

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

November 2022 ● Volume 49 Issue 9 ● The newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro ● westerncatholic.com



Praising God together

A woman lifts her hands during a song prior to Dr. Gerardo Salazar's morning talk at the Oct. 22 "Living a Eucharistic Life as Missionary Disciples" conference in Owensboro. [Page 10](#)



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"Remember, we're the fun church!" Fr. Emmanuel Udoh reminds visitors to Rosary Chapel's 75th anniversary celebration on Oct. 16. Rosary Chapel in Paducah is one of two historically Black Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Owensboro; the other is Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Owensboro. **Page 7**

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Front page main photo: Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

Submissions

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THE WESTERN KENTUCKY  Catholic

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro

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

Telephone ● (270) 683-1545

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

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



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Kentucky bishops: Vote 'Yes!' on pro-life Amendment #2

Each October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates "Respect Life Month" as an opportunity to express our deeply held belief in the value and dignity of every human person. The month takes on an even greater meaning this year, as Kentuckians prepare to head to the polls in support of a simple, yet profound, pro-life cause.

On November 8, Kentuckians have the unprecedented opportunity to write a Pro-Life Amendment into our Commonwealth's Constitution. We can protect countless thousands of innocent lives by voting Yes for Life on Amendment #2.

As Bishops and as Kentuckians of diverse locations and backgrounds, we humbly ask you to join us in voting Yes on #2. Together, we will give voice to the voiceless, protect the health of mothers and babies and use this once-in-a-generation chance to transform our home state into one that unabashedly cherishes the value of all human life.

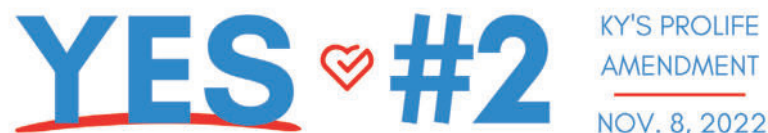
The amendment you'll see on November 8th is straightforward. It reads "To protect human life, nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."

Many of us, who have committed our prayers and our advocacy to the pro-life movement for decades, may have thought the effort was won this summer when the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. That historic decision answered our prayers and affirmed there is no right to an abortion in the U.S. Constitution.

However, the Court's decision actually just moved the issue back to the states. Kentucky's two abortion providers are asking Kentucky courts now, in a case currently pending, to declare a state constitutional right to abortion. The danger is pressing, and without this amendment, the joy we felt this summer with the *Dobbs* decision could quickly turn to anguish.

The Yes for Life Amendment is an important and necessary protection for our pro-life values and the precious lives of unborn Kentuckians. It would prevent any state judge from putting their own politics on abortion before the clearly expressed will of the voters. And, this amendment would prevent our tax dollars from being used for abortions, which would morally implicate every one of us in this horrific practice.

That's why the Catholic Conference of Kentucky helped found an alliance of religious, pro-life and pro-family organizations in our Commonwealth to



AMENDMENT #2 TEXT: *"To protect human life, nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."*

support this amendment. Our broad coalition emphasizes that the Yes for Life Amendment isn't a partisan or even an inherently religious issue. Instead, at its core, this is a matter of moral right versus unquestionable wrong.

Despite what some may claim, our mission to protect the sanctity of life doesn't end in the joy of a new birth. The Catholic Church in Kentucky actively supports efforts from the pews to the statehouse that walk with mothers and families who make the courageous decision to raise their children. From supporting legislation to provide workplace protection for pregnant and nursing mothers to advocating for public support for more paid family and medical leave, we are building a culture of life.

The Yes for Life Amendment is a central part of that greater effort to support life in all its stages.

As Americans, we are blessed with many freedoms, including our own self-determination at the ballot box. It is our sincere hope and prayer that Kentuckians will take this opportunity to heal one of our nation's most painful wrongs and protect vulnerable human life. We will be voting Yes on Amendment #2, and we ask you to join us. ■

The Catholic Bishops of Kentucky:

Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, Archdiocese of Louisville

Bishop John Iffert, Diocese of Covington

Bishop John Stowe, OFM, Conv., Diocese of Lexington

Bishop William F. Medley, Diocese of Owensboro

Who is your favorite saint?

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In our Catholic tradition we observe the month of November as a time of special commemoration of all the faithful departed. November 2 is celebrated each year as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day), but the entire month is a time of consciousness and prayer for all those “who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.” Some parishes note this special remembrance prominently displaying the names of parishioners who have died in the previous year. It is an ancient practice to submit to God’s mercy those who have died.

It is not a coincidence, though, that the month commences with a Commemoration of All Saints (All Saints Day, November 1). We honor and esteem all the saints, all those whom we have confidence rest now with God in heaven. The names of these multitudes, for the most part, are known now only by God, but their glory is none less than the great recognized saints of the ages. It is a fitting day then to call to mind those men and women who shaped and formed our faith, lived lives of quiet courage, and who now we are confident rest with God and all the angels.

I have mentioned many times that I enjoy encountering children and young people and inviting their questions to me about God, the Church, and aspects of the faith. One the most frequent questions posed to me is, who are your favorite saints? This list from my heart changes over time, but some remain my favorites, my inspirations.

I always respond that the favorite saint for all

believers should be Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church. The Church accentuates this in honoring Mary with special feasts throughout the year. We honor the Annunciation of the Lord, the Immaculate Conception, the Assumption, and the Birth of Mary to name a few. Mary is honored by several titles and feast days as well: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Fatima, and Our Lady of Loreto. Some honors afforded to Mary are distinct to particular cultures or nationalities.

I have a special affection for St. Peter, one of the 12 apostles, the one chosen to be the “rock” upon which Jesus chose to build the Church. My special devotion to St. Peter is not because he was the first Bishop of Rome, the first Pope. It is not because the largest church in the world is built over his grave and bears his name. I like St. Peter because of the stories the Gospels recall of his relationship with Jesus. There is story after story of Peter’s shortcomings, the limitations of his faith. “I will never deny you, Lord,” he assured before denying Jesus three times in the hour of his greatest need. He boasted that he would walk on water to meet Jesus on stormy seas – but he sank. Could it be Jesus’ sense of humor that he then named him Peter, which means rock? For all his failings he loved Jesus and Jesus loved him. It must have been a real surprise to the other apostles when Jesus entrusted the keys of the kingdom to one so often broken. Peter’s failings always reassure me about the fate of our Church, that God is in charge and that we are all but imperfect disciples.

St. Francis of Assisi will often make the top 10

BISHOP MEDLEY'S NOVEMBER 2022 CALENDAR	
NOV. 3	6 p.m. Diocesan Review Board Meeting – Mcraith Catholic Center (MCC)
NOV. 9	8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – MCC 10 a.m. Diocesan Staff Meeting – MCC
NOV. 10	9 a.m. School Mass – Owensboro Catholic Middle School, Owensboro
NOV. 12	5:30 p.m. St. Mary High School Auction Dinner – Paducah
NOV. 13-17	U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Meeting – Baltimore, Md.
NOV. 19	5 p.m. Closing Mass for Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference – Knicely Center, Bowling Green
NOV. 21	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – MCC 1:30 p.m. Priests’ Council Meeting – MCC
NOV. 22	10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Paducah Office Hours
NOV. 29-30	Catholic Conference of Kentucky Meeting and Bishops of the Province Meeting – Louisville

favorites of most Catholics. In fact, the cult of St. Francis extends beyond Catholic boundaries because of the love he manifested for all of creation, speaking of brother sun and sister moon and the dignity he afforded animals. Though born into a wealthy family he experienced a profound conversion and

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denounced all earthly possessions. Surprisingly many of his contemporaries were attracted to his simple life and love for the poor. Even within his short lifetime, he died at age 45, he began to send his followers out to spread the Gospel. When Argentine Jorge Bergoglio found himself elected by the College of Cardinals to be pope in 2013, he had but moments to choose the name by which he would be known. The cardinal sitting beside him whispered, “Do not forget the poor.” Bergoglio later related that it was at this moment he chose the name Francis. My middle name is Francis and I was baptized and grew up in St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

In 2001 I had a chance to travel in pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. I knew the basic outlines of the

story of the apparitions of Mary to a young 14-year-old girl, who was from a poor family, was sickly due to malnutrition, and because of her family’s destitution illiterate. There pilgrims trace the story of St. Bernadette from her birthplace to the abandoned jail where her family lived, to the cave where she encountered a beautiful woman, to her discovery of the spring of water to which Mary led her. The trials and ridicule she and her family experienced as she sought to honor the Blessed Mother’s directives shaped her as a saint. St. Bernadette’s story unfolded with the apparitions in 1858 so this story is not ancient history in the Church’s long story. Lourdes became almost instantaneously famous which accounts for the preservation of places from

the times of St. Bernadette. But this very fame was difficult for the young girl, and she left the village to join a convent in Nevers, France and to live a cloistered life.

May I invite you to consider your favorite saints? If you do not have any favorites read about the saints or Google them. They can lead us to Jesus. ■

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

‘No doubt there’s a God’ Catholic Charities celebrates first completed house post-tornadoes

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Bridget Filback has always believed in God.

But “what I believe now is that God spared us for a reason. Now we’re just waiting to see what it is,” said Filback, who with her husband, Rickie, survived the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes that devastated western Kentucky and destroyed the couple’s Hartford, Ky., home.

On Oct. 3, 2022, emotions ran high as the Filbacks celebrated the dedication and ribbon cutting for their new house – built not far from the location of their former house.

This new home is the first of what will be many rebuilt through the disaster relief work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro and other community organizations.

Joey Hazelwood, project manager for the long-term recovery group of Ohio County – where Hartford is located – said after the dedication ceremony that “we couldn’t have done it without Catholic Charities.”

In surveying the projected costs and the materials needed for impacted homes in the county, “we didn’t know how we were going to do it. Then I met Katina,” he said.

Katina Hayden, Catholic Charities’ director of disaster case management, was attending one of Ohio County’s long-term recovery group meetings when she encountered Hazelwood.

Hayden told him Catholic Charities could help meet these needs – that’s what Catholic Charities’ disaster relief is about, after all – and the rest was history.

Hazelwood said his team broke ground for the Filbacks’ new house on March 21. Over the following months, his team and hundreds of skilled volunteers from across the U. S. worked hard to provide the Filbacks with a new place to call home.

“I’ve seen amazing things these past six months,” said Hazelwood, “it’s hard to explain... one of the best things is all the people we’ve gotten to meet” who have helped with rebuilding.

He said a volunteer group came from South Carolina over the summer – “it was hot!” – and even after they left, “they still text me every week, asking how things are going.”

Hazelwood has been moved by the committed work of Mennonite Disaster Service, whose members travel from all over the United States to rebuild homes impacted by natural disasters.

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COURTESY OF FR. JULIO BARRERA

Rickie and Bridget Filback (center) prepare to cut the ribbon for their new home in Hartford, Ky., on Oct. 3, 2022. The Filbacks' house was destroyed in the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes.

