

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

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Healing, thriving

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Español

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Christ is king

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Rebuilding together

Khaibar Shafaq, a paralegal and case manager for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, works with client Sheila Rose. One year after the tornadoes devastated western Kentucky on Dec. 10, 2021, Catholic Charities is committed to helping communities recover.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



'There is a lot of hope'

A year after the December 2021 tornadoes, the people of Dawson Springs are rebuilding and slowly returning to their homes. Lesley Mills, the principal of nearby Christ the King School in Madisonville, which provided support and essentials for survivors, asked that people "keep praying because some people are still in shock." Her childhood parish of Resurrection in Dawson Springs was totaled and plans are underway to rebuild it. "There is a lot of hope," she said.

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Front page main photo: Courtesy of Susan Montalvo-Gesser

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

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

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Praying, healing, and rebuilding a year after the tornadoes

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the night of Dec. 10, 2021, I was not watching television and was not aware of the reports of tornado warnings across western Kentucky. Storms were never severe in Owensboro where I was that night, so I slept well. When I awoke on the morning of the 11th I checked into my regular news apps, and I began to learn of the devastation across our diocese

Information was limited as my cable television was out, as was my cellular phone service, but as I pieced together the scope of the tragedy, the widespread destruction limited even news sources from detailed reporting.

When finally I gained limited cell service I sought to reach the pastors of St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield and Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs. I left them messages, but it was late in the day before their own cellphones delivered the messages. It was great relief to learn that they were safe. In the meantime, I did reach some other pastors in these areas, but often they did not have accurate updates and naturally were blocked from venturing into affected areas. Repeatedly, however, they said what they were hearing: "It's really bad, many people are dead or missing."

On Sunday, Dec. 12 I traveled to St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm in Graves County, only a few miles from Mayfield. I joined Fr. Eric Riley, pastor of St. Joseph in Mayfield, in celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe for a mostly Hispanic gathering. Driving along Interstate 69 (formerly

the Pennyriple and Western Kentucky Parkways) I observed the wide swaths of the storms. Only first responders could enter Mayfield or Dawson Spring at that time.

But that day I began to hear firsthand accounts of the devastation and the trauma thousands had experienced.

Even on that Sunday I began to get calls from bishops and pastors from around the country assuring help: we're sending supplies, we'll take up a special collection. I was so very grateful and moved by these expressions of support. But, I wondered, where do we begin?

On Monday morning, Dec. 13, our Catholic Charities director, Susan Montalvo-Gesser, told me that she had heard from Catholic Charities USA and that they were immediately sending us \$10,000 for recovery efforts. An hour later she told me they had called again – and they were sending \$1 million. And yet another hour later they called to say that they would be sending a disaster relief specialist to help us begin to organize.

So, one step at a time, with support from all over the country (which you will read about in this issue of *The Western Kentucky Catholic*), we could begin to bring the kindness and mercy of God to people in a very precarious periphery. I know that all major Christian denominations and innumerable other charities have also brought compassion and been healers to victims of the storms. I thank all of them.

In this time of trial and loss I am very proud to be

BISHOP MEDLEY'S DECEMBER 2022 CALENDAR	
DEC. 1	8 a.m. School Mass Trinity High School, Whitesville
DEC. 3	4 p.m. Mass for Spanish Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage Brescia University, Owensboro
DEC. 6	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Eucharistic Revival Gathering Owensboro Convention Center, Owensboro
DEC. 8	9 a.m. School Mass Owensboro Catholic Schools 4-6 Campus, Owensboro
DEC. 10	10 a.m. Ribbon Cutting for 10 New Homes in Dawson Springs
DEC. 11	12:30 p.m. Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
DEC. 13	Catholic Conference of Kentucky Meeting Louisville
DEC. 14	10 a.m. Staff Meeting McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
DEC. 19	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting Owensboro 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting Owensboro

a part of the Catholic Church that can respond so generously and effectively. I would note, too, that last summer when our neighbors in southeastern Kentucky in the Diocese of Lexington experienced the devastation of floods that our parishes of the

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Diocese of Owensboro took up a special collection – totaling approximately \$190,000 – to assist them. Who knows better how to offer charity than those who have received charity?

