'S APRIL 2022 CALENDAR

APRIL 3	10 a.m. Mass – St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center, Bowling Green
APRIL 5	Visit to Saint Meinrad Seminarians – Saint Meinrad, Ind.
APRIL 6	Visit to Bishop Simon Bruté Seminarian – Indianapolis, Ind.
APRIL 7	5 p.m. Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky Board Meeting – Owensboro
APRIL 9	10 a.m. Ordination to the Diaconate – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
APRIL 12	6:30 p.m. Chrism Mass – Owensboro Sportscenter
APRIL 18	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center (MCC) 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – MCC
APRIL 19	8 a.m. School Mass – St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville 9:30 a.m. Senior Conversations – Trinity High School, Whitesville
APRIL 20	9:45 a.m. School Mass – St. Joseph Interparochial School, Bowling Green 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 21	3 p.m. Zoom meeting with the Presbyterate – Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville 6 p.m. Child Abuse Prevention Prayer Service – St. Stephen Cathedral 6:30 p.m. Review Board Meeting
APRIL 23	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
APRIL 24	2 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Whitesville
APRIL 25	8 a.m. School Mass – Trinity High School, Whitesville 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho
APRIL 26	10 a.m. School Mass and Senior Conversations – St. Mary High School, Paducah 6:30 p.m. Confirmation – Blessed Mother Parish, Owensboro
APRIL 27	6 p.m. Confirmation – St. William Parish, Marion
APRIL 28	9 a.m. School Mass – Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus 6:00 p.m. Confirmation – St. Lawrence Parish, Knottsville
APRIL 30	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Jerome Parish, Fancy Farm

‘Like an extension of our family...’

Dawson Springs parish maintains community after tornado totaled church



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Fr. David Kennedy, pastor of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, delivers the homily during Ash Wednesday Mass March 2, 2022, in a shed on the property of parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

They have called it “Catholic Hill” for years, but never dreamed the hill would become the home of an actual Catholic church.

In fact, if someone had suggested years ago that Rhonda Mills and her husband, Donnie Mills, would be hosting weekly Masses in the metal shed outside their house, “I’d say you’re crazy,” she told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* in a recent phone conversation.

And yet the Mills family is now on its third month of welcoming fellow members of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, Ky., following a severe tornado outbreak in December 2021 that devastated Kentucky and surrounding states – including the total destruction of Resurrection’s church building.

It has certainly changed their daily lives, but “to keep our parish together, it’s

well worth it,” said Rhonda Mills.

The storms

Rhonda Mills said the people of Dawson Springs “were all in shock” the morning after tornadoes raged across the region throughout the night of Dec. 10, 2021.

Like Mayfield, Bremen, Bowling Green and other cities across western Kentucky, Dawson Springs was in widespread crisis in the immediate aftermath.

Ashley Marsili, whose husband, Dcn. Mike Marsili, is a deacon for Resurrection Parish (as well as for nearby Immaculate Conception Parish in Earlington and Holy Cross Parish in Providence), said the small town was “just bare” from the flattening of homes and businesses.

Initial reports indicated that 13 people had been killed in Dawson Springs alone. Later news reports stated that 28 people had died in Dawson Springs and neighboring Bremen.

When parishioners were finally able to travel out and check on Resurrection Parish early in the morning of Dec. 11, they realized their church home was another casualty.

The Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle had been miraculously spared, but church’s roof, windows and several walls were torn apart – exposing Resurrection’s interior to the storms and scattering glass and debris everywhere.

Parishioners figured early on that Resurrection would be declared a total loss, and evaluations in the following months would ultimately determine that the church would need to be demolished and rebuilt.

As a longtime member of Resurrection Parish, Donnie Mills recognized that without a place to worship as a community, “many would never return” whenever the church was finally rebuilt.

He called his wife when she was watching their grandchildren several days after the storms.

“What do you think about having Mass in our weight room?” he asked.

“It’s fine with me,” said Rhonda Mills.

“Are you sure?” said her husband.

“Yes,” she replied.

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Mass in the weight room

Resurrection's pastor, Fr. David Kennedy, now refers to the shed on the Mills' property as "the little chapel," though it started life as a metal-walled, free-standing exercise room.

The Mills are one of five Catholic families living on and around a hill in the Dawson Springs neighborhood - hence the nickname "Catholic Hill" - and have always been known for welcoming friends and family into their home. Moving to Dawson Springs in 1985, they settled in their current house in 1986 and built the 20-by-25-foot weight room in 1990.

The Marsilis, who are one of the Catholic Hill families, raised their children alongside Donnie and Rhonda Mills' children and remain close friends to this day.

Dcn. Marsili said the Mills shed was the hub for gatherings over the years, hosting poker games, barbecues, post-volleyball dinners and weight-lifting sessions "back in the day" when he and Donnie Mills were fitness enthusiasts.

"We've loved it here," said Rhonda Mills. "A great place to raise our kids here. It's home."

It seemed almost natural progression that the Mills couple would therefore host their displaced parish family - especially since Donnie Mills is not the first person in his family to open his doors to a church community.

(Years prior, Donnie Mills' parents had hosted Mass in their basement until St. William of Vercelli Parish could be built in Marion, Ky.)

With the blessing and support of Bishop William F. Medley, Resurrection Parish reconvened for Mass in the repurposed weight room on Dec. 19, 2021 - the first time since the storms. A few days later, Bishop Medley joined the community inside the "little



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Parishioners of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs pray during Ash Wednesday Mass March 2, 2022, in a shed on the property of parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills. On Dec. 10, 2021, a tornado ripped through the small town and destroyed the church. Since then parishioners have worshipped in the Mills' shed.

chapel" to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass.

Signs of life

These days, Fr. Kennedy celebrates Mass for a regular crowd of approximately 40-60 people who squeeze into the building on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings - keeping up with Resurrection's pre-tornado Mass schedule.

The parish even celebrated Mass together on Ash Wednesday - though without music since their regular music leaders, Sterling and Karen Wallace, that day were deep in rebuilding their own house lost to the tornadoes.

"I told Father that I think our Lent came early this year," said Karen Wallace, whom Fr. Kennedy assured that the parish understood.

Since their house is just a few steps away from the shed, the Mills' living room now has a table near

the side door where people can pick up bulletins. The weekly offering is counted at their kitchen table, and a converted spare bedroom/office is used for Fr. Kennedy and Dcn. Marsili to vest before Mass.

Donnie and Rhonda Mills installed an audio system in their house to welcome parishioners who feel claustrophobic in the tight space, or whose issues with mobility prevent them from sitting comfortably inside the shed church. This provides them the opportunity to listen and worship virtually.

Dcn. Marsili always makes sure to walk over to the house to bring them Communion as well.

When the time comes for Mass, parishioners park all over the grassy area of the Mills' property and children of the Catholic Hill families run across the yard to see if they are needed to help altar serve that day.

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Rhonda Mills said they just installed an air conditioning unit in the building, looking ahead to hot summer days.

“It’s a change but it’s well worth it,” she said, commenting the Triduum “will be interesting” since they tend to draw a good crowd for Easter. “We have four kids and 11 grandkids. Our house is rarely empty so this is like an extension of our family.”

Ashley Marsili said parish leadership has been touring other churches around the diocese to plan the design of their new church. Recently, she and Rhonda Mills visited St. Leo Parish in Murray to see if that could provide some inspiration.

“We are trying to determine how we will rebuild,” said Ashley Marsili. “We’ve been looking at different church plans. If we’re going to make any changes,

now’s the time to do it and make it better than it has been.”

Generosity

Fr. Kennedy said he is touched by “the generosity of people” from around the diocese and the United States, who have sent donations for their rebuilding fund after hearing about the loss of the church.

At the same time, Resurrection’s parishioners have been involved in “helping people move into homes,” he said. “It’s a solid community.”

“We’re continuing on,” said Fr. Kennedy, adding that Resurrection has people entering the Church through RCIA “during all this.”

“I’m really thankful for the people who have been so kind,” he said. “People we know, and don’t know. It’s just amazing.”

Ashley Marsili agreed: “It makes you humble. They don’t even know us. It makes me cry.”

Dcn. Mike credited outsiders who showed up in Dawson Springs to help immediately after the storms.

“People didn’t wait; they just came and helped,” he said.

Rhonda and Donnie Mills’ life has only gotten busier since December as they continue volunteering with tornado recovery and hosting liturgies twice a week at their house. Rhonda Mills was just approved to be a case manager with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro to help resettle local clients.

They are exhausted, but “I have no complaints,” said Rhonda Mills. “It’s what we are called to do right now.” ■

Thankful for financial donations, ‘now our efforts are to help recover, rebuild’ from tornadoes, says Bishop Medley

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Shortly after he was ordained the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, Bishop William F. Medley learned that his rural diocese had managed to gather more than \$240,000 in a special collection for the survivors of the devastating January 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Bishop Medley has long considered that special collection to be one of the most powerful examples of Catholics in western Kentucky reaching out to help others.

He never imagined his own diocese would one day be the recipient of a similar kindness.

Eleven years later, a series of tornadoes raged

across Kentucky and surrounding regions during the night of Dec. 10, 2021. Western Kentucky alone suffered the loss of 80 lives from the tornadoes, which traveled approximately 200 miles in what has been declared the worst tornado event in state history.

Two Catholic churches within the Diocese of Owensboro were impacted: St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield lost its bell tower in the storms, and the church building of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs was severely damaged and expected to be a total loss.

That’s not to mention the many people of western Kentucky who lost homes entirely or whose houses and apartments were damaged enough to render them uninhabitable.

Bishop Medley said that “having never been in

this situation before,” he was unsure what was going to happen or how his people would ever recover from the disaster.

On Saturday morning, the day after the storms, the bishop released a message to the diocese requesting prayers and a special collection that weekend for those impacted.

“The Diocese of Owensboro, through our Catholic Charities office, would like to offer immediate help and services for those who are displaced or who have immediate emergency financial aid,” wrote the Bishop in his Dec. 11 letter.

Parishes quickly took up the collection for their neighbors, but then donations began flooding in from outside the diocese as well. The City of Ow-

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Owensboro itself was unscathed by the storms, and the McRaith Catholic Center in Owensboro, (home of the diocese's central offices), began receiving phone calls and online donations around the clock.

Over the next few weeks the diocese's finance office was "just overwhelmed" by the sheer magnitude of donations coming in, Bishop Medley told *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, led by director Susan Montalvo-Gesser, traveled out to the impacted communities to assist with immediate relief efforts.

Catholic Charities was able to use the donated funds to purchase quantities of gift cards which they in turn distributed to the parishes in affected areas. From there, pastors and parish volunteers could provide direct assistance to those who needed help purchasing basic necessities.

Five days after the storms, coincidentally on Bishop Medley's 12th anniversary of his appointment as Bishop of Owensboro, he drove 400 miles to visit the various impacted communities within his region.