“They do a lot of good work that isn’t really publicized,” he said. “They are some of the greatest volunteers we get.”

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities, said skyrocketing prices have challenged efforts to rebuild and repair.

“It went from costing \$80,000 per house (to rebuild) to \$130,000 per house,” she said. Still, they remain hopeful and grateful to those who have continued to donate.

“Those people who are willing to give the most are those who’ve been there,” she said. “People from the northeast with Hurricane Sandy... from the south with Hurricane Katrina... from California with the wildfires.”

Bishop William F. Medley, who was also present

at the dedication and blessed the Filbacks’ home, said that he was proud to be there.

“I’ve never been through anything like this before,” he said of the tornadoes, “which is probably true of all of us here.”

The day after the storms, his phone started ringing with calls from Catholic organizations and churches from all over the nation.

“How can we help?” they all asked, to which Bishop Medley responded, “To be honest with you I don’t know, but we’re going to figure that out.”

The bishop explained to the crowd gathered at the Filbacks’ home, many of whom were not Catholic, that “there’s an organization called Catholic Charities USA that serves as an umbrella organization.”

“(Catholic Charities USA) sent someone to us that week and said ‘this is how you begin to get organized; this is how you go into communities that have been harmed; this is how you reach out to the people who have been harmed and begin to envision rebuilding,’” recalled Bishop Medley.

He also credited the ecumenical efforts of fellow Christians in the community, especially Baptist churches and Methodist churches, who collaborated with Catholic Charities to lend a hand.

In sprinkling the Filbacks’ home with holy water, the bishop prayed for all impacted by natural disasters.

“We pray in a special way today for all of the thousands of people throughout western Kentucky whose lives were damaged by this storm,” said Bishop Medley. “We pray for our neighbors in eastern Kentucky whose lives have been damaged by the horrific floods; and for our neighbors throughout the country affected last week by the hurricanes.”

As of Sept. 30, the Diocese of Owensboro has been gifted with approximately \$9.3 million to assist in tornado recovery efforts.

Catholic Charities looks forward to rebuilding more homes as they continue serving hundreds of clients who were affected by the tornadoes. Their goal remains to rebuild 350 homes in the next three to five years, and they welcome ongoing donations as well as skilled labor volunteers. More information about that may be accessed at owensborodiocese.org/tornado-relief-resources.

For their part, Filback and her husband remain overwhelmed with gratitude for the hundreds of people who helped them: “There’s no doubt in my mind that there’s a God,” she repeated.

“He did all this,” she said, gesturing around her beautiful new home. ■

Seventy-five years of Rosary Chapel celebrated for its ‘tremendous impact’ on community



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

(Left) Rosary Chapel in Paducah celebrates its 75th anniversary on Oct. 16, 2022 with a Mass presided over by Bishop William F. Medley. (Right) The choir leads the music for Rosary Chapel's 75th anniversary Mass.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it,” said Frances Pullen, speaking to the crowd that had gathered for a meal following the 75th anniversary Mass of Rosary Chapel in Paducah on Oct. 16, 2022.

Pullen, the chairperson of the anniversary committee, said she had accepted the position after reflecting on all Rosary Chapel had done for her.

“I love this parish; I love the love,” said Pullen.

Earlier that day, Bishop William F. Medley had presided at the Mass, which was concelebrated by their pastor, Fr. Emmanuel Udoh; Fr.

Frank Roof; and Fr. John C. McVoy II, a priest of the Diocese of Wilmington, Del., who grew up at Rosary Chapel.

In his homily, Bishop Medley spoke of the bittersweet history of the parish.

“We cannot celebrate the establishment of Rosary Chapel without acknowledging the reasons were touched by sin, human failure, and prejudice,” said Bishop Medley.

The bishop explained that Rosary Chapel was founded in 1947 by Black Catholics who originally attended nearby St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah – but who at that time were considered second-class citizens. These parishioners were restricted to the last three pews at the back of the church.

“To be a part of St. Francis de Sales in those days was to accept segregation,” said Bishop Medley. “Racial segregation was real, and it was sinful – even in the Church.”

But, “God’s grace abounds even when we are sinners,” he said.

St. Francis de Sales’ pastor at the time, Fr. Albert Thompson, felt the need for the Black parishioners to have a place of their own to truly express themselves in worship. Rosary Chapel’s pioneer parishioners came together to build a church, and its first Mass was celebrated in 1947. A school opened that same year.

Bishop Medley said that in those first years, 87 adult converts entered the Catholic Church at Rosary Chapel.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

(Left) Shirley Bunch, a pioneer member of Rosary Chapel in Paducah and first graduate of Rosary Chapel School, speaks during the luncheon following the parish's 75th anniversary Mass on Oct. 16, 2022. (Right) Fr. John C. McVoy II, a priest of the Diocese of Wilmington, Del., who grew up at Rosary Chapel in Paducah, leads the opening prayer and blessing of the food during the luncheon.

“Our God has been able to bring good things out of bad things,” he said.

At the meal afterward, one of Rosary Chapel's pioneer members, Shirley Bunch, reflected

on her memories of the parish.

“I was baptized here, made my First Communion and Confirmation here, and graduated from the school in 1958,” she said, adding that

she was the only graduate that first year.

“I was also the valedictorian!” she joked.

From the onset, “Rosary Chapel was open to all, regardless of race or color,” said Bunch. “As our parish continues to grow – look at what we have now – we have a community, a unity. We are a church with rich members and I want to thank you for continuing.”

The Rev. Raynarldo Henderson, a representative from the Paducah City Office, attended the celebration on behalf of Mayor George Bray. A few days prior, Bray had proclaimed Oct. 16 to be a day of celebration in honor of Rosary Chapel.

That Sunday during the anniversary meal, the Rev. Henderson presented the proclamation once again to Fr. Udoh before all the people.

“You have made a tremendous impact on our community,” said the Rev. Henderson.

Fr. Udoh thanked all for attending the anniversary and invited visitors and newcomers to return any time.

“We are the fun church!” he said. ■

Stewarding the body and mind – one step at a time

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“You make your walks an adventure,” the late Bishop John J. McRaith once told Mary Margaret Drury many years ago, on the topic of the daily noon walks she takes with her friend and coworker Donna Biggs.

Drury and Biggs, who work at the McRaith Catholic Center (the central office of the Diocese

of Owensboro) have gone walking at lunchtime for 47 years and have no plans of quitting the tradition anytime soon.

The two recently spoke with The Western Kentucky Catholic about their heart-healthy habit during one of these noon walks.

“It makes you feel good mentally and physically,” said Biggs, the MCC's switchboard operator. She said daily walks can boost one's mood, ease depression

and help a person “feel better all around.”

Drury, the bookkeeper for the diocese's finance office, agreed: “I feel good all afternoon after going on a walk.”

They see many people along their walks whom they have befriended over the years.

One such friend is named Charles. He often sits out on his front porch with his sister and calls a greeting out to Drury and Biggs as they walk by.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Donna Biggs (left) and Mary Margaret Drury go for a walk through an Owensboro neighborhood during their lunch break on Oct. 17, 2022.

Other times they see him around the neighborhood riding his bike.

“He calls me Mama,” said Drury.

They have found a lot of different things on their daily walks, from nails and screws – which Drury always picks up from the road to prevent them from puncturing tires – to money.

Occasionally they have discovered more than even money or nails.

“We were on a walk when we met my Moxie,” said Biggs of the stray dog they encountered that was running in the street one day, and whom Biggs later adopted when the animal shelter never found an owner. Moxie has now settled into her forever home with Biggs.

They have also found a lost driver’s license in the street. It was convenient that they walk past Audubon Area Community Services anyway, where they dropped off the license in case someone came

looking for it.

They also walk past what they call “the cheapest gas station in town,” which sometimes sells barbecue outside. Once, the barbeque truck even gave them some delicious free samples.

The people of the neighborhood have come to expect and enjoy seeing Drury and Biggs regularly, and if one or the other is unavailable to walk that day, the neighbors ask after her. Once, Drury tripped and several neighbors ran out of their houses to help her up.

They have become such figures in the local area that sometimes people will approach them in the grocery store and say, “I see you on walks!”

The two been caught out in the rain multiple times, which doesn’t bother them too much. But when the weather is too bad for a walk, they might take an “off day,” which Drury said is nice because while they have a break, “you know you’ll go back

out again tomorrow.”

Drury offered advice for people who are hoping to become more active.

“Start off small,” she said. “Whatever you get is better than nothing. It’s for the health of the mind and the body. Never be too hard on yourself or beat yourself up if you can’t do it, because tomorrow’s another day!”

Drury added that people all have different responsibilities and might be busy with work or small children, “but if all you get is five minutes, that’s good! It’s about finding time that works for you.”

She said in her experience many Americans struggle with depression to some extent and she suggested being active – like going for a walk – to help ease some of those feelings.

“It’s a sense of accomplishment and it keeps you moving,” she said. “I think of it as a stewardship of the body.” ■

Bilingual conference forms parishioners, staff for intentional discipleship



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley lifts up the Eucharist during the opening Mass for “Living a Eucharistic Life as Missionary Disciples,” a conference held at the Owensboro Convention Center on Oct. 22.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Sherry Weddell, author of “Forming Intentional Disciples,” speaks during the “Living a Eucharistic Life as Missionary Disciples” conference in Owensboro on Oct. 22, 2022.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Dr. Gerardo Salazar sings and plays guitar to at the opening of a Spanish-language session at the “Living a Eucharistic Life as Missionary Disciples” conference in Owensboro on Oct. 22, 2022.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Oct. 22, 2022, a bilingual parish ministry and leadership conference was held at the Owensboro Convention Center, welcoming parishioners, volunteers, catechists, parish council members, pastors and staff.

The conference, titled “Living a Eucharistic Life as Missionary Disciples,” was hosted by the Diocese of Owensboro and spearheaded by Dr. Jeff Andrini, director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. It offered English and Spanish keynotes and tracks, featuring Sherry Weddell; Dr. Gerardo Salazar; Dr. Dora Tobar; Sal Della Bella; Sr. Cheryl

Clemmons, OSU; and Dr. Tad Dickel.

The day, which drew approximately 136 registrants, kicked off with a bilingual morning Mass, presided over by Bishop William F. Medley. In his homily, which was given in English and translated into Spanish by Dcn. Chris Gutiérrez standing beside him at the pulpit, the bishop said that belief in the Eucharist is “a profound act of faith.”

“One can only come to the Eucharist with faith... encountering Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, our brother and friend,” said Bishop Medley. “Christ keeps his promises he made at the Last Supper when he told his disciples ‘Do this in remembrance of me.’”

The conference had been preceded with a parish staff training workshop the day before, held at the McRaith Catholic Center, the pastoral center of the Diocese of Owensboro.