Full recovery remains years away as we rebuild and heal from what happened in our diocese a year ago this month. I ask for your continued prayers, and, if you feel so called, consider volunteering your time to help in recovery efforts. You can learn more about that by contacting Catholic Charities at (270) 852-8328.

Let us keep each other in prayer.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Happy anniversary to the following priests:

Fr. Babu Kulathumkal
Ordained 12/18/1996

Pastor, St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro

Fr. John Paul Mang
Ordained 12/11/2001

Parochial vicar, St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Jegin Puthenpurackal
Ordained 12/27/2004

Pastor, St. Sebastian Parish, Calhoun;
St. Charles Parish, Livermore

Pray for vocations in the Diocese of Owensboro and learn more at owensborovocations.com.

At a glance: Tornado relief donations



Total gifts for tornado relief received by the Diocese of Owensboro:

- As of 10/31/22, a total of \$9.4 million in financial gifts has been received.
- This does not include grants that have been received.



Total number of donors who gave for tornado relief as of July/August (when tracking of donors concluded):

- Approximately 6,357



Total gifts from Catholic Charities USA for tornado relief:

- As of 11/15/22, approximately \$2.9 million has been received in gifts.
- As of 11/15/22, approximately \$40,600 has been received in grants.



Total collected for tornado relief in parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro:

- \$409,419



Generosity from Kentucky neighbors

- Total given for tornado relief from the Archdiocese of Louisville, Diocese of Covington, and Diocese of Lexington:
- \$1,120,805



Total given by U.S. (arch)dioceses and bishops for tornado relief in the Diocese of Owensboro:

- \$2,117,880
- *This includes the above \$1,120,805 given by the dioceses of Kentucky.

Donations from dioceses across the United States

Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA
Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD
Diocese of Belleville, IL
Diocese of Biloxi, MS
Diocese of Birmingham, AL
Archdiocese of Boston, MA
Archdiocese of Chicago, IL
Diocese of Covington, KY
Diocese of Des Moines, IA
Diocese of Evansville, IN
Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, LA
Diocese of Jackson, MS
Diocese of Knoxville, TN
Diocese of Lafayette, IN
Diocese of Lexington, KY
Archdiocese of Louisville, KY
Diocese of Memphis, TN
Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI
Archdiocese of Mobile, AL
Diocese of Nashville, TN
Archdiocese of New Orleans, LA
Archdiocese of New York, NY
Archdiocese of Omaha, NE
Diocese of Rockford, IL
Diocese of Saginaw, MI
Diocese of Springfield, IL
Diocese of St. Augustine, FL
Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL
Diocese of Syracuse, NY
Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.
Diocese of Youngstown, OH

‘It’s going to be a long time’

As volunteers taper off, Catholic Charities calls for help, building supplies, amid Ky. tornado recovery

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD,
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

“It was unreal” is a Mayfield man’s description of surviving the Dec. 10, 2022 tornadoes that tore across western Kentucky.

Jimmy Galbreath, who is a client of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, told The Western Kentucky Catholic the harrowing story of being in his truck during the storm – “it turned my truck sideways” – but said God protected him and guided him to a nearby dollar store, where he was able to find shelter.

Sadly, his house was destroyed by the tornadoes.

But thanks to Catholic Charities’ case management, and assistance from Mennonite Disaster Services which is partnering with Homes and Hope for Kentucky, Galbreath gained a new home.

“It’s unreal,” he repeated, but this time referencing the community agencies coming together to help him and his neighbors. He received the keys to his new house on Sept. 21.

Galbreath said throughout his life he has learned that if a person trusts God and has faith, “God will put good people in your life.”

Rebuilding and repairing homes like Galbreath’s has become one of the main focuses of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, but the pressure is on as fewer and fewer volunteers step up to help.

“Just because it’s not new anymore doesn’t mean



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

On July 19, 2022, Jimmy Galbreath and Josephine Jones stand with several family members in front of their house, which was being rebuilt through a partnership between Mennonite Disaster Services and Homes and Hope for Kentucky. Galbreath is a client of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, which has helped him as he rebuilds and recovers from the tornadoes. He received the keys to his completed home on Sept. 21.

it’s not needed,” said Scott Ingram, a director of case management with Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities was inundated with phone calls and emails from people across the United States wanting to drive out and rebuild immediately after the Dec. 10 storms.