Several days after that, he rode in a small plane across the paths of the tornadoes, carrying the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance and blessing all below.

Three months have now passed since the storms.

As of March 15, more than \$8 million has been received in donations from more than 6,100 donors. This includes \$1,755,616 contributed by 24 dioceses and archdioceses around the United States; \$394,000 contributed from within the Diocese of Owensboro itself; \$1,892,395 contributed by Catholic Charities USA; and approximately \$4 million contributed by donors outside the diocese – including but not limited to individuals, businesses, foundations, religious communities, organizations such



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Volunteers sort through donated items in the parish hall of St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield on March 1, 2022, after a tornado ripped through the town. More than 30 tornadoes were reported across multiple states late Dec. 10, 2021, and early Dec. 11, killing dozens of people and leaving a trail of devastation.

as the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Extension, and parishes and schools outside the diocese.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro needed to hire several more staff members as it became the operations base for tornado relief in western Kentucky. Working with Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, it has also expanded its efforts beyond diocesan boundaries to help four counties within the Archdiocese of Louisville that were impacted by the tornadoes.

"Since December, Catholic Charities has embraced the recovery," said Bishop Medley.

To date, they have spent more than \$280,000 in helping with immediate needs, housing and rental assistance, food and gift cards.

"Now our efforts are to help people recover and rebuild," said the bishop, and said Montalvo-Gesser

has a goal to rebuild 350 homes in the next two-to-four years.

Bishop Medley said that because "there is a new humanitarian crisis – the crisis in Ukraine," he is asking the people of western Kentucky to remember those suffering amid the Eastern European turmoil.

Specifically, he has asked pastors to hold special collections for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine over the next few weeks.

"We have received; now let us respond to others in need," he said. ■

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

Special partnership between disaster response team and parish aids tornado recovery efforts



COURTESY OF ALICIA SHIELDS/TEAM RUBICON

St. Leo Parish in Murray recently opened its doors to Team Rubicon, an international disaster recovery team, in order to assist in the tornado recovery efforts in Mayfield. Pictured are members of Team Rubicon.

BY SHAWN TOUNEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Leo Parish in Murray recently opened its doors to Team Rubicon, an international disaster recovery team, in order to assist in the tornado recovery efforts in Mayfield.

For a roughly five-week period in January and early February, the parish housed individuals of the organization, ranging from 45 to 75 per week, inside its parish hall while Team Rubicon executed its operation in Mayfield.

Established in 2010, Team Rubicon is comprised of military veterans whose mission is to provide relief to those affected by disaster. By pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first respond-

ers, medical professionals, and technology solutions, Team Rubicon aims to provide the greatest service and impact possible.

“Team Rubicon is grateful for the amazing hospitality that the parish has shown,” said Alicia Shields, field leadership team and Arizona state administrator, who served as the planning and operations section chief during the Mayfield operation. “It was wonderful to be able to lay our heads down at night in a safe and warm environment. We are also very grateful for the wonderful meals that were provided by the parish during our stay in Kentucky. It has been an honor to serve the community and to be hosted by St. Leo Parish.”

St. Leo pastor, Fr. Josh McCarty, said: “It has been

a grace to house and support Team Rubicon as they assist our neighbors in Mayfield to clean up and rebuild. St. Leo (parish community) has been tremendously generous in serving the men and women of Team Rubicon with accommodations, finances and food. It is difficult to know how to respond to such devastation. Team Rubicon has been a true help.”

In December, Fr. Greg Trawick, pastor of St. Henry Parish in Hardin and St. Stephen Parish in Cadiz, who had also been assisting Team Rubicon with their accommodations, called Fr. McCarty to see if St. Leo might be open and interested to house Team Rubicon as it was time for them to find another location. Fr. McCarty spoke with the staff and leadership of St. Leo and decided to welcome Team Rubicon if they were so interested. Megan Bell, St. Leo pastoral associate, took up the project and worked with parishioners, especially Renee Fister, to iron out the details, accommodations and food for the workers.

The team’s daily routine consisted of breakfast inside the St. Leo parish hall followed by a briefing in nearby Hardin before beginning their work in Mayfield by 8 a.m. Members of the group served the community by providing sawyer work (chainsaw), heavy equipment operations, muck-outs, roof tarping and debris clean-up.

Work took place until 4 p.m. most days before the group traveled back to Murray for an evening debrief, equipment cleaning and dinner served at the parish hall.

St. Stephen and St. Leo parishes provided coordi-

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Team Rubicon continued from page 8

nation of evening meals from Dec. 13 through Feb. 3 for a total of 2,025 meals. Organizations donated food from local restaurants and local restaurants discounted the cost for this purpose. Parishioners delivered the food to Team Rubicon to assist. Additionally, members of these parishes as well as other churches in the region (both Catholic and Protestant) prepared evening meals. Additionally, Future Grounds donated up to half of the cost of specialty coffee from Jan. 2 through Feb. 3 and St. Leo took care of the other portion. The Center for Health and Wellness associated with Murray-Calloway County Hospital generously allowed Team Rubicon to use their shower facilities upon learning that the shower trailers were inoperable due to weather conditions.

The group utilized the parish hall for lodging with cots provided by the National Guard.

Shields has served with Team Rubicon for nearly

two years and recounted the impact the storm damage had on her, as well as the interactions between volunteers and community members.

“I am familiar with tornadoes but I have never seen anything quite like this,” said Shields, who is from Phoenix, Ariz., and grew up in Ohio. “Hearing the survivor’s stories have been quite impactful. I have seen the stories from this operation have an impact on our Greyshirts more than I have seen before. We were able to serve several veterans which is always special, as we are a veteran-founded organization.”

Individuals interested in learning more about Team Rubicon and their efforts across the globe, or are interested in getting involved and serving with Team Rubicon, can visit teamrubiconusa.org. ■

Shawn Touney belongs to St. Leo Parish in Murray.



COURTESY OF ALICIA SHIELDS/TEAM RUBICON
St. Leo Parish in Murray recently opened its doors to Team Rubicon, an international disaster recovery team, in order to assist in the tornado recovery efforts in Mayfield. Pictured are members of Team Rubicon.

Parish families surprise pastor with birthday celebration

WKC STAFF

On Feb. 20, St. William Parish in Marion in Crittenden County celebrated the 56th birthday of their pastor, Fr. John Okoro.

Rebecca L. Woodall, the parish secretary, said that since the parish could not do anything for the past two years for Fr. Okoro’s birthday or his jubilee, “we wanted to do something for him this year since our (COVID-19) cases in Crittenden are down.”

“I just told him we were having a dinner (and not what for),” said Woodall in an email. “Donnie and Jeanette Phillips provided hamburgers and hotdogs and buns. Donnie and Brenden Phillips cooked the meat. Other parishioners brought side items and Our Lady’s Guild paid for decorations and the cake.”

She said the parish also did a card shower for him as well.

“He was the last one over so when he walked in we started singing happy birthday to him, he was definitely surprised,” said Woodall, who added that Fr. Okoro’s birthday was not technically until Feb. 24.

“I know he gets homesick some, so I am glad that we do things here for him when we can to make sure he knows he has family here with us,” she said. ■



COURTESY OF REBECCA L. WOODALL
Fr. John Okoro with his birthday cake provided by his parish family of St. William in Marion.

Sr. Mimi Ballard adjusts the focus of Casa Ursulina during pandemic



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
Sr. Mimi Ballard, OSU, leads the ministry of Casa Ursulina in Chillán, Chile.

BY DAN HECKEL, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In March 2020, more than 200 women had signed up for fiber arts classes at the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph ministry in Chillán, Chile. They were abruptly told to stay home – the COVID-19 pandemic had begun.

The Chilean government acted to curb the spread of COVID, including curfews and fines for those not wearing masks. But restricting public gatherings produced a new set of problems, ones that caused Casa Ursulina to adjust its mission once again, said Sr. Mimi Ballard, OSU, who leads the ministry. She returned to Kentucky in November to have back surgery, but plans to return to Chile this spring.

“By April 2020, a lot of people were coming to us who didn’t have anything to eat,” Sr. Mimi said. “We have so many people who live on odd jobs – like selling items on the street. There was no structure in place to help them.”

Casa Ursulina mainly teaches weaving and spinning to local women, while also offering them a sense of community and a deeper spirituality. It has always had a modest food pantry, along with clothing and a supply of adult diapers to help senior citizens. But as the ministry tried to have more food on hand, it quickly strained the budget, Sr. Mimi said. She sent a message to the various craft leaders, asking them to share with everyone in their groups that the ministry needed help.

“I was pleasantly surprised how many people came with food,” she said. “We never had to spend money on food again after April.”

In March 2021, the government made money available for every family member living below a certain poverty level, which decreased the need for the food pantry, Sr. Mimi said. But the isolation caused by COVID took a toll on people, especially older women or women living alone, Sr. Mimi said.

“I’ve never spent so much time on the phone in my life,” Sr. Mimi said. “We told them to come. We have a big space, we could be distanced. We told them they could use the sewing machines, use the spinning wheels, or just talk. ... That helped them not feel so alone.”

When classes begin in 2022, some adjustments will be needed to keep everyone safe.

“We’ll have fewer classes and smaller classes,” Sr. Mimi said. “The class that has the most people is called Volunteer Workshop. It’s mostly senior citizens. They take the old clothes and pieces of material that are donated, cut them up and sew them together to make patchwork comforters. They are perfect blankets for someone who is bedfast.”

Casa Ursulina once focused on younger women who could benefit from learning a craft that allowed them to stay home with their children. Now, those children are grown, so the focus will change again, especially as COVID lessens.

“I don’t think we’ll go back to the way things were before. I think we’ll do more outreach to people who can’t come to us,” Sr. Mimi said. “Our focus is going to be more on senior citizens. I think we’ll do a lot of things in conjunction with public health services. They have a program called Independent Senior Citizens. They teach cognitive and physical exercises for seniors. They have programs, we have the space.”

Casa Ursulina opened in 1997, and this August will mark 25 years – far longer than Sr. Mimi ever expected. She first served in South America in 1978.

Now in her 55th year as an Ursuline Sister, Sr. Mimi knows that the time she remains in Chile is growing shorter. She and the community leadership have worked to secure Casa Ursulina’s future. The ministry now answers to a foundation, so it will not depend on the Ursulines for its existence. It has a board of directors, with Sr. Mimi as the president, but she plans to change that when she returns to Chile.

“I know the day will come when I have to come home,” Sister Mimi said, “but it’s not yet.” ■

Dan Heckel is the director of mission advancement and communications for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount.