During the workshop, which was led by Weddell and drew 71 in-person and 10 parish groups via livestream, the participants learned how larger culture affects evangelization; how to recognize the stages of another’s spiritual journey; how to have spiritual conversations with people of all religious backgrounds or none; the first hopeful signs of change in a parish; and the practical first steps parish leaders take when setting out to make their communities a center of discipleship. ■

‘The need is great’ – Local nonprofit seeks to help those suffering amid Myanmar’s political turmoil

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A group of Catholics in western Kentucky are working together to help the people suffering amid Myanmar’s turmoil that has continued to devastate the southeast Asian nation following the 2021 military coup.

Through their nonprofit organization, called Myanmar Humanitarian Charities, Inc., they have three goals: providing basic needs like food, water and medical care; Catholic education for the children; and development of Catholic churches.

Myanmar Humanitarian Charities specifically fundraises for the people of the Dioceses of Hakha, Kaly, and Loikaw – which are the native dioceses of many people who came to the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., as refugees.

Western Kentucky is home to a significant population of refugees from Myanmar, according to the Kentucky Office for Refugees (KOR), a department of Catholic Charities of Louisville, Ky.

According to KOR, between 2017-2021 a total of 442 arrivals from Myanmar came to Bowling Green and a total of 235 arrivals from Myanmar came to Owensboro. Two parishes in the Owensboro diocese currently offer the opportunity for Burmese Mass: Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green and St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro.

As more people come to western Kentucky from Myanmar, they have spread an awareness of the plight of those back home.

“The need is so great,” said RoseMary Trowbridge,

who with her husband, Kenny Trowbridge, are members of Myanmar Humanitarian Charities’ board of directors and belong to St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.

“Things were bad already,” she added, referencing the country’s ongoing human rights abuses, poverty and turbulent political climate in which innocent people suffer the most. “But things are worse now.”

Fellow board member Andrew Mung, who came to the U.S. from Myanmar and today belongs to Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, Ky., said the people of Myanmar have suffered terribly since the coup took place in February 2021.

“In Myanmar, the Covid pandemic hit and everything shut down for a year,” said Mung. “Then the military junta took over... it is making life even worse.”

Board members said the atmosphere is even more terrible than the news has portrayed.

“Everywhere is dangerous, but especially for young people,” said board member Bernardine Naing, who also is from Myanmar and belongs to Holy Spirit.

The board members detailed further atrocities. The military has attacked churches, villages and even schools; in one instance 13 children were killed and many children and teachers were injured.

The board members said it is hard for citizens to be well-informed about what is happening because the military controls the media. In addition, citizens are required to have identity cards with their name, religion, and ethnicity.

RoseMary Trowbridge encouraged fellow western Kentuckians to consider donating to the mission at <https://helpmhc.org/donate/>. She said the Diocese of Owensboro is “indebted” to the Burmese people who have made Kentucky their home, blessing the diocese “with their presence.”

This past July, the National Catholic Burmese-American Conference took place in Owensboro, and included the ordination of only the second Myanmar-born priest in the U.S. in known history, Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling. (The first ordination of a Myanmar-born priest, Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than, also took place in the Owensboro diocese the year prior.)

The conference drew more than 1,800 participants from across the U.S.

Board member Kathryn Byrne commented on the witness of Burmese Catholics’ faith: “At a time that Catholics are falling away from the Church, it is a sign of hope.”

Her husband, Mike Byrne, who is also a board member, said Myanmar Humanitarian Charities is really a twofold project: not only “helping our overseas brothers and sisters,” but also “becoming neighbors with our fellow parishioners.”

“It’s a great way to get to know our fellow parishioners and is a step to becoming true friends,” he said.

“We are the Church for each other,” said RoseMary Trowbridge. “We are the universal Church.” ■

To learn more and assist, visit <https://helpmhc.org/>.

Resurrection parishioner receives new Sophia Award to replace original lost in Dawson Springs tornadoes

BY WKC STAFF

A Dawson Springs woman was recently surprised and blessed to be presented with a brand-new Sophia Award, which replaced her original award that was lost when her home was destroyed by the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes that devastated western Kentucky.

The annual Sophia Awards honor parishioners across the Diocese of Owensboro who are 65 years of age or older and who embrace and live lives of stewardship – giving of their time, talent and treasure. Nominees' names are submitted by their parishes and anyone who fits the criteria and has not already received a Sophia Award is eligible, whether they are lay people, members of a religious community, deacons or priests.

Smith, who belongs to Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, had only just received her 2021 Sophia Award when the tornadoes struck. Sadly, even Resurrection Parish was not spared, as the storms so badly damaged the little church that it was later deemed a total loss. (They have since been meeting for Mass in a shed on a parishioner's property until the new church is built.)

After the tornadoes passed and Smith's family attempted to dig out possessions amid the rubble, the Sophia Award was found – albeit badly beaten up. The diocese's Office of Stewardship was contacted about replacing Smith's award, considering the circumstances. They did – and on Oct. 9, 2022, Resurrection's pastor, Fr. David Kennedy, presented the new award to Smith at Sunday Mass.

As the parish continues to move forward in rebuilding their parish and their lives, Smith's new award was seen as a sign of promise and a brighter tomorrow. ■



COURTESY OF DCN. MIKE MARSILI

Fr. David Kennedy presents a brand-new Sophia Award to his parishioner, Ella Smith, who lost her original award when her home was destroyed by the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes that struck western Kentucky.

Monstrance-shaped moonrise follows pro-life music fest as a sign of hope

BY WKC STAFF

After the conclusion of the ninth annual Bluegrass on Lake Beshear – Pickin' Life music fest in Dawson Springs, Ky. on Oct. 8, attendees observed something remarkable.

"We were taking down the canopies and equipment when someone noticed this unusual phenomenon," said Dcn. Mike Marsili, a volunteer. "It looked to me like a cross-shaped monstrance with the moon as the host above it, but someone may have other interpretations."

Pictures, taken by different people, depict the reflection of the moon shining on Lake Beshear, which many agreed looked monstrance-shaped.

Bluegrass on Lake Beshear – Pickin' Life is a charitable organization that raises money for three life-affirming pregnancy care centers in the Madisonville, Hopkinsville, Benton and Eddyville areas. The festival's founders, Jeff and Laura Smith, are members of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, which was destroyed by the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes that struck western Kentucky.

In a September WKC article, Jeff Smith stated that "Our parish and community were knocked back by the tornado but we've stayed together, supported each other and we're rebuilding." ■



COURTESY OF CINDY MILLS

Holy Spirit Parish blessed with 19 new baptized members of Burmese community in Bowling Green



COURTESY OF FR. MARTIN MA NA LING

Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling, associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, stands with newly-baptized members of his parish on Oct. 15, 2022.



BY FR. MARTIN MA NA LING, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Oct. 15, 2022 was a blessing for us because Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green received 19 new members, including infants, children, and adults. We congratulate them.

They were well-prepared for the sacrament of Baptism both in Burmese and their own dialect. A parish leader, Mrs. Ma Mo of their community, translated what I taught in Burmese because some parishioners do not understand Burmese or English, instead speaking one of the other dialects of Myanmar. After their preparation was completed, I knew that they were ready to be baptized.

A lot of people from different tribes of Myanmar are coming together and coming back to the Church after COVID-19. Amazingly, among the 19 members baptized, this includes three whole families. It is God's blessing that the whole family receives Christ in the Church like the Philippian jailer and his whole family was baptized by Paul (Acts 16:32-33).

We had nine members baptized earlier in October. In the coming month, I am going to prepare the adults for receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. ■



COURTESY OF FR. MARTIN MA NA LING

The newly-baptized members of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, with their godparents on Oct. 15, 2022.

Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling is the associate pastor for Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green. Learn more about ministry to Catholics from Myanmar in western Kentucky at <https://www.myanmarcatholic.org/>.

St. Martin's celebrates steady parishioner growth with 'Sunday Fun Day'



COURTESY OF NICOLE GRAY

(Left) Children enjoy an inflatable castle and (right) recording artist Mitch Douglass, during the Oct. 2, 2022 Sunday Fun Day at St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky., introducing new parishioners to older parishioners.

BY NICOLE GRAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky., has grown so much in the past couple of years that they decided to host a Sunday Fun Day to help some of the newer members meet some of our “older” ones. St. Martin has always been known as a spirit-filled community of disciples committed to prayer, education and service, so it made sense to bring all the new members together in this fun way so they can continue to draw closer together as a faith-filled community.

Sunday Fun Day was celebrated Oct. 2, 2022, at St. Martin Parish. The event was a big success that had parishioners mingling, laughing, eating and enjoying each other as one big happy parish family. The event had multiple inflatables, a kiddie corner with activities, live music from recording artist Mitch Douglass and of course hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and ice cream.

There was even an impromptu balloon artist from one of the newer parish members who made balloon animals for the younger kids. Included in the activities was a 50/50 raffle that benefited one of our parishioners, Delaney Ebelhar, who is battling a very serious disease. The raffle too was a big success. ■

Nicole Gray is the director of communications at St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky.

Brescia hosts retreat for Ursuline academies



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Students from Ursuline schools in Dallas, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Wilmington, Del., attend “The Caritas of Angela: Love Through Ursuline Education” retreat that was held in September at Brescia University in Owensboro.

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

Twenty-four high school students from Ursuline academies around the country came to Brescia University in Owensboro on Sept. 15-17 for a retreat titled “The Caritas of Angela: Love Through Ursuline Education.” Sr. Pam Mueller, OSU, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph and director of campus ministry at Brescia, dressed as St. Angela Merici and told the story of the founder of the Ursuline Sisters to the students, to show how St. Angela’s teaching is still relevant today. There were four students each from Ursuline schools in Dallas, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Wilmington, Del. The event was done in partnership with the Ursuline Education Network. Sr. Mueller asked the students gathered in Duffy Auditorium questions St. Angela might have asked, such as: “How well do I know myself? Do I know how to pray? How much do I listen? Do I value having a spiritual life?” The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph founded Brescia (then known as the Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women) in 1925. ■

St. Teresa Ministries supports World Food Day by helping SVDP food pantries feed the hungry in local community

BY CATHY BEARD, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Teresa Ministries in Bowling Green, Ky., recently joined hands with St. Joseph and Holy Spirit St. Vincent de Paul food pantries to help provide additional food for distribution to those in need. St. Teresa Ministries helps support both food pantries monthly with combined annual contributions of over \$79,000.

World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on Oct. 16 to commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945. It's a day for us to remember those suffering from hunger and the international work being done to curb this epidemic.

St. Teresa Ministries stepped in to help the food pantries by supplying \$5,000 to each of the two food pantries in meat products to the pantries, including ground beef, drumsticks, franks, and sausage. These meat products enabled the pantries to provide much needed proteins in the food boxes for healthy diets. This food donation was in addition to the monthly donations made by St. Teresa Ministries to both St. Vincent de Paul food pantries in Bowling Green. Together, St. Teresa Ministries and the food pantries make a positive difference in the lives of many in our community

In Kentucky, more than 573,000 people face hunger, including 1 in 6 children. Many of us may not realize the grave disparities that exist in our own communities. People face hunger every day. They could be your neighbor, kids in your own kids' classrooms, seniors living on fixed income – the possibilities go on and on!