But at the time, Catholic Charities’ most pressing need was to collect monetary donations in order to provide food, shelter and other necessary items as families reeled in the shock of losing everything.

Ironically, now that survivors are better stabilized and the steps are underway to finally start rebuilding homes in the region, the volunteer base has tapered off.

“We really need volunteers,” said Ingram. “Skilled labor is needed really badly.”

Ingram said that during the summer they saw fewer volunteer groups travel to the region “because it was so hot.”

Besides the shortage of volunteers, Ingram said another obstacle has been a lack of building supplies due to backorders and price hikes. They are greatly in need of donations of building materials.

“It’s going to be a long time,” he said of the progress, which has been estimated to take three to five years.

Karina Gonzalez, a Catholic Charities case

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‘That’s all we could do – but that’s what we needed to do’

St. Joseph in Mayfield looks back on a year since the tornadoes

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A few days after the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes devastated her hometown of Mayfield and the surrounding region, Christie Scarbrough woke up and thought “I can’t even work because there is no power.”

“It was a blur,” said Scarbrough, who spoke with The Western Kentucky Catholic on Nov. 11, 2022, reflecting on the storms that shattered western Kentucky one year ago.

Scarbrough serves as the business manager of St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield, which suffered the loss of its belltower and front porch covering, as well as damage to the rectory. The former school building, located behind the church and used for religious education classes, received the brunt of the winds and was later deemed a total loss. The St. Vincent de Paul building next door was destroyed completely.

But Scarbrough and her fellow parishioners, under the leadership of pastor Fr. Eric Riley, quickly rose to the occasion and “it became helping and serving and feeding the community,” she said.

St. Joseph set up a distribution center in its parish center, providing basic needs like toiletries and food for survivors who lost everything.

“Truthfully, when we were operating that distribution center, that’s all we could do at that time,” said Scarbrough. “But that was what we needed to do at that time.”

She remembers “the outpouring of love” via



RILEY GREIF | WKC

On Dec. 15, 2021, parishioners of St. Joseph in Mayfield operate a distribution center for survivors of the tornadoes that struck the region five days earlier.

donations and volunteers “coming from all over the country.”

And then, it stopped.

She had been prepared by someone assisting from the Red Cross, warning her that the donations and volunteers would cease, so she was not taken by surprise.

“There’s always a disaster somewhere,” said Scarbrough. That being said, it was a mental shift not having people trying to help them 24/7.

“I still have two or three people who call regularly or send a monetary donation,” she said, expressing her appreciation. She added that the Knights of Columbus from Jacksonville, Fla., who have provided a lot of support, plan to visit the parish around the tornado anniversary.

Over the past year, however, the porch and



RILEY GREIF | WKC

On June 19, 2022, a Corpus Christi altar is seen in front of the former school building at St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield, Ky. The building, which was severely damaged in the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes, was later torn down and the parish looks forward to replacing it with a new building for religious education.

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manager, started helping with tornado recovery as a volunteer at St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield, which was a hub for tornado relief immediately following the disaster.

“It’s painful still,” she said, explaining that her small town is a shell of its former beauty.

At the same time, she is glad to be working for Catholic Charities so that she can assist her neighbors holistically: “We also help with other needs, we can help them with finding mental health resources, to help them as a ‘whole.’”

“Money is important but it’s not everything,” she said.

While rebuild and recovery “will take a long time,” she said that “every day I get up in the morning, and I say, ‘this will be a good day.’ That makes me feel better.”

Gonzalez said “even a smile from a client” can brighten her day and keep her going.

Carol Hernandez, a fellow Graves County case manager with Catholic Charities, survived the May 2016 tornadoes that struck western Kentucky and destroyed her home.

“I was a victim of that so I know what it is like,” she said.

Hernandez said that back in 2016, after having to live in a hotel for three months, God “made a way for me. I didn’t do this by myself, God did this for me.”

Because of her personal experience, she has been able to empathize with survivors of the December tornadoes – by “being grateful” and offering them the encouragement that brighter days are ahead.

“You’ve got to have that hope,” she said.

Hernandez said that she brought her family to Mayfield because it is a good city.

“I love this town, this is a good little town, but people need to be treated equally,” she added, referencing stories of tornado survivors who have been discriminated against because of race. “It’s important to work together.”