Forty years of priestly service: Fr. Pat Bittel is a true servant

BY NICOLE GRAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Patrick Michael Bittel always knew he wanted to be priest. Born and raised in Owensboro, Ky., he attended St. Pius X Seminary in Erlanger, Ky., and graduated with a certificate of Degree in Philosophy. During his time there he played guitar, organ and sang. In 1974 he was the group leader of a music ensemble comprised of seminarians. The group played for several churches and various organizations. He then graduated from Mount St. Mary's Seminary, prior to being ordained.

Fr. Pat, as he's known to most, was ordained at St. Stephen Cathedral on Feb. 20, 1982. His first solemn Mass of Thanksgiving was Feb. 21 at St. Paul Parish in Owensboro (later merged into Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro). Fr. Pat spent

his first year of ordination at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson, Ky. He was then assigned to St. Francis de Sales Parish and Rosary Chapel in Paducah for four years. Fr. Pat's first pastorate was in June 1987 at St. Paul Parish in Princeton where he was also the chaplain at Kentucky State Penitentiary. He provided spiritual and emotional counseling to inmates – some on death row – at the maximum-security prison. Prison ministry took its toll on him, but he could see inmates making positive changes in their lives, for that he was grateful. He once stated: "It's not good and certainly not healthy running from God all of the time. We can't run far or fast enough. His love for us can override any weakness or temptation we have."

After his assignment at St. Paul's, he became



COURTESY OF NICOLE GRAY

Prior to his 40th anniversary Mass on Feb. 20, 2022, Fr. Pat Bittel greets a young boy at St. Martin Parish in Rome.

Continues on page 12

Charlotte Hedges to retire; will miss pastoral center community



FILE PHOTO
Charlotte Hedges retires from the Diocese of Owensboro on April 30, 2022.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

After working for the Diocese of Owensboro at the McRaith Catholic Center (MCC) since 2001, Charlotte Hedges will retire on April 30. Her roles at the MCC have included working for the diocesan tribunal, the Office of Social Concerns, the Office of Marriage & Family Life and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Hedges said when she first came to the MCC, which at the time was known as the Catholic Pastoral Center, "I found everybody very friendly."

One of her favorite memories over the years has been helping coordinate the diocesan marriage celebration,

which before COVID-19 was an annual Mass with Bishop William F. Medley to honor couples celebrating milestone anniversaries.

She also enjoyed going with pastoral center staff to celebrate Christmas parties, Derby Day celebrations, and cookouts at the homes of both Bishop Medley and the diocese's late bishop, Bishop John J. McRaith.

Hedges said she will miss being able to "celebrate the Eucharist with everybody on a daily basis" through daily Mass in the pastoral center's chapel; "Morning Prayer with the community" every day; and the special feast days that would often be celebrated with festive meals or desserts – such as ice cream brought in by diocesan music director, Mike Bogdan.

In her retirement Hedges hopes to travel, spend more time with family and continue volunteering at her parish, St. Pius X in Owensboro.

"I'd like to visit every parish in the diocese and while I'm there, visit a mom-and-pop restaurant and eat local," said Hedges. ■

2022 Parish Picnic Schedule in the Diocese of Owensboro

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

Please note that the following schedule is tentative due to the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances.

DATE	SERVING TIME	PARISH
MAY 21	Serving at 11:30 a.m.	Carmel Home, Owensboro
MAY 29	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
JUNE 4	Serving from 4-7 p.m.	St. Joseph, Leitchfield
JUNE 11	Serving and drive-thru at 3:30 p.m.	St. Pius X, Owensboro
JUNE 25	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
JULY 2	Lunch 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; supper 5-7 p.m.	St. Denis, Fancy Farm
JULY 9	Drive-thru only; serving at 4 p.m.	St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
JULY 16	Lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; supper 5-7 p.m.	St. Charles, Bardwell
JULY 16	Serving at 4 p.m.	St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
AUGUST 2	Serving at 4 p.m., drive-thru only	St. Martin, Rome
AUGUST 6	Serving noon-2 p.m.	Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro
AUGUST 6	Serving from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.	St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
AUGUST 13	Serving at 5 p.m.	St. Ann, Morganfield
SEPTEMBER 17	Serving at 4 p.m.; drive-thru only	Blessed Mother, Owensboro
SEPTEMBER 17	Serving from 4-8 p.m.	Christ the King, Madisonville
SEPTEMBER 18	Serving at 11 a.m.	Mary Carrico Catholic School Picnic, St. Lawrence picnic grounds, Philpot
SEPTEMBER 24	Serving from 1-3 p.m., drive-thru only	Immaculate, Owensboro
SEPTEMBER 24	Serving 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	Honeyfest Dinner at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Clarkson
SEPTEMBER 25	Serving at 11 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Fr. Pat Bittel continued from page 11

pastor for several churches including St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield, St. Ann Parish in Morganfield, and the following in Daviess County: St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville, St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, and St. William and St. Lawrence Parishes in Knottsville and Philpot. Since 2013 he has been the pastor of St. Martin Parish in Rome.

Fr. Pat was an integral part of many of these parishes' renovations and remodels.

Feb. 20, 2022 marked 40 years of priesthood for Fr. Pat Bittel. After the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Martin—which included not only parishioners, but several of Fr. Pat's family, friends, and classmates – everyone gathered at the parish hall for a “Roast and Toast” to



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/270.952.2913 or Contact Fr. Gary at gary.clark@pastoral.



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!



COURTESY OF NICOLE GRAY

The 40th anniversary celebration Mass for Fr. Pat Bittel on Feb. 20, 2022 at St. Martin Parish in Rome.

celebrate. A few funny stories were told about Fr. Pat and many thoughtful toasts to congratulate him and thank him for his stewardship. A video slideshow of Fr. Pat's life showed highlights of his life in the seminary, as a deacon and now priest. ■

Nicole Gray is the communications director for St. Martin Parish in Rome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. LAWRENCE LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

AT ST. LAWRENCE
CEMETERY

6119 ST LAWRENCE RD, PHILPOT, KY



APRIL 10 AT 4PM

ALL ARE INVITED!

RAIN DATE
APRIL 11 AT 5PM

QUESTIONS? CALL THE
OFFICE AT 270-281-4802

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



You are invited to join
Bishop William Medley in prayer

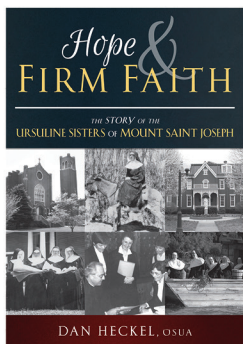
April 21, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.

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

A New Book: "Hope and Firm Faith" tells the unique story of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph



In a new book that will be available later this spring, the ministries and adventures of the Ursuline community are chronicled through the eyes of the Ursuline Sisters who lived them, using their own words from letters they sent.

You will learn about many amazing women who managed to forge their own identity while devoting their lives in service to God and the Church.

To preorder your copy of "Hope and Firm Faith:"

Order online at ursulinesmsj.org/hope-and-firm-faith-book. Or to order by mail, send us your name, address, phone and email. Indicate if you would like your book signed by the author. The cost is \$37.10 for the book (that includes sales tax) plus \$10 for shipping.

Make check payable to "Ursuline Sisters" and mail your check and information to:

Book Order, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356



*Sister Mary
Celine*

Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

 *Quilt Club*

**We still have new Quilt
Club tickets!** You could

win a beautiful handmade quilt! Each \$25 ticket entitles you all remaining monthly drawings between April 1, 2022 and March 2023. Just 2,500 tickets will be sold. Thank you for your support.

270-229-2008

carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org

Or purchase online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/membership-information/>



License No. 0250

APRIL 2022 BULLETIN BOARD

St. Joseph in Bowling Green presents 'REDEEMED'

St. Joseph Parish's "Stained Glass Music Series" presents "REDEEMED," a musical portrayal of the Passion of the Christ on Sunday, April 3 at 6 p.m. in its church in Bowling Green. This journey of the Stations of the Cross is led by congregational singing, instrumentals and choral works from Dan Forrest, Philip Stopford and Ola Gjeilo. It will feature the talents of the St. Joseph choir, Western Kentucky University students and regional instrumentalists. The St. Joseph's "Stained Glass Music Series" is committed to the beauty of Sacred Music and Art and is generously coordinated by Lynn O'Keefe. For more information, contact Fr. Bruns at 270-842-2525. Admission is free and open to the public.

Belonging to Love: Prayer and Conversations online April 13

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 (it will be on a Wednesday in April because of Holy Thursday). These are free online Zoom presentations -- donations are appreciated. Our next program is on Wednesday, April 13 from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CST. To register to receive the link, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/> The next date will be Wednesday, April 13.

Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award

The Offices of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry are asking for nominations for the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award. The recipient of this award will be announced sometime this spring. Anyone from the Diocese of Owensboro may nominate an individual for this award. You may fill out the nomination form online here: owensborodiocese.org/catechetical-leader-award/. The deadline is April 22, 2022.

April 29-May 1 Holy Name homecoming

150 YEARS!!! Since 1872 Holy Name School has been educating students in Henderson County and thousands of Holy Name School alumni have contributed to our Henderson community, our country, and our world.

The Holy Name School Alumni and Friends Association thinks this milestone is something to celebrate. We invite the diocese to celebrate with us throughout the year and in particular at our 150th Homecoming Weekend! We'll have a tailgate party April 29 where you can walk the building, visit with friends, play games, and remember the good old days. On April 30 we'll be at the Preston Arts Center for a performance of alumni talent. The show will include visual and performing arts, a silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar. The weekend will come to a close in true Holy Name fashion with 7:30 a.m. Mass on May 1 and a pancake breakfast to follow. Tickets can be purchased at www.holynameschool.org. Please follow our social media pages for more information.

Join Brescia for spring concert

Brescia University's band and choir will have their spring concert on Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m., Taylor Lecture Hall. Concert is free. Masks are recommended if distancing is not possible. Questions: brett.ballard@brescia.edu.

Kindness Campaign begins in June

"In a world in which you can be anything – be kind." That expression resonates with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Once again this year, the Sisters are offering an opportunity for you to take part in their Kindness Campaign. For a contribution of \$50, the Ursuline Sisters will send one custom card a month for 12 months to someone you determine is in need of encouragement or inspiration. This is the fourth year for the Kindness Campaign, and the recipients of these cards are always thrilled to get them. The new Kindness year begins in June. You can learn more and sign up for the Kindness Campaign at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/kindness-campaign>. Or you can contact Carol Braden-Clarke, director of Development, at carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org, or 270-229-2008.

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. 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/>

2022 Educator of the Year Award

Nominations for the Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year are being accepted. The winner will be announced at the 2022 Celebration of Catholic Schools event. Anyone, with the exception of an immediate family member, may nominate an educator for the award. The educator must currently be employed in the Diocese of Owensboro and must have taught for a minimum of five years in the diocesan schools. For a full list of nomination requirements and an online form, visit owensborodiocese.org/educator-award/. The deadline for nominations is July 1, 2022.