Inflation is squeezing people in need as well as the pantries they go to for help. More and more people are coming to the food pantries for help, while at the same time food pantries are hurting from a big drop in sourced food. The quantities and types of food available have been reduced thus making it very difficult for the food pantries to serve the growing needs of clients. The pantries are run by volunteers who work tirelessly to provide what food they can to those in need.

Our giving is made possible by generous donations of gently used clothing, home goods and furniture to St. Teresa Thrift Store, our loyal customers, and dedicated staff. We're very grateful to our donors for their continued generosity and for helping us help the Bowling Green community. ■

Cathy Beard is a member of the St. Teresa Ministries board of directors. She may be reached at cathy@beardandpartners.com and (270) 796-0267.



COURTESY OF ST. TERESA MINISTRIES
Volunteers Ken Herndon and John Bryce deliver food provided by St. Teresa Ministries in Bowling Green, Ky.



COURTESY OF ST. TERESA MINISTRIES
Volunteer Kent Hauser deliver boxes of food provided by St. Teresa Ministries in Bowling Green, Ky.

Mass attendance approaching pre-pandemic level

BY DCN. KEN BENNETT, OFFICE OF WORSHIP

The annual September Mass count report is complete, and the trend is positive. Despite continued COVID-19 disruption and December 2021 tornado impact, Mass attendance is trending upward. The percentage of registered parishioners throughout the diocese who attended Mass in September was 44.6 percent.

The percent of parishioners attending Mass in September 2022 represents a 5.3 percent increase from the same period in 2021. This year's percentage represents a healthy 15.88 percent increase over first-year pandemic numbers of 2020.

In comparison to pre-pandemic numbers, the year's 2019 and 2018 Mass attendance were 51.59 and 51.51 percent, respectively. Coming off the pandemic, the Diocese of Owensboro is within 7 percent of our pre-pandemic Mass attendance numbers.

This positive upward trend indicates that, despite continuing struggles with COVID-19 and natural disasters, the Catholics of western Kentucky are returning to our parishes. Likewise, this upward trend points to the devotion western Kentucky Catholics have for the Mass, the Eucharist, the Word of God, and the community found in our parishes.

This upward trend gives us reason to celebrate and reason to be thankful. We continue to pray as the faithful return to our parishes. We especially ask Our Lady, St. Stephen, and all our patron saints throughout the diocese to intercede on our behalf. ■

Dcn. Ken Bennett is the co-coordinator for the Office of Worship. Questions and comments may be sent to ken.bennett@pastoral.org.

Parish	City	Registered	Weekly Average	2022 Mass Attendance	2021 Mass Attendance	Difference
Blessed Mother	Owensboro	2,059	785	38.10%	32.00%	6.10%
Blessed Sacrament	Owensboro	93	57.5	62.00%	50.00%	12.00%
Christ the King	Madisonville	654	276	42.00%	34.00%	8.00%
Christ the King	Scottsville	165	74	45%	44.00%	1.00%
Holy Cross	Providence	15	8.3	55.00%	53.00%	2.00%
Holy Guardian Angels	Irvington	206	146	70.00%	45.00%	25.00%
Holy Name of Jesus	Henderson	3406	851.5	26.00%	22.00%	4.00%
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	171	229	133.00%	66.00%	67.00%
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	4450	1184	26.60%	22.00%	4.60%
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	55	142	258.00%	111.00%	147.00%
Immaculate	Owensboro	1779	750	42.00%	34.00%	8.00%
Immaculate Conception	Earlington	93	128	130.00%	131.00%	-1.00%
Immaculate Conception	Hawesville	374	158	42.00%	41.50%	0.50%
Our Lady of Lourdes	Owensboro	1603	622	38.80%	34.00%	4.80%
Precious Blood	Owensboro	815	331	40.00%	39.00%	1.00%
Resurrection	Dawson Springs	93	48.7	51.00%	72.00%	-21.00%
Rosary Chapel	Paducah	148	68	45.00%	66.00%	-21.00%
Sacred Heart	Hickman	41	26.5	65.00%	81.00%	-16.00%
Sacred Heart	Russellville	490	147	30.00%	23.20%	6.80%
Sacred Heart	Waverly	159	89	56.00%	53.00%	3.00%
Saint Agnes	Uniontown	641	284	44.30%	37.00%	7.30%
Saint Alphonsus	Saint Joseph	487	191.5	39.00%	30.00%	9.00%
Saint Ambrose	Henshaw	77	36.25	47.07%	39.30%	7.77%
Saint Ann	Morganfield	653	332.25	57.00%	44.89%	12.11%
Saint Anthony	Axtel	405	312	77.00%	35.00%	42.00%
Saint Anthony	Browns Valley	343	172.5	50.20%	44.90%	5.30%
Saint Anthony	Peonia	155	71	45.80%	38.10%	7.70%
Saint Anthony of Padua	Grand Rivers	76	99	130.00%	120.00%	10.00%
Saint Augustine	Grayson Springs	116	48	41.40%	41.40%	0.00%
Saint Augustine	Reed	90	56.5	62.00%	46.00%	16.00%
Saint Benedict	Wax	164	66	40.20%	43.70%	-3.70%
Saint Charles	Bardwell	112	73	65.00%	67.90%	-2.90%
Saint Charles Borromeo	Livermore	78	45	57.00%	46.00%	9.00%
Saint Columba	Lewisport	230	75	33.00%	32.00%	1.00%
Saint Denis	Fancy Farm	89	55.5	62.00%	49.70%	12.30%
Saint Edward	Fulton	51	28.75	56.00%	57.00%	1.00%
Saint Elizabeth	Curdsville	84	58.25	69.30%	89.00%	-19.70%
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary	Clarkson	151	109	72.00%	56.00%	16.00%
Saint Francis Borgia	Sturgis	158	96	60.00%	41.00%	19.00%
Saint Francis de Sales	Paducah	811	445	55.00%	39.00%	16.00%
Saint Francis of Assisi	Todd County	350	313.5	90.00%	88.00%	2.00%
Saint Henry	Aurora	129	113.5	87.90%	66.00%	21.90%
Saint Jerome	Fancy Farm	1298	626.25	48.00%	39.00%	9.00%
Saint John The Baptist	Fordsville	35	32.75	93.60%	88.13%	5.47%
Saint John the Evangelist	Paducah	525	245	47.00%	34.00%	13.00%

Continues on page 17

St. Mary Magdalene Parish celebrates pastor for coming from afar to serve their community

BY LAVIDA MISCHEL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Pastor appreciation takes on a whole new meaning when your pastor's "yes" takes him over 9,000 miles from his family, home, and country to serve

your parish. Realizing his sacrifice, on Oct.1 - a beautiful fall day - parishioners at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho celebrated their pastor, Fr. Augusty Valomchalil, who came from India to serve Catholics in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky.

As our parishes continue to welcome missionary priests, let us all truly appreciate their commitment and sacrifice. ■

Lavida Mischel is the administrative assistant for St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho.

Mass counts continued from page 16

Parish	City	Registered	Weekly Average	2022 Mass Attendance	2021 Mass Attendance	Difference
Saint John the Evangelist	Sunfish	99	32.5	33.00%	34.00%	-1.00%
Saint Joseph	Bowling Green	3464	1075	31.00%	31.00%	0.00%
Saint Joseph	Central City	156	85.75	54.90%	22.00%	32.90%
Saint Joseph	Leitchfield	636	252	40.00%	39.00%	1.00%
Saint Joseph	Mayfield	1260	595	47.00%	28.90%	18.10%
Saints Joseph & Paul	Owensboro	1291	819	63.40%	56.30%	7.10%
Saint Jude	Clinton	60	21.25	35.42%	63.60%	-28.18%
Saint Lawrence	St. Lawrence	307	128.75	42.00%	39.00%	3.00%
Saint Leo	Murray	840	473.5	56.00%	56.00%	0.00%
Saint Mark	Eddyville	109	121.5	111.00%	93.50%	17.50%
Saint Martin	Rome	504	456	90.00%	95.00%	-5.00%
Saint Mary	Franklin	451	203.5	45.10%	52.20%	-7.10%
Saint Mary	LaCenter	163	53.3	32.60%	36.30%	-3.70%
Saint Mary Magdalene	Sorgho	534	267	50.00%	42.00%	8.00%
Saint Mary of the Woods	McQuady	147	145	99.00%	29.00%	70.00%
Saint Mary of the Woods	Whitesville	2557	2156	84.00%	86.00%	-2.00%
Saint Michael	Sebree	332	231	69.60%	67.00%	2.60%
Saint Michael the Archangel	Oak Grove	659	251	38.00%	36.00%	2.00%
Saint Paul	Princeton	102	65.5	64.00%	56.00%	8.00%
Saint Paul	St. Paul	337	216	64.00%	0.00%	64.00%
Saint Peter of Alcantara	Stanley	266	154	58.00%	37.00%	21.00%
Saint Peter of Antioch	Waverly	476	209	44.00%	38.00%	6.00%
Saints Peter & Paul	Hopkinsville	1333	603	45.00%	45.00%	0.00%
Saint Pius X	Calvert City	300	178	59.00%	60.00%	-1.00%
Saint Pius X	Owensboro	1926	481.5	25.00%	39.00%	-14.00%
Saint Romuald	Hardinsburg	1219	500	41.00%	40.00%	1.00%
Saint Rose of Lima	Cloverport	239	141	59.00%	41.00%	18.00%
Saint Sebastian	Calhoun	196	137	69.00%	37.00%	32.00%
Saint Stephen	Cadiz	263	153	58.00%	43.00%	15.00%
Saint Stephen Cathedral	Owensboro	1396	475	34.00%	34.20%	-0.20%
Saint Thomas More	Paducah	2406	757.25	31.47%	23.03%	8.44%
Saint William	Knottsville	1043	394.75	38.00%	32.00%	6.00%
Saint William of Vercelli	Marion	49	47.5	97.00%	91.00%	6.00%
Totals		49,297	21,986.55	44.60%	39.30%	5.30%



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHEL

Fr. Augusty Valomchalil stands by yard signs spelling out "We love our pastor!" on the front lawn of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho.



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHEL

The parish community of St. Mary Magdalene in Sorgho share a meal celebrating their pastor, Fr. Augusty Valomchalil, who came from India to serve Catholics in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky.

NOVEMBER 2022 BULLETIN BOARD

Mass and confession times in the Diocese of Owensboro

Did you know you can view 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.

Belonging to Love: Prayer and Conversations online Nov. 10

Do you want to deepen your experience of God's presence and action in your life? If so, consider joining in the prayer and conversations with an Ursuline Sister and a spiritual director, brought to you by the Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Ministry. These monthly online sessions include time for inspiration, meditation, and meaningful conversation. This contemplative prayer program takes place on the second Thursday of the month. These are free online Zoom presentations -- donations are appreciated. Our next program is on Thursday, Nov. 10 from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CST. To register to receive the link, email doreen.abbott@maplemount.org or sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/> Future Belonging date: Dec. 8.