She said Catholic Charities “is amazing,” and that she wants clients and potential clients – no matter their life situations – to know that “there are people here that care about them.”

Shanna Bradley’s own relatives were affected by the tornadoes, which makes her even more dedicated to her work as a Graves County case manager for Catholic Charities.

Her focus lately has been on helping survivors find housing.

“A lot of the low-income housing was hit really hard,” she said, explaining that this worsened circumstances for an already vulnerable population.

Bradley echoed her teammates’ requests for more people to step forward and help.

“We need volunteers, love and support” showing survivors “that they weren’t forgotten,” she said. “Some of them feel alone. A lot of them are in counseling.”

And yet, “God has been here all the time,” she said. “He’s always right here.” ■

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belltower have been repaired and the former school was torn down to eventually build a new religious education building. The church interior has been repainted and had new flooring put in, having suffered water damage before the roof and belltower could be covered. The tornado damage to the rectory has also been repaired.

“The bell’s back in and Fr. Riley has rung the bell on several occasions just to remind people it’s there,” she said.

At the same time, recovery across Mayfield varies. Some houses have been repaired and people have moved back home. Others have yet to break ground to rebuild their houses.

They feel the loss of the former school as they currently hold religious education in the parish center and share that space with St. Vincent de Paul.

When the new religious education building is completed, “we hope to move our offices there too

because our offices are currently in the rectory. We want to give the priest his home back!” she said.

Scarborough estimated it will be “a good year” before they even break ground for the anticipated religious education building.

The parish transitioned out of running the distribution center during the summer, turning that role over to St. Vincent de Paul.

“They really are doing good work even in the limited space they have and with a lack of volunteers,” said Scarborough. “They have a lot of people coming to them and they are trying to help people the best way they can. So kudos to them!”

Today, “the mode I’m in now is back to business as normal... as normal as possible,” she said. “We’re all in a better place. Even in the community, the people are getting back to business as usual.”

“Everybody is taking care of everybody, and that’s what you hope to see,” she added. ■



COURTESY OF SUSAN MONTALVO-GESSER

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., hugs Alfredo "Fredy" Gonzalez, a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield, after the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes devastated western Kentucky.



COURTESY OF DCN. BRENT KIMBLER

Catholic Charities case manager Trajon Bright (left) with Forrest House, a client of Catholic Charities, who assisted House while his home was being rebuilt after the December 2021 tornadoes.

Rising to the challenge: Catholic Charities of western Ky. thrives while accompanying survivors

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Four years ago this January, Susan Montalvo-Gesser became the director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Her plan had been to grow the agency by increasing assistance to victims of violence, improving humanitarian relief, helping with family-sponsored visas, and expanding diocesan counseling resources, among other dreams.

She had one "normal" year, so to speak. Then in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic started – "and things changed," she told The Western Kentucky Catholic

in a recent interview.

Shortly after that, the Catholic Charities agency began assisting Afghans being resettled in the area, "and more things changed," she said.

"Then we had the tornadoes," said Montalvo-Gesser of the Dec. 10, 2021 storms that devastated western Kentucky.

By this point, Catholic Charities had become accustomed to pivoting whenever something shifted.

But these storms, which were considered the worst tornado outbreak in Kentucky history, intensified the workload of the agency's two full-time employees and one part-time employee, throwing them into an intense learning curve.

"What had prepared me was that in summer 2019, we went to Laredo, Texas, to assist their local Catholic Charities in accompanying migrants," said Montalvo-Gesser. "Following their Catholic Charities' example, we learned how to love by the seat of our pants."

She recalled witnessing how the migrants had lost any sense of dignity after being processed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and that in serving the migrants, "you just had to give and receive love."

There she learned the lesson that "we're not going to be able to 'fix' things" in some scenarios.

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Instead, Catholic Charities' focus should be that "we are accompanying the marginalized on their journey – on their terms," she said.

This served as their guiding principle in those first days after the tornadoes, and it has remained to this day.

A year later, the staff has multiplied for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro. They have case managers helping tornado survivors all over western Kentucky. And the agency has become a trusted, recognized and respected name even by those who are not Catholic.

Khaiibar Shafaq, who originally came to Kentucky as part of the Afghan resettlement program in Owensboro, today serves as a paralegal and disaster case manager for Catholic Charities.