Save the date for Holy Name's fall festival

Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson will have their annual Fall Festival Sept. 16, 5-10 p.m. and Sept. 17, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Carnival rides, raffle tickets, live and silent auctions, haunted house, games, and food booths. Learn more at www.holynameschool.org.

Youth Minister/PCL Assistant

St. Isidore Parish in Celestine and Dubois, Indiana is seeking a full time Youth Minister/PCL Assistant. A worthy candidate must have a love for Jesus Christ while possessing the desire and ability to share the Catholic Faith with our young people. The successful candidate will be able to develop and coordinate a comprehensive young ministry in a single parish, two campus environment while also assisting with the Religious Education Program. A detailed job description is available by visiting <https://bit.ly/stisidoreyouthminister>. Please email a resume to: jread@evdio.org

100% Online Theology Certificate Program*

Brescia University now offers a 100% Online Theology Certificate Program. This is a 15-credit hour (5 course) online program that can be completed in less than two academic years. The purpose of the program is to prepare students who wish to serve the Church in lay ministerial roles, to provide continuing education for students who may already be serving the Church, to cultivate the personal, spiritual, theological, pastoral, and professional qualities needed for effective Christian

Continues on page 15

Upcoming fish fries in western Kentucky

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.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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

Christ the King Parish, Madisonville

Address: 1600 Kingsway Dr, Madisonville
Dine-in | 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. | April 1 | 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 | 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 | April 1, 8
Serving time: 4-7 p.m. | (270) 443-3480

Our Lady of Lourdes, Knights of Columbus Council #14290

Address: 4029 Frederica St, Owensboro
Dine-in or carryout | April 1, 8 | Serving time: 5 p.m.
(270) 684-5369

Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro

Address: 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro
Drive-thru only | 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 | April 1
Serving time: 5 p.m. | (270) 389-2287

St. Columba Parish, Lewisport

Address: 815 Pell St., Lewisport
Drive-thru and dine-in | 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 | 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 | 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 | April 1, 8
Serving time: 5-7 p.m. | (270) 395-5747

Whitesville Lions Club, Whitesville

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

Continued from page 14

ministry, and to assist in discerning their vocation to love. Students who complete the program will have the opportunity to apply the credit hours earned toward a bachelor's degree in Theology, with a Pastoral Studies emphasis. Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate may also earn the Theology Certificate as part of their larger program of studies. For more information, please email BUonline@brescia.edu or call 270-686-4353. *Pending

Kentucky Postsecondary Council Approval

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.

*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

April Wedding Anniversaries

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

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Bobby & Patricia Rafferty, 59
 Danny & Patty Merimee, 54
 Darrell & Sharon Payne, 50
 David & Cathy Graham, 40
 Jim & Laura Mattingly, 40
 Joseph & Sharon Wink, 53
 Kenny & Elaine Williams, 59
 Kenny & Pat Cook, 10
 Louis & Mary Aull, 61
 Mike & Donna Koger, 52
 Robert & Pat Risch, 55
 Tony & Carolyn Clark, 53

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Frank & Gloria Adams, 57

Christ the King, Madisonville

John & Diane Clark, 53
 William & Rebecca Markham, 56

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Albert & Nadine Schwallier, 70
 David & Bonnie Bartley, 51
 Dick & Sheila Beaven, 50
 Jack & Hiromi Adams, 51
 Michael & Mary Cooper, 40
 Ronald & Brenda Sauer, 55
 Tom & Peg Lewis, 54

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Antonio & Kristen Lopes, 40
 Benedict Ghung & Margaret Mang Awm, 5
 Everett & Mary Leasor, 56
 James & Helen Bailey, 66
 James & Kathy Adams, 54
 Michael & Darlene Fuqua, 51
 Ramon Barraza & Lourdes Zeron, 10

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

John & Velma Davis, 54

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Clayton & Gloria Gray, 60

Immaculate, Owensboro

Charles & Mary Lois Payne, 61
 David & Mary Jane Strehl, 53
 Don & Mary Weaver, 58
 Izaque & Megan Santos, 5
 Rex & Peggy Robinson, 58
 Scott & Leanne Murphy, 40
 Todd & Pat Stelmach, 53
 Travis & Hannah White, 5

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Bill & Deborah Glenn, 52
 Brad & Beverly Hamilton, 62
 David & Lauren Bickett, 5
 Gregory & Deborah Arnold, 52
 Philip & Brenda Phelps, 53
 Tony & Eileen Mattingly, 50

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Charles & Sandra Posey, 25
 Don & Janet Keller, 40
 James & Anna Marie Roberts, 51
 Michael & Brenda Swift, 54

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Tom & Freda Ruby, 10

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Mike & Barbara Davis, 53

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Benny & Rita French, 68
 Bill & Charlene Hite, 53
 Billy Joe & Beverly Buckman, 53
 Dickie & Cheryl Berry, 50
 Harold & Diane Lynn, 51
 Kyle & Morgan Mattingly, 5
 Lark & Sharon Buckman, 52
 Larry & Vickie Rhodes, 54

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Bruce & Sheila Blandford, 51
 Donald & Ginny Peters, 60

St. Ann, Morganfield

Jimmy & Virginia Mills, 52
 Mike & Cathy Greenwell, 56
 Ronald & Ellen Mattingly, 56
 Stephen & Jean Watson, 25

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Bob & Lois Tashjian, 66

St. Anthony, Axtel

Carl & Joyce Eskridge, 59
 Pat & Wilma Lenhart, 58

St. Anthony, Peonia

Ralph & Joyce Pierce, 55
 Tom & Bonnie Osbourne, 53

St. Augustine, Reed

Hershel & Barbara Smith, 53

St. Charles, Livermore

John & Marsha Logsdon, 54
 Ron & Patty Humphrey, 50

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Lester & Betty Gibson, 50

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Roger & Irene Price, 54

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Bill & Sandra Moore, 53
 David & Andrea Berschied, 50
 James & Velda Carbonel, 58
 Jeremy & Samantha Fontenot, 25

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Joe & Carol Anne Mikez, 67
 Larry & LaDonna Roberts, 52
 Philip & Marilyn Wright, 50

St. Francis of Assisi

Albert & Joanne Fagnoli, 58

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Jamie & Christy Ivie, 10
 Joseph E & Joyce Toon, 53
 Robert & Marilyn Thompson, 50

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Eric & Michelle Gibson, 10
 Maurice & Martha Childress, 25

St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish

Tyler & Hollie Duvall, 5

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Robert & Dolores Rudzinski, 56

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Joe & Evelyn Jolley, 58
 Larry & Helen Sullivan, 54

Mario & Amalia Medina, 55
 Ruben & Cielo Rosas-Robles, 5
 Tony & Lindsay Luciano, 56

St. Jude, Clinton

David & Anita Burton, 52

St. Leo, Murray

Douglas & Vicky Lambert, 56
 Ed & Marilyn Wolf, 59
 John & Donna Coyle, 40

St. Martin, Rome

Richard & Anita Dixon, 59

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Gerald & Betty Bartley, 59
 Perry & Sue Ellen Warren, 40
 Rick & Imelda Millay, 40

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Randy & Melody Miller, 10

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Bob & Norma Ward, 54
 James & Betty Poole, 59
 Ray & Patty Hamilton, 56
 Richard & Maureen Duvall, 40
 Roger & Brenda Hagan, 53
 Tommy & Joyce Higdon, 57
 Wayne & Doris Rhodes, 52

St. Mary, Franklin

Tom & Regina Cozzy, 70

St. Mary, LaCenter

Bob & Mary Ann Noe, 58

St. Michael, Sebree

Tommy & Pamela McCarty, 51

St. Paul, Princeton

Herman & Beth Berton, 61

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

Billy Steve & Connie Peak, 52
 Fred & Phyllis Crowdus, 52

St. Pius X, Calvert City

Jim & Rose Drury, 63

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Alan & Shirley Howard, 63
 Bernard & Elsie Galloway, 58
 Charles & Lois Hoskins, 58

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Andrew & Rhiannon Basham, 10
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 Clint & Tiffany Board, 5
 Eddie & Beth Whitfill, 40
 Jerry & Pat Sturgeon, 54

Jimmy & Dorothy Payne, 52
 John & Helen O'Reilly, 63
 Larry & Martha Severs, 50

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Stephen & Heather Poole, 10
 Tommy & Barbara Smith, 53

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Ralph & Judy Ward, 61
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St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

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Clifford & Helen Romain, 53
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Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

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Holy Week and evangelization

A message for everyone!



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis kisses the foot of an inmate during the washing of the feet during Holy Thursday Mass at the Paliano prison outside of Rome in this April 13, 2017, file photo. Inmates at the prison have been participating in a program to decorate paschal candles.

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

The three-day “Great Feast” of the Church year is upon us. The Triduum is a celebration of the Paschal Mystery; the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It has a message for every human being on the planet, but sadly we know many will not come through our parish doors to receive it. Are you willing to deliver it to whoever God puts in your path?

It is actually quite a simple message. The message of Holy Thursday is that happiness is found when we are striving to make others happy. The harder we

try to find happiness on our own terms, the more it is like trying to hold dry sand in our hands; it simply drains through our fingers. As Jesus institutes the Eucharist in the midst of his friends, he teaches them the secret of life and discipleship. After he washes their feet, he says to them, “I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” All of life is about having a servant’s heart and caring for one another. If you want abundant life, learn to serve others in Jesus’ name and return regularly to receive Jesus in the Eucharist that will be filled with God’s grace to make present his kingdom through your life.

Good Friday seems to be an oxymoron. How can the day of Jesus death be good? How can anything hard in our lives ever be good? How can the Paschal Mystery be good news for every human being in our world today? Death happens in all our lives. People we know are living through incredibly difficult realities and each of us have experienced pain and loss. Yes, Jesus took on the sins of the world and opened for us the doors to eternal life and many may not be able to understand or accept this. But everyone in pain needs to hear a message of hope, which is “the resurrection always comes.” Death of a child, death of a dream, death of a pet, death of a friendship, all these deaths are real pain and loss, but the truth is that with God’s help, all people can experience resurrection and find hope! Let us accompany others through their pain and lead them to an awareness that God is with them and that there is always hope. They might not ever fully get it, but they will experi-

ence God through us!

Easter Sunday is the realization that the God of the universe loves every human person. Jesus tells us that the “weeds and the wheat” grow side by side and to “let them grow together until harvest” (Matthew 13:30). As baptized members of the Church, it is our duty to share the message of this great feast with the world. God will do the rest!