St. Henry Christmas Bazaar Nov. 12

St. Henry Parish, 16097 US Hwy. 68 E in Aurora, Ky., will be having a Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. There will be a large variety of vendors and arts & crafts, as well as a silent auction and delicious homemade baked goods. All are welcome to begin their Christmas shopping! Please contact the parish at (270) 474-8058 for directions or further information.

Join Ursuline Sisters for Eucharistic Adoration Nov. 13

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph invite the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on the second Sunday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Motherhouse Chapel in Maple Mount, Ky. (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). This adoration focuses on praying for vocations and concludes with evening prayer. Upcoming dates in 2022 are Nov. 13 and Dec. 11. The Ursuline Sisters also have Adoration that is open to the public on Fridays from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

Parish mission: Why be Catholic?

Join St. Martin Parish's Mission and Healing Service

entitled: "Why Be Catholic?" Fr. Ken Geraci lived the life of the prodigal son for most of his young adult life. Raised in a nominal Catholic family, who only lived the externals of the faith, Fr. Ken left the Catholic Church for many years. Focused on money, fitness, and success, he made little room for God, but God did not give up on him. Through a series of conversions, years of struggle, study and questioning, Fr. Ken found his way from agnosticism to non-denomination Christianity and ultimately back to the Catholic Church. Fr. Ken joined the Fathers of Mercy in 2006 and was ordained in 2012. This mission is for people of all ages and levels of faith, from those who are madly in love with Jesus, to those who cannot stand church or religion. The dates for the mission are Nov. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 at St. Martin Parish, 5856 State Route 81, Owensboro, Ky. We will have Adoration, benediction, confessions, healing service and music. Tuesday night will be a great night for teenagers and young adults. This mission is free. CDs will be for sale. More info: nicole@grayskymusic.com.

Brescia concert Nov. 30

Brescia University's band and choir will perform their annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in Taylor Lecture Hall on Brescia's campus. The concert is free and open to the public. For further information, contact Brett Ballard at brett.ballard@brescia.edu.

An invitation for widows and widowers

St. Henry Parish in Aurora has been providing a gathering space for widows and widowers in this area. This has been well received and we would like to open this opportunity to the broader community. We meet monthly to share a potluck meal, prayer and reflection and are often benefited by a guest speaker. All widows and widowers are welcome. Please call Mary Alice Kowalczyk at 270-354-8846 or Peggy Potempa at the St. Henry church office 270-474-8058 for coordination of food and for more information.

A Scout is Reverent

As we begin a new school year, it is time to begin working toward Scout religious emblems. They include for Cub Scouts: Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei and for Boy Scouts: Ad altare Dei and Pope Pius XII and Light is Life (Eastern Catholic) and for Girl Scouts and others: God is Love, Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary the First Disciple, The Spirit Alive, and Missio. For more information on these, please visit owensborodiocese.org/scouting/.

Brescia seeks licensed psychologist for tenure-track position

Brescia University is proudly rooted in the Ursuline tradition, valuing education, and serving community. Pandemic and

social upheaval have shown us many heroes, for whom we are truly thankful, especially given the shortages that are seen across so many professions that make the burden of these heroes greater. We pray for our heroes and we also call others to join them in serving community. We have graduate programs in Business, Social Work, Speech and Language, and Clinical Psychology. These offer training and skills to grow strong shoulders. Currently, to help us prepare others, we have need of a licensed psychologist for a tenure-track position in the MS Clinical Psychology Program. Some of the benefits include health, dental, life insurance, retirement, and tuition. Responsibilities include teaching in a hybrid format (in class/online hybrid), serving on committees, providing supervision, and community service. Brescia University is an equal opportunity employer. Diverse candidates are urged to apply to help us better serve our diverse community. Visit www.brescia.edu/employment for more information about this position!

Need a meeting space? Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium is available

Need a meeting space for up to 200 people? The Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium, located on the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph campus (8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky., 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56), is available for renting. The Auditorium is an open space with a kitchen equipped for catering. It's perfect for hosting wedding receptions, Christmas parties, birthday parties, class reunions, etc. It was built to serve Mount Saint Joseph Academy as a place to hold plays and recitals, and for athletic activities. Both the stage and the basketball court remain. There are two rental options, a partial rental for up to four hours (\$100) and a full rental which allows use for a full day (\$200). To reserve the Auditorium, contact the Mount Saint Joseph Finance Office by email: ap@maplemount.org or call the switchboard at 270-229-4103 and ask to speak to the Finance Office about renting the Auditorium. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. You can find out more on this webpage: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/renting-the-auditorium>.

Support groups for victims/survivors of clergy abuse

The Diocese of Owensboro would like to share some support group opportunities made available through the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. These groups are open to all victims/survivors in the United States. Learn more at <https://owensborodiocese.org/support-group/> and <https://owensborodiocese.org/safe/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE EUCHARIST CONTINUES



THE INCARNATION

Insights from the Saints

**Advent Retreat Day
Saturday, December 3
9 a.m.–4 p.m.**

**Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium
Optional First Sunday of Advent Mass
immediately following the retreat**

The three-year national focus on Reviving Catholic Eucharistic Devotion has begun. Prepare for Christmas by taking “time apart” to reflect on how the Eucharist – the sacramental presence of Jesus with us – continues the mystery of the Incarnation. Each preparation for Mass and Communion is a kind of “mini-Advent” for welcoming God-among-us.

Various saints in Catholic history been particularly devoted to the Eucharist. Retreatants will be offered insights from some of these saints and can share their own experiences of spiritual preparation both for Christmas and Communion if they wish.

The \$45 fee includes lunch. To register, call 270-229-2006, email cheryl.clemons@maplemount.org or go online: ursulinesmsj.org/the-eucharist-continues-the-incarnation/



RETREAT LEADER: 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

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November Wedding Anniversaries

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

Please send any anniversary updates or corrections to Sara Lewis, Office of Marriage & Family Life, at sara.lewis@pastoral.org.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

David & Jerri Rudd, 60
Donald & Lucy Hare, 67
Gene & Linda Howard, 58
Henry & Bernadette Hayden, 58
James & Monica Payne, 52
Joseph & Beverly Carrico, 53
Randall & Ruthie Payne, 55

Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro

Philip & Joyce Moorman, 65

Christ the King, Scottsville

Dave & Beth Gripp, 40
Leroy & Jean Jansen, 53

Holy Cross, Providence

Claude & Sherry Melton, 58

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Alvin & Loretta Heck, 71

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Billy & Sandy Haynes, 61
David & Kathleen Brauer, 52
Donald & Rita Meuth, 40
Gary & Brenda Crawford, 53
Larry & Jane Denton, 63
Leland & Donna Leslie, 58
Neal & Patricia Sigler, 50
Ralph & Jeannine O'Nan, 64
Sed & Amy Sheffer, 25
Steve & Debby Hayden, 50
Steve & Pam Austin, 56
Tony & Leslye Krampe, 10
William & Pam Crawford, 56

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Alan & Ginny Sims, 5
Bernard & Lois Schwitzgebel, 63
Don & Judy Dobernic, 57
John & Linda Meyer, 58
Joseph & Denise Deacon, 51
Randy & Jean Thompson, 61

Robert & Gayle Cron, 53
Timothy & Martha Vogel, 54
Wesley & Gail Simone, 54
Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Mike & Sheila Ogle, 57

Immaculate, Owensboro

Ben & Mickey Brewer, 44
Bill & Martha Mills, 61
David & Debbie McBride, 40
Joe & JoAnne Mason, 55
John & Becky Neal, 50
Larry & Jean Sims, 54
Link & Marsha Bell, 51
PJ & Sarah Hayden, 56
Stewart & Barbara Coomes, 68

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Donald & Janice Crask, 55
Estil & Dianne Woodward, 59
Gene & Shirley Zoglman, 62
James & Allison Lawless, 5
Nicholas & Katelyn Hawkinson, 5
Roy & Virginia Stevens, 51
Stephen & Patty Johnson, 58

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Larry & Linda Jollay, 55
Larry & Paulette Boswell, 52
Mike & Vickie Howard, 53
Sherman & Dolores Roberts, 59
William & Shelby Martin, 55

Resurrection, Dawson Springs

Jimmie & Patricia Solomon, 54
Sacred Heart, Hickman
David & Sandra Lattus, 55

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Kenneth & Karen Brown, 53

St. Agnes, Uniontown

David & Beverly Clements, 51
Larry & Connie Turner, 50
Ross & Jane Thomas, 63

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Aaron & Julia Hagan, 5
Ben & Margaret O'Bryan, 10

Jared & Candice Warren, 5
Robert & Mary Ann Mattingly, 65

St. Ann, Morganfield

Eddie & Mary Jo Steward, 57
Gary & Cathy Welden, 54
Mike & Brenda Thomas, 53

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Robert & Marie Mattingly, 57
St. Augustine, Grayson Springs
John & Sue Mudd, 59

St. Augustine, Reed

Billy Joe & Philomena Bollinger, 61

St. Charles, Bardwell

Dan & Janie Thomas, 56
Darryl & Angela Burgess, 54
Walter & Ethel O'Neill, 58
Wayne & Diane Wilson, 52

St. Charles, Livermore

James & Margie Logsdon, 59

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Frank & Jane Higgins, 5
Ray & Sue Potts, 52

St. Edward, Fulton

Bill & Jean Fenwick, 70
Pat & Susie Fenwick, 40

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville

John & Sherri McNulty, 5

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Irvin & Jean Langston, 50
Michael & Diane Thompson, 50

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Charles & Mary Ann Thomas, 64
David & Cindy Futch, 5
Edward & Lyndia Elder, 59
Hardy & Joyce Hayden, 53
Jerry & Linda Hari, 50
Joe & Wanda Mathys, 60
Michael E & Lisa Toon, 40
Philip & Teresa Hobbs, 50
Raymond & Rosie Hayden, 50
Tommy & Nancy Ballard, 54

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Bennie & Doris Durbin, 72
Francis & Dorothy Scheer, 68
Marvin & Marie Willett, 54

St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish

Bill & Cathy Canty, 51

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Stan & Cody Young, 60

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Alvaro & Micaela Hernandez, 10
Doug & Hilda Webb, 74
Fred & Nancy Lancaster, 53
Howard & Rita Darnell, 59

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Zachary & Jessica Brazier, 10

St. Leo, Murray

David & Margaret Perez, 56
John & Joan Mullins, 51
Mark & Jackie Kennedy, 53

St. Martin, Rome

Bobby & Mary Reisz, 50
Larry & Phyllis Henderson, 54
Wayne & Betty Hamilton, 57

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Jim & Martha Kamuf, 59
Mike & Mary Lou Jones, 40

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Gary & Patty Carwile, 53

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Dennis & Barb Evans, 50
Dub & Evelyn Millay, 68
Gary & Sylvia Howard, 53
Jacob & Olivia Baker, 10
James & Tara Groves, 5
Jesse &Carolynn Horn, 10
JW & Mary Morris, 70
Leo & Jo Ann Kauffeld, 52
Pat & Doris Waldeck, 51
Robert & Diane Higdon, 51
Tony & Sandra Johnson, 60

St. Mary, Franklin

Harry & Mae King, 59

Continues on page 21

ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries continued from page 20

St. Mary, LaCenter

Kenny & Norma Anselm, 53
Pat & Joan Hutchins, 55

St. Michael, Sebree

Artemio & Maria Gabriela Barco, 62
Rafael Benitez & Norma Nieto, 5

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Jeff & Sylvia Sanders, 40
Steve & Judy Summers, 40

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Hugh & Betty Cecil, 70
Sammy & Beth Hall, 40

St. Pius X, Calvert City

David & Vicki Spencer, 54
James & Shirley Poat, 56
Jerry & Gayle Seay, 69

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Dennis & Charlotte Gatton, 63
Don & Linda Logsdon, 53
Gary & Beverly Estes, 52
George & Geraldine Keller, 58
Michael & Nancy Ferguson, 54

Paul & Judy Brown, 52

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

George & Nancy Walz, 57
Jim & Gail Pollock, 52
Paul & Debbie Flood, 51
Tommy & Shirley Winchell, 40

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Bill & Candy Weatherholt, 52
Pat & Betty Henning, 40

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Erik & Katie Brewick, 5
Harry & Charlene Baumgarten, 66

James & Ashtin Warren, 10

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Joe & Janie Anderson, 57

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Jim & Sharon Godec, 60
John & Camille Warden, 52
John & Loree Eckstein, 25
John & Mary Ann Graves, 53
Justin & Tanya Cobb, 5

Mike & Yvonne Bosch, 56

St. William, Knottsville

Ben & Lindsey Bickett, 5
Andrew & Amanda Dill, 10
Brad & Melanie Mills, 25
Huck & Barbara Huskisson, 55
Lee & Sarah Mills, 10
Thomas & Stella Boehman, 58

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Danny & Mary Bartlett, 40
James & Joyce Logsdon, 56
Kelly & Becky Ward, 50

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Ronny & Darlene Fuller, 58

Correction to the October 2022 issue:

St. Pius X Owensboro

Denny & Jill Campbell, 40 years

St. Joseph Bowling Green

Kenneth & Veronica Rice, 55 years



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Tell a better story!



COURTESY OF DR. JEFF ANDRINI
Dr. Jeff Andrini's nephew displays the King Salmon he recently caught on a charter trip.

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Check out the King Salmon my nephew caught when we were on a charter trip a few weeks ago! Nice fish but seeing the picture does not do it justice. In fact, this kid lives to fish. The charter trip was a Christmas gift and we finally got it in during the three months of Michigan summer on the big lake.

We were trolling for a couple hours and had no hits. Snacks were good, company was great. Being on Lake Michigan is like being on the ocean. The cool breeze, the rocking of the boat, the warmth of the sun, these are precious moments of experiencing the gift of nature... and

waiting for the bite.

The bite came! The rod popped off the down-rigger and went straight up. You must grab it quick and reel until the line goes tight and then I handed the rod to my nephew. I knew it was big and was just praying he would land this fish. The line streamed out and finally after 15 minutes, the battle was over. His Christmas gift paid off big and he was one happy boy. And if you look really close at the picture, you can see my 10-inch fish hanging on the hook behind him. Not the most successful day of fishing but a story I'll never forget!

As Christians, we need to learn to tell better stories. So often, like many in our culture, we tend to avoid politics and religion. For many of us, our lives have been filled with countless blessings, through our families and the love we have experienced in life, and we are grateful. We feel lucky and blessed, but our experience is not the same as so many. There is so much brokenness in our world that ripples out in people's life experiences.

"To those who have been given much, much will be required" (Luke 12:48). We have good news! "You are loved" and this is not a message that all people hear very often. In our religion, we realize that God loves us personally. We are invited to participate in the communion of the Trinity; Father, Son, and Spirit, and live in this community of love. We are invited to encounter this union with God every day.

When we experience this love ourselves, our lives will overflow in love for others. If our re-

ligion is not a living connection to our loving Creator, we will miss the mark in living with gratitude and washing the feet of others. Our stories of faith should be rooted in the concrete ways God is working in my life today. Reflect on God's blessings, be filled full and overflow with joy for our blessed life as Catholics. And tell stories that are rooted in your experience of a God who loves and provides! Start with a smile and tell a good story!

Peace in Christ,

Jeff ■

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

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Why have a crucifix in your home?

BY DEACON JAY W. VANHOOSIER, OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Why have a crucifix in your home?

Some of you might find this surprising but I get asked this question quite a lot by Catholics, not just my Protestant friends! I would like to share with you five reasons why I feel it is important that a crucifix should be in your home, and not just a cross: a crucifix. There is vast difference. A cross is a simple reminder of the instrument the Romans used to execute criminals. A crucifix is a cross with a corpus, or body, of Jesus on it. Here are my five reasons:

We should have a crucifix in our homes because the saints have set this example for us. Prayer in front of a crucifix is encouraged as a means of focusing contemplation on Christ. Many of the saints practiced this, both in everyday prayer and also when they were suffering. Catherine of Siena was known to look upon a crucifix for hours each day and when Joan of Arc was martyred, she asked a member of the clergy present to hold a crucifix before her.

It reminds us not to run from the tough stuff. Jesus relied on his 12 apostles for so much. The night before He died, He begged them to stay with him throughout the night, and they all fell asleep. On the day when He needed them most, only John stayed with Him, choosing to remain with the Blessed Mother at the foot of the Cross. John didn't leave, and we should try and emulate that.

Our home is a "domestic church," and it is a holy place. Think about it: your home is inhabited by people who belong to God through baptism, are confirmed in the Holy Spirit, sanctified through the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage and fed



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER
A crucifix is pictured at a Maryland Catholic church.

with Christ's Body and Blood. It is a place where forgiveness is taught and sought, where our faith is passed on from one generation to the next and Christ's love is exemplified (though imperfectly.) Our home should reflect all of this with a prominent sign of Christ's sacrificial love: the crucifix.

The crucifix is a constant reminder that Christ has conquered sin and death, and ultimately conquered evil. We are surrounded by evil. Sometimes, it seems as if evil has the upper hand. That is not so, and Christ's death on the cross is proof. Simply have a crucifix to gaze upon in our homes is a reminder of this, and a way to strengthen us for battle! If you've never had a crucifix in your home, consider getting one. Ask your priest to bless it (it only takes a moment!). If you do have a crucifix, consider putting more in your home: in the bedrooms, for example.

The crucifix is a sign of God's overwhelming love for us; who doesn't need a constant reminder of that?

The crucifix is a visual reminder of the Eucharistic sacrifice we participate in when we come together in communion to celebrate Mass. When we participate in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we are witnessing the very same sacrifice that Jesus made for us 2,000 years ago – the very same! It is as if we are transported, each time we go to Mass, to be standing with Mary, Mary Magdalene, and John watching Jesus' suffering – just in a different form. That is almost an overwhelming thought! But it is true. And a crucifix continually reminds us of this – it draws to the Eucharist! ■

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.

Preserving the Requiem Mass of Bishop Francis R. Cotton



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES
The equipment for the archives' in-house digitization of reel-to-reel tapes.

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

During November, the Church celebrates those holy souls who have gone on to attain their heavenly reward. Keeping with this theme, I usually feature a relic from the archives for the November article. However, the archives is currently working on a very special project and the first fruits of this venture fit perfectly into this month's celebration.

Over the past hundred years many different analog formats of preservation have come and gone. Updating these to keep them accessible is a primary concern for archives. This is particularly true when the contents are at risk of deterioration. This is the case with the diocesan reel-to-reel collection. After so many years film and tape will begin to deteriorate, suffering from what is called vinegar syndrome. The name is derived from the strong vinegar odor produced by the affected medium. The process is unavoidable and once it sets in it is irreversible. This process has begun with most or all of our reel-to-reel tapes. Another article is warranted to fully explain the inhouse measures we are now undertaking to

preserve these records digitally. However, this article is about our very first digitally preserved product: Bishop Francis Ridgley Cotton's Requiem Mass.

On Sept. 30, 1960 at 10:34 a.m., the mournful song of a choir of priests erupts almost instantaneously filling the somber mood of St. Stephen Cathedral with a powerful combination of otherworldly lamentation and beauty. The ancient plea fills the towering cathedral: "Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine. Et lux perpetua luceat eis" ("Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them.") Archbishop John A. Floresh of the Archdiocese of Louisville, a friend of Bishop Cotton, stands before the altar, before Christ, prepared to celebrate the Pontifical Mass of his fellow bishop.

The cathedral was filled to capacity and the Owensboro radio station WOMI broadcasted the Mass to hundreds of homes for those who could not gain entrance into St. Stephen. The service is beautiful, a ritual opus constructed by thousands of years of Catholic bereavement and faith in the world to come. The ceremony is narrated for those listening by Fr. Charles Saffer of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Bishop Grimmelsman of the Diocese of Evansville gave the sermon reflecting on the service of Bishop Cotton. His address is remarkable. His words are not sweet and covered in honey. They are sober and dispassionate; a sendoff Bishop Cotton would have appreciated. He recalls a man that is today a mythical figure of austere and unbending discipline. Many now, and presumably then, find him harsh. Bishop Henry J. Grimmelsman recounted that "He did not surrender to the common failing to seek popularity at the expense of duty." He recalls Bishop Cotton's successes in the diocese. In his 22 years as bishop, 30% of Catholic children attending Catholic schools rose to 90%, 30% more parishes and 70% more Catholic schools were erected, and the number of seminarians from the area went from 28 to 64. The list goes on and on.

This is a moment snatched from time. These are the same words you, your parents or grandparents heard on that day many years ago. This is a project that the archives is very excited about. So many local Catholic moments will be given life once again. ■

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.

A celebration of the collective gifts brought by Black Catholics

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

The Office of Black Catholic Ministry would like to offer special congratulations to Rosary Chapel, an historically Black Catholic parish in Paducah, on celebrating their 75th anniversary in October. Rosary Chapel is the model of Black Catholic parishes exemplifying inclusion of all races and cultures while maintaining their identity!

November is Black Catholic History Month during which Black Catholics strive to highlight the contributions of African-American Catholics to events in history and contemporary society. During the month of November the Church celebrates the feasts of All Saints Day (Nov. 1), All Souls Day (Nov. 2), St. Martin de Porres (Nov. 3); and the birth of St. Augustine (Nov. 13). This commemoration began in 1990 when the delegates to the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus passed a resolution to do so.