Happy Triduum,

Jeff ■

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

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Holy Triduum: A way to reflect on Christ's life and Passion

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

Holy Triduum – literally, the holy three days. One feast that is celebrated over a three-day period. The end of Holy Week. For a Catholic Christian, there is no more sorrowful or more joyous time than this in the Church year. Why? Because each of the three days of Triduum gives us time to reflect more deeply upon Christ's life, his Passion, and his Resurrection. I would like to suggest some ways that we might meditate upon these mysteries – allowing ourselves to enter into them – drawing ourselves closer to Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.

On Holy Thursday, let us take time to reflect that on this night, Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the ministerial priesthood. He broke bread with his apostles, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you." And he then offered the cup, saying, "Take this and share it among yourselves... This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you... Do this in memory of me." Jesus also taught his apostles how to be servant-leaders as he was by washing their feet – a lowly job fit only for a servant. He also tells these men – his closest friends – that one would betray him.

We know the rest of the story of this night, do we not? He goes to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane and he asks his Father to have this cup be taken from him. Though he is God, he is also human and here the humanity shows – he knew he would feel pain – pain from a brutal scourging, pain from the thorns,

pain from carrying that heavy cross, and pain from the nails. Who of us would not want this cup to pass us by? But the cup would not be taken away. God would not allow himself to be immune to the pain that would be inflicted. He made a promise to us. In order to rise, Jesus must die.



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis lights the paschal candle at the start of the Easter Vigil in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 3, 2021 in this file photo. The Easter Vigil was celebrated in a near empty basilica for the second year in a row as Italy continued to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

And so now we mourn on Good Friday. Our spirits are in agony as we see Jesus scourged. We cry out as he falls not once, not twice, but three times as he carries the burden of the cross upon which he will be hanged. Our stomachs churn as the soldiers drive massive nails into his hands and feet. We sob

with Mary, his mother, as she stands helplessly yet courageously, watching as he bleeds to death. We tremble with the earth as it shakes when he breathes his last breath. And as the skies darken, our hearts grow cold and dark with them when we realize that all of this just happened to him because of us... because of our sins.

On Saturday leading up to Easter Vigil, we take time to ponder the great sacrifice Jesus has made and we wait with anticipation. We hope. We pray. We give thanks. With the Easter Vigil, we rejoice because the tomb is empty! We are joyous for Jesus is risen from the dead! Jesus is alive! We also weep again. But this is a different weeping. We are not sorrowful. We do not weep because of our guilt. No, we weep with joy because we know that we now have new life. Jesus has opened the gates of heaven, and we decide our destination.

Our actions, our choices, and our decisions will determine whether we spend eternity with Christ in heaven, or whether we lose an eternity of goodness, love, and peace. The empty tomb ensures heaven's open gate.

So yes, for a Catholic Christian, there is no more sorrowful or more joyous time than this! Holy Triduum proves it. ■

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.

God blesses Catholic High with historic monstrance

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

A woman once called the archives looking for genealogical information. When I answered the phone, I introduced myself and the archive. Her immediate response was “Oooh, ‘Edward,’ that is an old name. It sounds like you should work in an archive.” When people need to find something and that something is old, they come to us. Whether it is sacramental or genealogical information, relics, missals, whatever old thing they need, we are likely their best bet.

So, when we heard Owensboro Catholic High School was looking for a new monstrance, we knew that the archives could find one with a connection to the community.

One day I, along with the Ursuline congregational leader, Sr. Amelia Stenger, and two members of the MSJ finance department, Martha and Ashley, were clearing out the Mount’s retreat center. While sorting some boxes a monstrance was uncovered. We knew immediately where this was to go. However, when God gives, he gives in abundance, and immediately another even more elaborate and beautiful monstrance was revealed. The first monstrance appears to be from the mid-20th century. It has a radiant design, and a motif of grapevines surrounds the viewing lens. The second monstrance was made in France, likely around the mid-to-late 19th century. It is of a Gothic design. Its multi-tiered structure with pointed spires reaching skyward evokes imagery of a Gothic European cathedral. Figures of Sts. Peter and Paul stand vigilantly beside the ruby flanked viewing window, with a figure of the Sacred Heart standing above.

Finding the monstrances could not have come at a better time. We have been graced with these monstrances following the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ call for a Eucharistic revival to help us grow in deeper love and knowledge of the Real Presence. What better time is there to spend in adoration of Our Lord?

Photographs of the newly found monstrances were sent to the religion department at Catholic High and the second monstrance was selected.

We live in a world where our high schoolers are adoring the Eucharist to a degree that God is showering monstrances upon us at a mention. Have strength and peace; Christ is with us always until the end of the age. ■



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

The two monstrances found at Mount Saint Joseph, pictured in St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. On the right is a mid-20th century monstrance. On the left is a mid-to-late 19th century, Gothic monstrance.

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.

Sitting in the discomfort, heartache and pain: Synodal process seeks to listen to the peripheries



RILEY GREIF | WKC

People participate in the March 22, 2022 regional synod listening session at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah. This was one of seven regional sessions offered around the Diocese of Owensboro.

BY SUSANA SOLORZA, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Editor's note: Pope Francis has issued a worldwide invitation to all the faithful to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops, commonly known as the Synod on Synodality. Its theme is "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission." Throughout March, our diocese hosted regional listening sessions for the faithful to share their thoughts on today's Church. Below is a reflection from a member of the diocese's synod listening committee.

Tension lives in that space between where we want to be and where we are.

During this synodal process, Pope Francis has called us to sit and explore this tension. He has asked us to reach out and connect with the people

at the periphery of our Church; a space we occupy for many of them. As a committee, we have been asking, "How are the baptized walking amongst this tension of the world and how are we as a Church encountering them?"

I have found wisdom in how our diocesan leadership has been deliberate in our call to the Holy Spirit. Every listening session has begun with the call, "Come, Holy Spirit!"

Dr. Charlotte McCorquodale, president of Ministry Training Source, has worked alongside our committee to challenge us to make this time of sharing one that is led, not by our ego, but by the voice of God. She taught us to look at this as more than just a strategic planning session or a time to vent.

Our team went into these listening sessions

knowing the hurdles would be many. As more and more sharing has occurred, I have seen hope rising above the pain, simply through this first step of listening. There is comfort in hearing that people of all generations are looking toward the Spirit to help us find solutions to the pain being voiced by people in and out of our peripheries.

I don't want to downplay the pain and hurt that people are sharing. Our world has gone through many waves of collective grief and misunderstanding; polarization seems to be a universal norm. We see fractures throughout families and communities. People have shared heartaches they have been carrying for years. We have had to sit in the discomfort of those that are hurt and suffering. Even so, the Church has weathered many storms, and we remain the people who will be challenged to step out of the boat to follow Christ. We are all in the midst of this tension and fervor, searching for peace we only find in Jesus.

As I write this, I am coming home from a regional listening session and listening to PJ Morton's "God Can/Let Go." Every part of this song brings me to trust in the hope I have felt in this process. Take a listen and pray for us as we continue to work to reach out and answer the call of Pope Francis. ■

Susana Solorza is a member of the Committee on the Synod on Synodality, Diocese of Owensboro; a parishioner at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson; and a teacher at Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson.

Learn more about the synod process at <https://owensborodiocese.org/synod/>.

‘Left the good for the Best’

Fr. Jegin Puthenpurackal obtains U.S. citizenship

BY FR. JEGIN PUTHENPURACKAL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

First of all I am so happy to be part of this beautiful and great country. I thank God for the greatest blessings.

As I reflect about the blessings I received by living in this country, I cannot forget my former religious congregation: Heralds of Good News, and its superiors, for their great support to send me to this beautiful country to work as a missionary. It was a dream come true experience for me when I came to the United States of America to work in the Diocese of Owensboro. The support and encouragement I received from our bishop and presbyterate is overwhelming always.

This beautiful country blessed me with many things. Prior to coming to the U.S., I was diagnosed with a kidney disease called polycystic kidney and I was really fortunate continue a better treatment here without affecting my parish ministry. It was an unexpected gift from God that I could go through a kidney transplant here in the U.S. almost six years ago without much complication. Thanks to everyone who supported me during those difficult times. As years go by, I really experienced the support of our bishop and priests in our diocese, which made me to think seriously about becoming a diocesan priest and thus, on Nov. 4, 2021, I was officially incardinated in the Diocese of Owensboro.

After having decided to continue my ministry in our diocese for the rest of my life, I thought it would be best to become a citizen of this wonderful country. It was not an easy task to make a decision become a U.S. citizen. Many thoughts flashed through my mind. It was on Sept. 30, 2021 that I submitted my application to become a U.S. citizen. When I mentioned to some of my parishioners about my decision to become a U.S. citizen, their support, encouragement and assurance of prayers were great. To be sincere, the process was not that tough. I had my citizenship interview on Jan. 11 and after that my oath ceremony was scheduled for Feb. 3. But, unfortunately, I could not go to the oath ceremony due to severe bad weather of an ice storm. So, I requested to reschedule my oath ceremony and the office gave me a new date for March 3. So, I along with some of my friends went to Louisville that morning and I had the oath ceremony at



COURTESY OF FR. JEGIN PUTHENPURACKAL

Fr. Jegin Puthenpurackal received United States citizenship on March 3, 2022. Pictured (left to right) are friends Mike Vollman, Lance Green, Fr. Puthenpurackal and Charlotte Hagan.

11.30 a.m. It was a proud moment in my life. Thanks be to God.

If you ask me about my thoughts and feelings about becoming a U.S. citizen, I would like to put it this way: “left the good for the Best.” Thanks to my both parishes: St. Sebastian in Calhoun and St. Charles in Livermore for your appreciation party. Thank you all for your warm welcome to this beautiful country. May God bless us all. ■

Jegin Puthenpurackal is the pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Calhoun and St. Charles Parish in Livermore.

Forward in faith

YOUTH 2000 celebrates 25th anniversary



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Catholic speaker Leah Darrow gestures to the Eucharist in the monstrance during her talk in the morning of March 12, 2022, at YOUTH 2000 held at Brescia University in Owensboro.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“We all have problems... but I know a guy,” said Leah Darrow, gesturing to the Eucharist in the monstrance during the Saturday morning session of YOUTH 2000 on March 12, 2022.

Speaking to a crowd of approximately 280 young people, not to mention their youth ministry lead-

ers and chaperones, the popular Catholic speaker shared her testimony of returning to her Catholic faith after years of turning away from God.

Darrow said many people, including herself, have labeled themselves as “I’m this type of sin – I’m this type of screw-up.”

And yet, God is “who he says he is – he’s the restorer of our life,” she said, and encouraged the youth to take advantage of the opportunity for confession that weekend. “The one who can help us with our cross is the one who carried it first.”

“Do not let anybody ever tell you that you can’t be better,” she said. “Do not let anyone trample your dream of becoming a saint. Your past does not define your future; your next step does.”