Today, there are many reasons for celebrating the gifts brought to the Church by an estimated 3 million-plus Black Catholics in the US. There are more than 700 predominately Black Catholic parishes and eight active Black bishops: Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., auxiliary bishop of Washington; Bishop Fernand J. Cheri, OFM, auxiliary bishop of New Orleans; Bishop Joseph A. Espaillat, auxiliary bishop of New York; Bishop Jacques E. Fabre, C.S., bishop of Charleston; Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, archbishop of Louisville; Bishop Jerome Feudjio, bishop of the U.S. Virgin Islands; Cardinal Wilton Gregory, archbishop of Washington; and Bishop Jo-

seph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago. There are 250 African American priests; 437 deacons; 75 men of African descent in seminary formation; 400 African American religious sisters; and 50 religious brothers and numerous African missionary sisters and priests throughout the U.S.

Another reason for celebration is the inspiring list of Black men and women whose causes for canonization are being advanced. In 2018, the historically Black Catholic Xavier University of Louisiana (founded by St. Katharine Drexel) announced that its Institute of Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) would support efforts toward the canonization of five Black Catholics:

- Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1766-1853), the former slave and philanthropist who is buried in New York's Saint Patrick's Cathedral.
- Venerable Henriette Delille (1813-1862), from New Orleans, a descendant of slaves who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family;
- Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (ca. 1794-1882), the Haitian refugee who had a passion for educating children and who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence.
- Servant of God Fr. Augustus Tolton (1854-1897), who was born in slavery and eventually attended seminary in Rome because no American seminary would accept him, and who was a pastor in Chicago.
- Servant of God Julia Greeley (c. 1833-1918), the former slave who was Denver's "Angel of

Mercy," now buried in Denver's cathedral.

Later, the Diocese of Jackson announced the beginning of formal efforts to advance the cause for canonization a sixth candidate – Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, one of the founding members of the IBCS. There is reason for great hope that these six figures will inspire generations of Catholics regardless of race.

There are many Black Catholic organizations and ministries actively leading the empowerment, evangelization, inclusion and ministry of Black Catholics and the Black community such as: The National Black Catholic Congress, The National Association of Black Catholic Administrators, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops African American Affairs, The Knights of Peter Claver/Ladies Auxiliary, National Black Catholic Seminarians Association, National Black Sisters Conference and diocesan offices of Black Catholic Ministry are just a few examples of the collective gifts brought to the Church.

A conversation about gifts without mention of the liturgists and musicians who lead our praise and worship would be incomplete. In the 1982 the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Black Catholic Ministry sponsored REJOICE!, The first Conference on Black Catholic Liturgy. In 1989, Washington Auxiliary Bishop Leonard Olivier led a group of nearly 100 Black priests, theologians, historians, liturgists, musicians, and parishioners to Rome for an international REJOICE! Conference. Through presentations by Fr. Clarence Williams, Sister Eva

Continues on page 26

Celebration of Black Catholics continued from page 25

Marie Lumas, Leon Roberts, then-Fr. Edward Braxton, and Dr. Diana Hayes, the rich tradition of Black Catholic liturgy was presented at the Vatican. The impact of the conference was felt nationally and internationally within the Church.

As much of the work of Black Catholics has been motivated by the pastoral letter "Open Wide Our Hearts," the work in forming REJOICE! was based on an earlier letter from the Black bishops of the United States, "What We have Seen and Heard," which specifically promoted the training of liturgists and catechists in a liturgy that was authentically Black and truly Catholic. The Black bishops of the United States encouraged Black Catholics to share the richness of their Black experience with the entire people of God. REJOICE! shared that abundance with the entire world. ■

Upcoming events

The Interregional African American Evangelization Conference (IAACEC), which offers continuing ed credits in Afrocentric Ministry and Evangelization, will be held March 16-19, 2023 in Cincinnati. The National Black Catholic Congress will convene July 20-23, 2023, in Washington, D.C. Rooms are filling fast. Reserve now by contacting the office of Black Catholic Ministry: (270) 683-1545 or veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org.



COURTESY OF DON WILKINS, MESSENGER-INQUIRER
Fr. Ray Clark is pictured with his newly adopted dog, Panni. One of his other dogs, Fallin, is seen on the left.

Adoption as a metaphor for Baptism

adopted several dogs. The latest of these is a gray, miniature pinscher named Panni. I led the funeral for Panni's master, an older woman, and when Panni didn't fit in with the dogs of the adult son I took her in.

Unlike my other dogs Panni stares into my eyes. At first her eyes showed the sadness she felt as she grieved the death of her master. Now her eyes say: "I'm hungry, time to eat!" or "Get off that computer thing!" At other times she licks me and says: "I love you." Wherever I am, Panni is close by. She has gone from being "their" dog to "mine," a member of my family.

Adoption is a concept St. Paul uses in his letters to describe what takes place in Baptism. In Baptism God adopts me as His son along with His natural-born son Jesus.

But the concept of adoption goes back in the Scriptures even farther. It is in the very language God uses to describe His relationship with His people. The book "Marriage and Family in the Biblical World," edited by Ken Campbell, notes that the words for adoption in ancient Israel were: "I will be his father and he shall be my son." Throughout

the Old Testament the phrase that God uses: "You will be my people and I will be your God," is that of adoption.

The song "My Boy" by the country artist Elvie Shane from Caneyville, describes what this looks like in our American culture. He tells the story of meeting the eight-year-old son of his girlfriend for the first time, and as the relationship progresses: "It hit me like a train the first time he called me 'Dad,' with a three stick-figure crayon drawing with all of us holding hands. / His mama said: 'I understand if it's too soon for this,' I didn't let her finish, I took it to the kitchen and I stuck it on the fridge. / (Chorus) He ain't my blood, ain't got my name, but if he did I'd feel the same, / I wasn't there for his first steps but I ain't missed a ballgame yet, / And that ain't ever gonna change, I could never walk away, / Yeah, he's my son and that's my choice, / He ain't my blood but he's my boy."

Adoption is the experience God uses to help us appreciate the relationship we have with Him through Baptism.

I hope that I may be as attentive to God as Panni

Continues on page 27

Neighbors help St. Mary Parish feed hungry local families

BY JIM DALE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In this day and time, it has been increasingly difficult to feed the poor. Not to mention to help with everyday household bills and clothing for those in need. We are seeing more homeless than ever before. St. Mary Parish in Franklin, Ky., is a parish of 180 families. And they need our help!

My name is Jim Dale and I am the southeast district council president for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Western Kentucky. I have been in this position for close to 5 years. I am currently helping St. Mary's SVDP conference with food preparation. Having to make more than 20 bags of food for those in need is becoming increasingly difficult. Our distribution occurs each weekend with the help of other volunteers. Without the volunteers who give of their time to distribute the food, the families in the area go hungry. Without the donations coming in from our church members we would be unable to buy the food needed.

In the last several months the price of the food has skyrocketed. We are not able to buy as much food as is needed. The conference president and volunteers decided to put less food in the bags to help make what little food we did have last. During this same time, we have had an increase in families who need the food we give. The number of the families

have grown from an average of 20 to 25 a week to 40 to 50. The volunteers now make up over 40 bags every weekend to meet the need. And the bags were being filled with as little as 4 to 5 items of food in each bag.

The conference had no money left to buy more food. Only what our blessed church members could afford to give. As a group the volunteers prayed for relief of their situation... and it came. Two anonymous individuals gave a thousand

dollars apiece along with the ladies' church group which also gave a thousand dollars. The Fathers of Mercy heard of our need and came with food to stock up our pantry. They have been coming with food once every two weeks for the past two weeks. The volunteers can now make up an excess of over 40 bags and keep the bags full of food. And in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, I personally would like to thank the Fathers of Mercy for the food they have brought. I also would like to thank the two individuals (whoever they may be) and the ladies' group at the church for blessing us with their donations.

As the volunteers gathered Sep. 13, 2022, they did not know that a large crowd was headed their way. They had a total of 75 families that day lined up outside the church in their vehicles waiting to get food. I guess the word was passed along on the amount of food that the conference had and now



COURTESY OF JIM DALE
Cars line up to receive bags of food at St. Mary Parish in Franklin, Ky.

more families in need are showing up.

The monetary donations and the food we are now blessed with will not last forever, however. A St. Vincent de Paul store is needed in our area to support these families not just with food but with clothing and help with utilities. I would like to ask for your prayers to help us with opening a store and any monetary donations you are able to give. It is desperately needed. ■

Learn more at svdpwesternky.org.

Adoption metaphor continued from page 26

is to me. But apart from the closeness I may feel to each of my dogs, depending upon their behavior at the moment and the kind of day I am having, each has a place in my home. I claim each as my own.

My home has become Panni's "forever home" and she has won a place in my heart. Through Baptism God has become my forever God and I have gained a

place in God's heart and become His son. ■

Fr. Ray Clark is a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro. This column was dedicated to the memory of David Bartholomy, writing instructor at Brescia University for 48 years, from whom Fr. Clark learned the skill of writing. Bartholomy died June 18, 2022.

This column was originally published in the Messenger-Inquirer on June 25, 2022, and has been reprinted with permission.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

¿Quiénes son sus santos favoritos?

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, En nuestra tradición católica observamos el mes de noviembre como un tiempo de conmemoración especial de todos los fieles difuntos. Cada año el 2 de noviembre se celebra la Conmemoración de Todos los Fieles Difuntos (Día de Muertos), pero todo el mes es un tiempo de recordar y orar por todos aquellos “que nos han precedido marcados con el signo de la fe”. Algunas parroquias notan este recuerdo especial mostrando de manera prominente los nombres de los feligreses que fallecieron el año anterior. Es una práctica antigua para someter a la misericordia de Dios a los que han muerto.

Sin embargo, no es una coincidencia que el mes comience con una Conmemoración de Todos los Santos (Día de Todos los Santos, el 1 de noviembre). Honramos y estimamos a todos los santos, todos aquellos quienes confiamos que descansan ahora con Dios en el cielo. Los nombres de estas multitudes, en su mayor parte, ahora son conocidos solo por Dios, pero su gloria es igual que la de los grandes santos reconocidos a través de los tiempos. Es un día apropiado, entonces, para recordar a aquellos hombres y mujeres que moldearon y formaron nuestra fe, vivieron vidas de valentía tranquila, y ahora estamos seguros de que descansan con Dios y con todos los ángeles.

He mencionado muchas veces que disfruto encontrarme con niños y jóvenes e invitarlos a que me hagan preguntas sobre Dios, la Iglesia y aspectos de la fe. Una de las preguntas que más me hacen es, ¿quiénes son sus santos favoritos? Esta lista en mi

corazón cambia con el tiempo, pero algunos siguen siendo mis favoritos que me inspiran.