Darrow was one of two guest speakers brought to YOUTH 2000 that weekend in celebration of the annual retreat’s 25th anniversary. The other guest speaker was Fr. Stephen DeLacy, vicar for the Office of Faith Formation for Youth and Young Adults from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

“We need to constantly be in rebellion against the tendency to sin and reject God,” he told the youth during the Saturday afternoon session.

Natalie Rhinerson, a senior at Trinity High School in Whitesville, said she liked the praise and worship music and that “the testimonies really spoke to me.”

Her classmate Brianna Park, a first-time YOUTH 2000 attendee, said she appreciated the inspiration through learning that “God chose people that had flaws.”

The youth group from St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green also enjoyed the weekend. Andrew Embry called the retreat “a good chance to get closer to God.”

Demi Smith said YOUTH 2000 is “an enlightening experience” and that the priests gave “helpful advice” in confession, and Grace Himmelbrand said this was “really nice to take a step back from everything to be with God.”

Their fellow youth group member Noah Lipp summed it up: “This retreat is like taking a step back from the world and taking a step forward in faith.” ■

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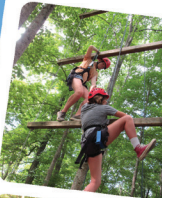
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The Lazarus Retreat #4: *An opportunity for encounter, witness and servant leadership*

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Our fourth experience of the Lazarus Retreat was held at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center on Feb. 18-20, 2022. We were joined by 40 first-time participants from across the diocese including youth from St. Jerome in Fancy Farm, St. Francis de Sales and St. John the Evangelist in Paducah, Immaculate Conception in Earlington, Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, St. Sebastian in Calhoun, St. Stephen Cathedral and Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro, St. Mary in Franklin, St. Francis of Assisi in Guthrie, and St. Joseph in Bowling Green. In addition, there were five youth serving on the Agape Team from St. Jerome in Fancy Farm, Our Lady of Lourdes in Owensboro, and St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. This retreat experience offered a special moment in our diocesan youth efforts as we were joined by several participants and adults from our Hispanic and Latino communities.

The Lazarus Retreat utilizes the story of the raising of Lazarus (John 11: 1-46). While on retreat, the youth are invited to explore the things in life that keep them bound up, entombed, and unable to hear the voice of Jesus calling them to life. The goal of the retreat is inviting the young people into the good news of Jesus Christ; helping them abandon the things that lead to death and respond to Jesus calling them to new life. The Agape Team, which was added in 2020, is an opportunity for youth who have been through the retreat to return and be in service to the retreat while also exploring what it means to have a



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

The Lazarus Retreat on Feb. 18-20, 2022, was joined by 40 first-time participants from around the Diocese of Owensboro.

servant's heart.

Fr. Daniel Dillard, the spiritual director of the retreat, said, "It is a chance to really go in-depth breaking open one passage and helping the youth of the diocese see in a very concrete way how scripture is still relevant to them today. I have seen the fruits that this has borne in the lives of our youth."

Karina Romero, youth minister at St. Stephen Cathedral, shared that "as a small group leader, I was able to see a beautiful transformation in my group of girls. Seeing them truly embrace dying to themselves and living in Christ brought them so much joy and life."

Ariel Molina, a youth participant from St. Mary in Franklin, shared that "my favorite part was praying for and with my small group."

Kaylee Hutchison, a youth from Our Lady of

Lourdes in Owensboro, was a part of the Agape Team. She shared: "For me being on the Agape Team was amazing. I was able to grow deeper into my faith while trying to serve others."

We are very thankful for the adults involved in the Lazarus Retreat who gave talks, served as small group leaders, and served with the Agape Team. We are hopeful to have two retreats during the next school year, one in the fall and one in February. Both will be offered at Gasper River. Information about signing up will be made available this summer. All high school youth from across the diocese are invited to attend, but there is only space for 40 total youth participants for each retreat. ■

Charlie Hardesty is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry.

Quinceañeras preparation program helps young Latinas understand they are loved

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

On March 5, 2022, 10 young ladies from St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green experienced a half day of reflection, study and preparation for their upcoming 15th birthday celebrations in the coming months. Quinceañera is a Hispanic tradition of celebrating a daughter's reaching of her 15th birthday which includes a Mass of Thanksgiving, also a consecration of herself to the care of Mary followed by a "fiesta" (party). It is a centuries-old tradition with roots going back to native Aztecs and Toltec cultures within México. It also remains an evangelizing opportunity of connecting with young Hispanics in our days.



COURTESY OF DEACON CHRIS GUTIÉRREZ
St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green hosted a half day of reflection, study and preparation for the upcoming quinceañera celebrations of 10 young women.

The day started off by first meeting with their parents followed by a two hour meeting with the ladies going over and sharing on various topics.

Reflection points included: "I celebrate my baptism"; "Self -knowledge - who am I?"; "Who is Jesus?"; "Women's role in our society"; and "My youth and values".

While adequate pastoral care of Hispanic/Latino youth for various reasons remains a daunting challenge, Quinceañera celebrations still provide us an opportunity and privilege in accompanying young people to discover who Jesus really is and what God's plan might be for their lives. Mainly what we want is to make sure that young Hispanics understand that they are LOVED! ■

Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez is the director of the Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro. Learn more at owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano.

Ripple effect: St. Mary seniors do random acts of kindness for their community



COURTESY OF ST. MARY SCHOOL SYSTEM
The seniors of St. Mary High School in Paducah with Kevin Kauffeld, president of Independence Bank in McCracken County.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The seniors of St. Mary High School in Paducah recently blessed their community with random acts of kindness that have inspired them to continue spreading thoughtfulness to those they encounter.

The project was inspired by Independence Bank of McCracken County, when president Kevin Kauffeld delivered a \$100 gift card to each of the school's 16 seniors in class as part of the bank's "Here for Good" initiative. The students were told that they

needed to use these gift cards to do something kind for their local community.

The thoughtful actions included purchasing dog and cat food for the local animal shelter; giving one of the gift cards to the food pantry of St. Mary Parish in LaCenter; giving one of the gift cards to the local St. Vincent de Paul Helpline and Budget Store; using the entire gift card to tip wait staff; and paying for a variety of smoothies for random people.

Several students used their gift cards to purchase laundry detergent, baby items and other needed sup-

Continues on page 26

Jaconette instituted into Ministry of Lector



COURTESY OF MICHELLE LINN

Bishop William F. Medley institutes seminarian Conrad Jaconette into the Ministry of Lector at YOUTH 2000 on March 13, 2022 at Brescia University in Owensboro.

BY WKC STAFF

On March 13, 2022, during the closing Mass for YOUTH 2000, Bishop William F. Medley instituted seminarian Conrad Jaconette into the Ministry of Lector.

This is the next step on Jaconette's path of discernment of the diocesan priesthood.

Fr. Daniel Dillard, vocations director for the Diocese of Owensboro, said it was Jaconette's idea to be instituted during YOUTH 2000, which is an annual youth retreat focused on bringing teens closer to the Eucharist.

Jaconette suggested doing it as a vocations-promoting initiative for the young people present, and after Fr. Dillard mentioned the idea to Bishop William F. Medley, the bishop responded, "I love it; let's make it happen."

Fr. Dillard said he was glad Jaconette made the suggestion about YOUTH 2000.

"As the youth of our diocese see a man making commitments and progressing through his vocational journey, I believe that it can plant seeds in the hearts of those young men and women to consider God's call for their own life," said Fr. Dillard. ■

Anticipating diaconate, Grief grateful he listened to 'small, still voice'



FILE PHOTO

Christopher Grief will be ordained a transitional deacon on April 9, 2022.

BY WKC STAFF

When did you first identify that you had a vocation to the priesthood?

Growing up in a loving home and supportive parish community, I first identified my vocation to the priesthood early in my life. It wasn't until I was in college, however, did I start really discerning whether or not God was calling me to

this life. Admittedly it was a struggle at first because I had a good job and a home I enjoyed entertaining my friends in. Yet, I wasn't fulfilled; I noticed I was missing something. Suffice it to say, it was a small, still voice that kept tugging on my heart throughout my life. I credit my former vocation director, Fr. Jason McClure, and my family for helping me through the many years of discernment that ultimately led me to seminary and where I am today - approaching the transitional diaconate.

How have you seen yourself grow from the time you entered seminary to today?

If you ask this question to 50 different seminarians, you will most certainly get 50 different responses. God works in each of our lives in a unique way. Seminary formation has nourished my mind and soul through the discipline of study, enriched my spiritual life through the practice of prayer, and has challenged me to build and develop lasting relationships that will support me during my years of ministry.

What aspect of the transitional diaconate do you most look forward to?

As my date to the transitional diaconate is approaching, words can't describe the many aspects of ordination I am looking forward to. From presiding over baptisms, marriages, funerals, and public prayer to serving the community in acts of charity through preaching by works and proclaiming and preaching the Gospel, it is my ardent prayer that my service continues to glorify God in all that I do. ■

Christopher Grief is from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Paducah.

Kight has seen himself 'grow in manifold ways' while approaching diaconate

BY WKC STAFF

When did you first identify that you had a vocation to the priesthood?

I first sensed the call to priesthood at young age,

maybe around five or six years old. I was intrigued by priests and how they live their lives. As I got older, I got involved in other areas of interest. Like most young people, I shoved the idea of priesthood off un-

Continues on page 26

Kight continued from page 25

til I was a junior in college. It was at that time when God's call to priesthood became evident. I knew I needed to follow God's invitation to the seminary.

How have you seen yourself grow from the time you entered seminary to today?

Seminary formation has helped me grow in manifold ways. The biggest growth I believe I've experienced as a man in seminary is understanding who I am as a person. I know my strengths and weaknesses. I know my gifts and limitations better now than ever before. Seminary has given me the opportunity to understand these qualities. I have been able to become closer to the man that God is calling me to be. While I will never perfectly achieve this, priesthood formation has given me the tools to become more like that man which is a lifelong process.

What aspect of the transitional diaconate do you most look forward to?

I'm looking forward to all aspects of the transitional diaconate. I'd have to say I'm most looking forward to proclaiming the Gospel and preaching during Mass when I'm able. I'm also looking forward to celebrating the sacraments with my friends and family. Later this year I will have the opportunity to baptize my best friend's son. I will also have the opportunity to witness the wedding of a childhood friend. ■

Chris Kight is from St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah.



FILE PHOTO
Chris Kight will be ordained a transitional deacon on April 9, 2022.

St. Mary seniors continued from page 24

plies for Hope Unlimited, a local crisis pregnancy center. One student gave his gift card to the local golf complex and told the owner to use it to pay for the golf balls for any kids 18 and under. Many used their gift cards to purchase groceries for random families.

Jack Roof, who was one of the teens to purchase supplies for Hope Unlimited, said it felt "really good to give back to the community that I have been a part of my whole life. This world has blessed me, and I so grateful for that."

Trinity Higgins, who donated her gift card to St. Mary Parish, said you never know what others are going through, and that one small action could make someone's week.

"I believe kind acts are contagious, and it only

takes one person to start a ripple effect," she said.

Doug Shelton, principal of St. Mary Middle and High School, called the teens a "small, but mighty, group of seniors."

"I'm thrilled to see the impact they made in individual people's lives throughout our community!" said Shelton. "Mr. Kauffeld and Independence Bank were tremendous to work with during this project, and I know they're also satisfied with what this group was able to accomplish in a relatively short amount of time."

The 16 students who participated are Hannah Andersson, Mason Baker, Cade Fleming, Trinity Higgins, Thomas Humm, Loren Jones, Nayelli McDowell, Jackson Muiter, Kali Patel, Sahil Rachan, Jack Roof, Mary Smith, Maya Smith, Annalise Vandry, Lily Wilson and Rocco Zakutney. ■



The Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky
with the families of

CHRISTOPHER EARL GRIEF
and
CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL KIGHT

invite you to the

**ORDINATION TO THE
SACRED ORDER OF THE DIACONATE**

Through the Laying on of Hands and
The Invocation of the Holy Spirit by the

MOST REVEREND WILLIAM F. MEDLEY, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

On Saturday, the ninth day of April
in the Year of Our Lord
two thousand and twenty-two
at ten o'clock in the morning

SAINT STEPHEN CATHEDRAL
610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

A reception will follow.

Happy anniversary to our priests!

In April we celebrate the anniversaries of:

**Msgr. Bernard Powers | Ordained
4/30/1952 | Retired**

**Fr. Tony Shonis | Ordained 4/3/1971
Retired**

**Fr. Shaiju Thomas, HGN | Ordained
4/7/1999 | Pastor of St. Anthony Parish,
Axtel**

**Fr. Carmelo Jimenez Salinas | Ordained
4/25/1999 | Pastor of St. Michael Parish,
Sebree**

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Mis queridas hermanas y hermanos,

Están cordialmente invitados a asistir a la Misa Crismal de la Diócesis de Owensboro el martes, 12 de abril de 2022 a las 6:30 p.m. en el Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Owensboro Sportscenter].

La pandemia del COVID-19 ha preocupado al mundo durante más de dos años. Durante ese tiempo, más de seis millones de personas han sido infectadas y casi un millón han muerto a causa del virus solo en nuestro país. Ha cambiado drásticamente nuestras vidas, nuestras familias, nuestro comercio, nuestra recreación y viajes, y nuestro culto. Parece que la larga crisis está llegando a su fin gracias a la ciencia y la investigación que han producido vacunas eficaces, y gracias a todos los que hicimos sacrificios extraordinarios para limitar la propagación del virus. Una pandemia mundial nos ha enseñado a todos la vulnerabilidad de nuestro lugar en esta tierra y en la creación.

Uno de los tremendos sacrificios de las primeras semanas de la pandemia fue la suspensión de las reuniones públicas. Nunca podría haber imaginado que la Iglesia Católica, en casi todo el mundo, habría suspendido el culto público durante casi tres meses. Luego, cuando comenzamos a regresar, tuvimos las restricciones de usar mascarillas y el distanciamiento. Incluso cuando la situación disminuyó, muchos continúan nerviosos de regresar a Misa. Permítanme agregar que, para los ancianos y las personas con salud frágil, esta es una decisión muy razonable.

Pero regresemos al tema de la Misa Crismal. Todos los fieles han sido invitados a esta celebración todos los años (con la excepción de 2020 y 2021), pero particularmente extendiendo la invitación este año para que podamos celebrar nuestra libertad de culto y las bendiciones de nuestra comunidad y el mundo al final de una pandemia.

La Misa Crismal se llama así porque es en esta

Misa que el obispo consagra el Santo Crisma que se usa para la ordenación de sacerdotes, la confirmación de los elegidos y los adolescentes, y la dedicación de altares. También en esta Misa se bendice el Óleo de los Enfermos y el Óleo de los Catecúmenos para su distribución a todas las iglesias parroquiales.

Esta Misa, que el obispo concelebra con todos los sacerdotes de la diócesis, debe ser una manifestación de la comunión de los sacerdotes con el obispo. Hay una renovación de las promesas sacerdotales, recordando aquellas promesas pronunciadas el día de su ordenación. En esta renovación se nos recuerda que hacemos memoria del día en que Jesucristo confirió su sacerdocio a sus discípulos y por tanto a todos los sacerdotes hasta hoy.

Es especialmente apropiado que asistan los adolescentes que se están preparando para la Confirmación, ya que el Santo Crisma consagrado es el mismo aceite con el que se ungirá su frente. Lo mismo es cierto para todos los que participarán en los sacramentos de Pascua en la vigilia del Sábado Santo. El Diácono Martin Ma Na Ling servirá como diácono de la Misa anticipando la consagración de sus manos en su ordenación sacerdotal el 2 de julio de este año.

Solo Dios sabe quién recibirá el sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos siendo bendecidos por el Óleo de los Enfermos.

Por favor vengan a la Misa Crismal. Celebremos nuestro culto común y hagamos un signo de nuestra alegría al orar juntos. ■

Atentamente en Cristo,



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ABRIL DE 2022

3 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Misa – Centro Universitario Católico Santo Tomás de Aquino, Bowling Green
5 DE ABRIL	Visita a los seminaristas en San Meinrad – Saint Meinrad, Indiana
6 DE ABRIL	Visita a los seminaristas en el Seminario Universitario Obispo Simón Bruté – Indianápolis, Indiana
7 DE ABRIL	5 p.m. Reunión de la Junta de la Fundación Católica de Kentucky Occidental – Owensboro
9 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Ordenación al Diaconado – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
12 DE ABRIL	6:30 p.m. Misa Crismal – Centro deportivo de Owensboro [Owensboro Sportscenter]
18 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Owensboro 1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Owensboro
19 DE ABRIL	8 a.m. Misa escolar – Parroquia Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville 9:30 a.m. Conversaciones con los "Seniors" – Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad, Whitesville
20 DE ABRIL	9:45 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Interparroquial San José, Bowling Green 6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia de San Pío X, Owensboro 3 p.m. Reunión por Zoom con los sacerdotes
21 DE ABRIL	6 p.m. Servicio de Oración para la Prevención del Abuso Infantil – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro 6:30 p.m. Reunión de la junta de revisión – Owensboro
23 DE ABRIL	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah
24 DE ABRIL	2 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María del Bosque, Whitesville
25 DE ABRIL	8 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad, Whitesville 6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María Magdalena, Sorgho
26 DE ABRIL	10 a.m. Misa escolar y conversaciones con los "Seniors" – Escuela Preparatoria Santa María, Paducah 6:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santísima Madre, Owensboro

Continúa en la página 28

Buscando la paz que solo encontramos en Jesús

POR SUSANA SOLORZA, ESPECIAL PARA EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

La tensión vive en ese espacio entre donde queremos estar y donde estamos. Durante este proceso sinodal, el Papa Francisco nos ha llamado a sentarnos a explorar esta tensión. Él nos ha pedido que nos acerquemos y nos conectemos con las personas en la periferia de nuestra Iglesia; un espacio que ocupamos para muchos de ellos. Como comité, nos hemos estado preguntando: “¿Cómo caminan los bautizados en medio de esta tensión del mundo y cómo los estamos encontrando como Iglesia?” He encontrado sabiduría en cómo nuestro liderazgo diocesano ha sido deliberado en nuestro llamado al Espíritu Santo. Cada sesión de escucha ha comenzado con el llamado: “¡Ven, Espíritu Santo!” La Dra. Charlotte McCorquodale, presidenta de Ministry Training Source, ha trabajado junto con nuestro comité para desafiarnos a hacer de este tiempo de compartir uno que no sea dirigido por nuestro ego, sino por la voz de Dios. Ella nos enseñó a ver esto como algo más que una sesión de planificación estratégica o un momento para desahogarse. Nuestro equipo participó en estas sesiones de escucha sabiendo que los obstáculos serían muchos. A medida que se ha compartido más y más, he visto cómo la esperanza se eleva por encima del dolor, simplemente a través de este primer paso de escuchar. Hay consuelo al escuchar que personas de todas las generaciones están mirando hacia el Espíritu para que nos ayude a encontrar soluciones al dolor que expresan las personas dentro y fuera de nuestras periferias. No quiero achicar el dolor que

la gente comparte. Nuestro mundo ha pasado por muchas olas de dolor colectivo y malentendidos; la polarización parece ser una norma universal. Vemos fracturas en familias y comunidades. Las personas han compartido angustias que han estado cargando durante años. Hemos tenido que sentarnos en la incomodidad de aquellos que están heridos y sufriendo. Aun así, la Iglesia ha capeado muchas tormentas, y seguimos siendo las personas que serán desafiadas a salir del barco para seguir a Cristo. Todos estamos en medio de esta tensión y fervor, buscando la paz que solo encontramos en Jesús. Mientras escribo esto, llego a casa de una sesión de escucha regional y escucho "God Can/Let Go" de PJ Morton. Cada parte de esta canción me lleva a confiar en la esperanza que he sentido en este proceso. Escuche y ore por nosotros mientras continuamos trabajando para llegar y responder al llamado del Papa Francisco. ■

-Susana Solorza

Comité del Sínodo sobre Sinodalidad, Diócesis de Owensboro

*Feligrés de la Iglesia Católica Santo Nombre de Jesús
Maestra en la escuela Santo Nombre.*

Continuado de la página 27

- 27 DE ABRIL** 6 p.m. | Confirmación – Parroquia San Guillermo, Marion
- 9 a.m. | Misa escolar – Escuela Católica de Owensboro, Campus de K-3
- 28 DE ABRIL** 6 p.m. | Confirmación – Parroquia San Lorenzo, Knottsville
- 30 DE ABRIL** 5 p.m. | Confirmación – Parroquia San Jerónimo, Fancy Farm

Dos seminaristas serán ordenados al diaconado



FOTOS DE ARCHIVO

(Izquierdo) Christopher Grief, (derecho) Chris Kight.

El 9 de abril, los seminaristas Chris Kight y Christopher Grief serán ordenados diáconos de transición para la Diócesis de Owensboro. Este será su último paso antes de ser ordenados sacerdotes diocesanos.

Kight, feligrés de Santo Tomás Moro en Paducah, dijo que espera “anunciar el Evangelio y predicar durante la Misa cuando pueda. También tengo muchas ganas de celebrar los sacramentos con mis amigos y familiares. Más tarde este año tendré la oportunidad de bautizar al hijo de mi mejor amigo. También tendré la oportunidad de ser el ministro de la boda de un amigo de la infancia”.