Siempre respondo que la santa predilecta de todos los creyentes debe ser María, Madre de Dios y Madre de la Iglesia. La Iglesia acentúa esto al honrar a María con fiestas especiales durante todo el año. Honramos la Anunciación del Señor, la Inmaculada Concepción, la Asunción y el Nacimiento de María, por nombrar algunos. María también es honrada con varios títulos y días festivos: Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Nuestra Señora de Fátima y Nuestra Señora de Loreto. Algunos honores otorgados a María son distintos a culturas o nacionalidades particulares.

Tengo un cariño especial por San Pedro, uno de los 12 apóstoles, el elegido para ser la “piedra” sobre la cual Jesús escogió edificar la Iglesia. Mi especial devoción a San Pedro no se debe a que haya sido el primer obispo de Roma, el primer Papa. No es porque la iglesia más grande del mundo esté construida sobre su tumba y lleve su nombre. Me gusta San Pedro por las historias que los Evangelios contienen sobre su relación con Jesús. Hay historia tras historia de las deficiencias de Pedro, las limitaciones de su fe. “Nunca te negaré, Señor”, afirmó justo antes de negar tres veces a Jesús en la hora de su mayor necesidad. Presumió de que caminaría sobre el agua para encontrarse con Jesús en mares tormentosos, pero se hundió. ¿Será por el sentido del humor de Jesús que lo llamó Pedro, que significa piedra? A pesar de todos sus defectos, amaba a Jesús y Jesús lo amaba a él. Debe haber sido una verdadera sorpresa

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY NOVIEMBRE DE 2022	
3 DE NOV.	6 p.m. Reunión de la Junta de Revisión Diocesana – Centro Católico McRaith (MCC)
9 DE NOV.	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – MCC 10 a.m. Reunión del Personal Diocesano – MCC
10 DE NOV.	9 a.m. Misa Escolar – Escuela Secundaria Católica de Owensboro, Owensboro
12 DE NOV.	5:30 p.m. Cena & Subasta en la Escuela Preparatoria Santa María – Paducah
13-17 DE NOV.	Reunión de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos – Baltimore, Maryland
19 DE NOV.	5 p.m. Misa de Clausura de la Conferencia de Adolescentes de la Diócesis de Owensboro – Centro Knicely, Bowling Green
21 DE NOV.	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – MCC 1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – MCC
22 DE NOV.	10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Horas de oficina en Paducah
29-30 DE NOV.	Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky y Reunión de los Obispos de la Provincia – Louisville

para los demás apóstoles cuando Jesús le confió las llaves del reino a alguien que había fracasado con tanta frecuencia. Las fallas de Pedro siempre me tranquilizan sobre el destino de nuestra Iglesia, que Dios está a cargo y que todos somos discípulos imperfectos.

Continúa en la página 29

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San Francisco de Asís a menudo estará entre los 10 favoritos de la mayoría de los católicos. De hecho, el culto de San Francisco se extiende más allá de las fronteras católicas por el amor que manifestó por toda la creación, hablando del hermano sol y la hermana luna y la dignidad que otorgó a los animales. Aunque nacido en una familia rica, experimentó una profunda conversión y renunció a todas las posesiones terrenales. Sorprendentemente, muchos de sus contemporáneos se sintieron atraídos por su vida sencilla y su amor por los pobres. Incluso dentro de su corta vida, murió a los 45 años, comenzó a enviar a sus seguidores a difundir el Evangelio. Cuando el argentino Jorge Bergoglio fue elegido por el Colegio de Cardenales para ser Papa en 2013, solo tuvo unos momentos para elegir el nombre por el que sería conocido. El cardenal sentado a su lado susurró: “No te olvides de los pobres”. Bergoglio

luego relató que fue en este momento que eligió el nombre de Francisco. Mi segundo nombre es Francis, fui bautizado y crecí en la parroquia San Francisco de Asís.

En 2001 tuve la oportunidad de viajar en peregrinación a Lourdes, Francia. Conocía las líneas básicas de la historia de las apariciones de María a una joven de 14 años, de familia pobre, enfermiza por desnutrición, y analfabeta por la miseria de su familia. Allí, los peregrinos recorren la historia de Santa Bernardita desde su lugar de nacimiento hasta la cárcel abandonada donde vivía su familia, la cueva donde se encontró con una mujer hermosa, hasta su descubrimiento del manantial de agua al que María la condujo. Las pruebas y el ridículo que ella y su familia experimentaron mientras buscaban honrar las directivas de la Santísima Madre la formaron como una santa. La historia de Santa Bernardita se

desarrolló con las apariciones en 1858, por lo que esta historia no es historia antigua en la larga historia de la Iglesia. El pueblo de Lourdes se hizo famoso casi instantáneamente, lo que explica la conservación de lugares desde la época de Santa Bernardita. Pero esta misma fama fue difícil para la joven, y dejó el pueblo para unirse a un convento en Nevers, Francia y vivir una vida de clausura.

¿Puedo invitarlos a considerar sus santos favoritos? Si no tienen favoritos, lean sobre los santos o búsquenlos en Google. Ellos nos pueden llevar a Jesús. ■

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro



Brescia necesita un psicólogo con licencia para una pista de tenencia en el programa de Maestría en Psicología Clínica

La Universidad de Brescia está orgullosamente arraigada en la tradición Ursulina, valorando la educación y sirviendo a la comunidad. La pandemia y la agitación social nos han mostrado muchos héroes, por quienes estamos realmente agradecidos, especialmente dada la escasez que se ve en tantas profesiones que hacen que la carga de estos héroes sea mayor. Oramos por nuestros héroes y también llamamos a otros a unirse a ellos para servir a la comunidad. Tenemos programas de posgrado en Negocios, Trabajo Social, Habla y Lenguaje, y Psicología Clínica. Estos ofrecen entrenamiento y habilidades para crecer en responsabilidad. Actualmente, para ayudarnos a preparar a los demás, necesitamos un psicólogo con licencia para una pista de tenencia en el programa de Maestría en Psicología Clínica. Algunos de los beneficios incluyen seguro de salud, dental, y de vida, además de jubilación y matriculación gratuita. Las responsabilidades incluyen enseñar en un formato hyflex (en clase / híbrido en línea), servir en comités, proporcionar supervisión y servicio comunitario. Brescia University es un empleador de igualdad de oportunidades. Se insta a los candidatos diversos a postularse para ayudarnos a servir mejor a nuestra comunidad diversa. ¡Consulte nuestro sitio web a www.brescia.edu/employment para obtener más información sobre esta posición! ■

La conferencia bilingüe de liderazgo y ministerio parroquial se llevó a cabo el 22 de octubre



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

Los músicos guían a los fieles en los cantos durante la Misa de apertura de la conferencia “Viviendo vidas eucarísticas como discípulos misioneros” en Owensboro el 22 de octubre de 2022.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

El 22 de octubre de 2022, se llevó a cabo una conferencia bilingüe de liderazgo y ministerio parroquial en el Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro, dando la bienvenida a feligreses, voluntarios, catequistas, miembros de los consejos parroquiales, párrocos, y personal parroquial y diocesano.

La conferencia, titulada “Viviendo vidas eucarísticas como discípulos misioneros”, fue organizada por la Diócesis de Owensboro y encabezada por

el Dr. Jeff Andrini, director de la Oficina de Evangelización y Discipulado. Ofreció presentaciones y pláticas en inglés y español, con la participación de Sherry Weddell, Dr. Gerardo Salazar, Dra. Dora Tobar, Sal Della Bella, Hna. Cheryl Clemmons, OSU y Dr. Tad Dickel.

El día, que atrajo aproximadamente a 136 personas, comenzó con una Misa bilingüe presidida por el Obispo William F. Medley. En su homilía, que fue pronunciada en inglés y traducida al español por el Dcn. Cristóbal Gutiérrez quien se paró junto a él en



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

La Dra. Dora Tobar comparte durante una sesión en la conferencia “Viviendo vidas eucarísticas como discípulos misioneros” en Owensboro el 22 de octubre de 2022.

el púlpito, el obispo dijo que creer en la Eucaristía es “un profundo acto de fe”.

“A uno solo le resta acercarse a la eucaristía con una intensa fe... a ese encuentro con Cristo Jesús, nuestro Señor y Salvador, nuestro hermano y amigo”, dijo el Obispo Medley. “Cristo es fiel a sus promesas también hechas durante la última cena cuando les dice a sus discípulos: ‘hagan esto en memoria mía’”.

Las sesiones incluyeron los temas de la iglesia

Continúa en la contraportada

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 Santa María, Franklin

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

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís, Guthrie

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

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 María Lina Ramos (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 María Angélica López Rodríguez (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 Mikulcic (270) 726-6963 o Diacono Edwin Pacheco (913) 542-8948

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree

57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455
 Contacto: Padre Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-7737

Terapeutas de habla hispana

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

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Para 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 Scott Ingram, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o 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/es>.

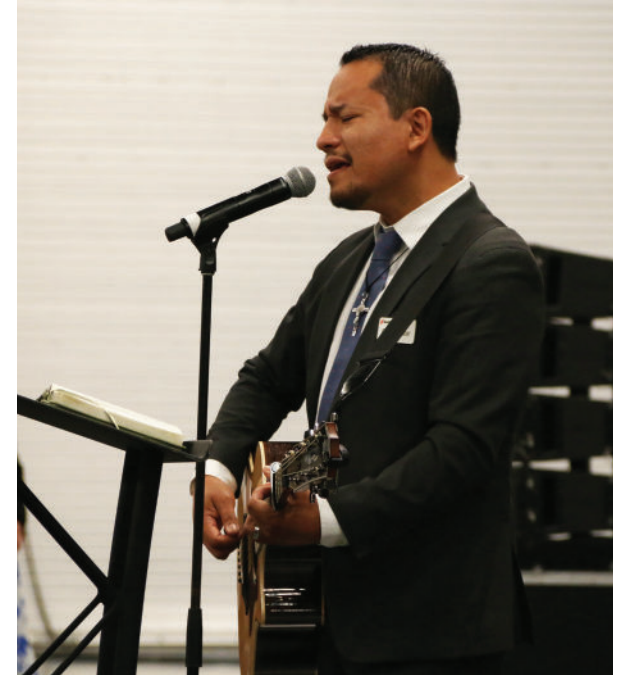


Continuado de la página 30

doméstica, cómo vivir nuestra fe en familia, y también sobre la comunicación entre los esposos y de los padres hacia los hijos. Se terminó el día reflexionando sobre cómo la Eucaristía sana, tanto individualmente como a las familias. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
El Obispo William F. Medley recibe las ofrendas durante el ofertorio en la Misa de apertura de la conferencia "Viviendo vidas eucarísticas como discípulos misioneros" en Owensboro el 22 de octubre de 2022.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
El Dr. Gerardo Salazar imparte una plática durante una sesión en la conferencia "Viviendo vidas eucarísticas como discípulos misioneros" en Owensboro el 22 de octubre de 2022.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Las hermanas religiosas de las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Ad Gentes rezan durante la Misa de apertura de la conferencia "Viviendo vidas eucarísticas como discípulos misioneros" en Owensboro el 22 de octubre de 2022.