Grief, feligrés de San Juan Evangelista en Paducah, dijo que espera “presidir bautismos, matrimonios, funerales y oraciones públicas, servir a la comunidad en actos de caridad a través de la predicación por obras y la proclamación y predicación del Evangelio. Es mi oración ardiente que mi servicio continúe glorificando a Dios en todo lo que hago”. ■

La parroquia de Mayfield ayuda a las personas que aún lo necesitan meses después de los tornados

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Ni una sola vez ha escuchado Christie Scarbrough, gerente administrativa de la Parroquia San José en Mayfield, las palabras "¿Cuándo va a acabar esto?" de parte de los voluntarios de la parroquia que ayudan con los esfuerzos de socorro del tornado.

"Estamos cansados", le dijo al Católico de Kentucky Occidental. Y, sin embargo, "siempre se juntan todos".

Ahora es el tercer mes desde que tornados históricos azotaron Kentucky y las regiones circundantes durante la noche del 10 de diciembre de 2021. De las diócesis católicas de la región, las comunidades dentro de la Diócesis de Owensboro en Kentucky occidental sufrieron el mayor daño.

Desde la propiedad de San José cuyo campanario fue arrancado, el rastro del tornado es claramente visible y continúa por la calle hasta el centro de Mayfield.

Pero la actividad es vibrante y acogedora en el campus de San José, donde a pesar de la desolación que los rodea, la parroquia continúa ofreciendo un centro de distribución bien abastecido para sus vecinos necesitados.

Mucha gente en Mayfield y las áreas circundantes ya tenían problemas económicos incluso antes de que llegaran los tornados. Cuando las tormentas dañaron o destruyeron sus hogares, los residentes recurrieron a la iglesia.

"Simplemente no rechazamos a nadie", dijo Scarbrough.

Ella admitió que las primeras dos o tres semanas después del tornado fueron difíciles. Mientras San José esperaba saber de la compañía de seguro si su iglesia dañada sería lo suficientemente estable como para permitir el culto en el interior, el centro parroquial se convirtió en un centro para ayudar a las personas que lo habían perdido todo en las tormentas.



FOTO DEL CNS/BOB ROLLER

Los voluntarios clasifican los artículos donados fuera del salón parroquial de la Parroquia San José en Mayfield, Ky., 1 de marzo de 2022, semanas después de que un tornado azotara la ciudad. Se informaron más de 30 tornados en seis estados a fines del 10 de diciembre de 2021 y principios del 11 de diciembre, que mataron a decenas de personas y dejaron un rastro de devastación.

El Párroco P. Eric Riley y el feligrés Alfredo "Freddy" González se coordinaron con Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro para operar un sistema de distribución de agua, ropa, cobijas, comida enlatada y otras necesidades fuera del centro

parroquial.

La Parroquia San José celebró su primera Misa dentro de su iglesia el 24 de diciembre de 2021.

Hoy, Scarbrough dijo que la aparición inicial de visitantes con necesidades críticas se ha ralentizado, pero el centro de distribución continúa proporcionando alimentos y ropa a unas 300-400 personas por semana. A través de los fondos de Caridades Católicas, la parroquia también proporciona tarjetas de regalo para que las personas puedan comprar otros artículos.

"Las donaciones a la iglesia se han ralentizado considerablemente", agregó, y dijo que se sienten bendecidos cuando otros fuera de la comunidad los recuerdan.

"Dios provee cada vez y obtenemos exactamente lo que necesitamos", dijo. "Así es cada vez. Justamente pequeños milagros".

Scarbrough no puede decir lo suficiente sobre el compromiso de su parroquia. Muchos feligreses jubilados han estado ayudando regularmente, y el trabajo en equipo de la comunidad bilingüe latina/anglo de San José asegura que cualquier persona que visite pueda recibir la asistencia adecuada.

"La gente aquí como voluntaria da su tiempo y quiere ayudar", dijo.

Mirando hacia tiempos mejores, la parroquia planea organizar una peregrinación diocesana de Corpus Christi con el Obispo William F. Medley por las calles de Mayfield en junio.

"Es Dios obrando a través de todas estas personas aquí", dijo Scarbrough. "Cada día se pone mejor". ■

El Retiro de Lázaro #4: Una oportunidad de encuentro, testimonio y liderazgo servidor



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE CHARLIE HARDESTY
Al Retiro de Lázaro del 18 al 20 de febrero de 2022 llegaron 40 participantes nuevos de toda la Diócesis de Owensboro.

POR CHARLIE HARDESTY, ESPECIAL PARA EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Nuestra cuarta experiencia del Retiro de Lázaro se llevó a cabo en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper del 18 al 20 de febrero de 2022. Nos acompañaron 40 participantes nuevos de toda la diócesis, incluyendo adolescentes de San Jerónimo en Fancy Farm, San Francisco de Sales y San Juan Evangelista en Paducah, Inmaculada Concepción en Earlington, San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville, San Sebastián en Calhoun, la Catedral de San Esteban y Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, Santa María en Franklin, San Francisco de Asís en Guthrie y San José en Bowling Green. Además, había cinco adolescentes sirviendo en el Equipo Ágape de San Jerónimo en Fancy Farm, Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en Owensboro y la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro. Esta experiencia de retiro ofreció un momento especial en nuestros esfuerzos diocesanos de ministerio con los adolescentes ya que se nos unieron varios participantes y adultos de nuestras comunidades hispanas y latinas.

El Retiro de Lázaro utiliza la historia de la resurrección de Lázaro (Juan 11, 1-46). Durante el retiro, se invita a los adolescentes a explorar las cosas de la vida

que los mantienen atados, sepultados e incapaces de escuchar la voz de Jesús llamándolos a la vida. La meta del retiro es invitar a los adolescentes y jóvenes a la buena nueva de Jesucristo; ayudándolos a abandonar las cosas que conducen a la muerte y responder a Jesús llamándolos a una nueva vida. El Equipo Ágape, que se agregó en 2020, es una oportunidad para que los adolescentes que han pasado por el retiro regresen y estén al servicio del retiro mientras exploran lo que significa tener un corazón de servidor.

El P. Daniel Dillard, el director espiritual del retiro, dijo: “Es una oportunidad de profundizar, realmente de abrir un pasaje bíblico y ayudar a los adolescentes de la diócesis a ver de una manera muy concreta cómo las Escrituras siguen siendo relevantes para ellos hoy. He visto los frutos que esto ha dado en la vida de nuestra juventud”.

Karina Romero, ministro juvenil de la Catedral de San Esteban, compartió que “como líder de un grupo pequeño, pude ver una hermosa transformación en mi grupo de muchachas. Verlas realmente aceptar morir a sí mismas y vivir en Cristo les trajo mucha alegría y vida”.

Ariel Molina, un adolescente participante de Santa María en Franklin, compartió que “mi parte favorita fue orar por y con mi grupo pequeño”.

Kaylee Hutchison, una adolescente de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en Owensboro, era parte del Equipo Ágape. Ella compartió: “Para mí estar en el Equipo Ágape fue increíble. Pude profundizar más en mi fe mientras trataba de servir a los demás”.

Estamos muy agradecidos con los adultos involucrados en el Retiro de Lázaro que dieron charlas, sirvieron como líderes de grupos pequeños y sirvieron con el Equipo Ágape. Tenemos la esperanza de tener dos retiros durante el próximo año escolar, uno en el otoño y otro en febrero. Ambos se ofrecerán en el Campamento del Río Gasper. La información sobre cómo inscribirse estará disponible este verano. Todos los adolescentes de la preparatoria de toda la diócesis están invitados a asistir, pero solo hay espacio para 40 participantes adolescentes en total para cada retiro. ■

Charlie Hardesty es el director del Ministerio con Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Obtenga más información en owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry.

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



FOTO DE ARCHIVO
Charlotte Hedges.

Charlotte Hedges se jubila

Después de trabajar para la Diócesis de Owensboro en el Centro Católico McRaith (MCC) desde 2001, Charlotte Hedges se jubilará el 30 de abril. Sus funciones en el MCC han incluido trabajar para el Tribunal Diocesano, la Oficina de Asuntos Sociales, la Oficina de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar y Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

En su jubilación, espera viajar, pasar más tiempo con la familia y continuar como voluntaria en su parroquia, San Pío X en Owensboro.

“Me gustaría visitar a todas las parroquias de la diócesis y, mientras esté allí, visitar un restaurante familiar y comer comida local”, dijo Hedges. ■

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.

El programa de preparación para Quinceañeras ayuda a las muchachas latinas a entender que son amadas

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

El 5 de marzo de 2022, 10 muchachas de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green experimentaron medio día de reflexión, estudio y preparación para las próximas celebraciones de 15 años en los próximos meses. La quinceañera es una tradición hispana de celebrar el cumpleaños número 15 de una hija que incluye una Misa de acción de gracias, también una consagración de ella misma al cuidado de María seguida de una fiesta. Es una tradición centenaria con raíces que se remontan a las culturas nativas azteca y tolteca dentro de México. También sigue siendo una oportunidad evangelizadora de conectar con las muchachas hispanas de nuestro tiempo.

El día comenzó con una reunión con sus padres seguida de una reunión de dos horas con las muchachas para hablar y compartir sobre varios temas. Los puntos de reflexión incluyeron: "Celebro mi bautismo"; "Conocimiento propio – ¿quién soy yo?"; "¿Quién es Jesús?"; "Roles de la mujer en la sociedad"; y "Mi juventud y los valores".

Aunque el cuidado pastoral adecuado de los adolescentes hispanos/latinos sigue siendo



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

La Parroquia San José en Bowling Green organizó medio día de reflexión, estudio y preparación para las próximas celebraciones de quinceañeras de 10 muchachas.

un desafío abrumador por varias razones, las celebraciones de quinceañeras aún nos brindan la oportunidad y el privilegio de acompañar a las muchachas a descubrir quién es realmente Jesús y cuál podría ser el plan de Dios para sus vidas. Principalmente lo que queremos es asegurarnos de que las muchachas hispanas entiendan ¡que son AMADAS! ■

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez es el director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Obtenga más información en owensborodiocese.org/ministerio-hispano.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Leah Darrow, oradora católica, se dirige a los participantes del retiro YOUTH 2000 durante la sesión de la mañana del 12 de marzo de 2022 durante la Adoración.

El retiro YOUTH 2000 atrae a 280 jóvenes

Del 11 al 13 de marzo de 2022, la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro una vez más fue anfitriona del retiro anual para adolescentes y jóvenes llamado YOUTH 2000. Este año, el retiro, que se centra en la Eucaristía, atrajo a aproximadamente 280 jóvenes. En honor al 25 aniversario del retiro, el retiro dio la bienvenida a dos oradores invitados especiales Leah Darrow y el Padre Stephen DeLacy. Además de estas sesiones generales, el retiro YOUTH 2000 presentó la oportunidad de Misa, adoración y confesión, así como comidas y tiempo de alabanza y adoración. ■