"Every day I always learn something new," said Shafaq. "It's always a blessing to work with Susan. She's one of the best people I've ever worked with."

Montalvo-Gesser expressed gratitude for Gabe Tischler, an emergency management specialist for Catholic Charities' disaster response, who within days after the tornado traveled from Florida to provide a crash-course to the western Kentucky agency.

Tischler has continued a relationship with them, training all Catholic Charities case managers before they begin working with tornado survivor clients.

"Then his area experienced Hurricane Ian," said Montalvo-Gesser. When she reached out to check on him, Tischler reminded her to "keep your oxygen mask on, keep doing what you're doing."

Montalvo-Gesser said Catholic Charities USA has been affirming and accessible through the entire journey. They have also provided approximately \$2.9 million in gifts to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, and approximately \$40,600 in grants – both of which are to be used for tornado relief.

Other regional Catholic Charities agencies have shared their own insights from natural disasters, such as the team in southern Missouri, who experienced the Joplin tornado in 2011.

"Hearing their wisdom that when you are hit with a disaster and lean on these partners, you can come back stronger," said Montalvo-Gesser. "All of the people we've met throughout this process... this is my new circle."

Drawing from their own experiences, the western Kentucky staff stepped in to help with relief efforts when the July 2022 floods devastated their neighbors in eastern Kentucky.

Montalvo-Gesser estimates that it will still take 3-5 years before the region fully rebuilds and recovers from the tornadoes, and said she is grateful to those who have continued supporting these efforts.

"The biggest blessings have been the people," she said. "The survivors. The case managers. The volunteers who stepped in." ■

'We're here for the long haul,' says construction manager deacon as tornado recovery continues

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

A deacon who also serves as the construction manager and volunteer coordinator for the tornado recovery efforts of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro has learned over the past year that when it comes to rebuilding after a natural disaster, "you'd better have the patience of Job."

Dcn. Brent Kimbler of the tri-parishes of St. Edward Parish in Fulton, St. Jude Parish in Clinton, and Sacred Heart Parish in Hickman has been

overseeing the agency's construction work since February 2022.

He emphasized that "it is important to understand that it will work out; we will get it done."

Still, various challenges with limited infrastructures, local politics, supply and volunteer shortages, and a struggling economy can be discouraging – especially as communities approach the first anniversary of the tornadoes.

"The main thing we try to focus on is that survivors are taken care of, getting what they need

and receiving proper assistance," said Dcn. Kimbler, in a Nov. 14, 2022 interview with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Catholic Charities has been out in the field since the first week, initially assisting with survivors' basic needs and later expanding to helping clients get their homes rebuilt.

"Early on, everybody was here," he said of the volunteer base. "That's drying up as people are going to help with disasters in other areas. So we are

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‘Just because we’re on the way doesn’t mean we’re there yet’

Years of healing, recovery and rebuilding anticipated for Dawson Springs



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

(Left to right) Karen Wallace, Sterling Wallace, and Dcn. Mike Marsili speak on March 2, 2022 inside the Wallaces’ home, which was severely damaged when a tornado ripped through the small town in December 2021. In the three months since the storm, significant work had been done to rebuild the couple’s house. All three belong to Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, which was totaled by the tornadoes.



COURTESY OF KAREN WALLACE

The home of Sterling and Karen Wallace in Dawson Springs after the Dec. 10, 2021 tornado ripped off the roof of their house, while they took shelter in the basement with family members.



COURTESY OF KAREN WALLACE

Sterling and Karen Wallace’s fully repaired home, which they completed in August.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

One year later, the community still feels nervous when the sky grows dark in bad weather.

“I think we’re all a little apprehensive, especially because we get more wind now with all the trees gone,” said Karen Wallace, who with her husband, Sterling, survived the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes that ravaged western Kentucky and destroyed the couple’s house in Dawson Springs.

The Wallaces completed repairs on their home this past August, and Wallace said she finally has their family pictures back on the walls.

Their daughter and grandchildren, who had been renting their basement and were with them when the tornadoes blew across, have since purchased a modular home on the Wallace farm property – so they are able to remain nearby.

Yet, “it’s been a hard year,” said Wallace. “It definitely took a toll.”

Their family usually gets together over Thanksgiving “and that’s when we celebrate Christmas,” she said. “That was winding down when the tornado hit last year.”

The Wallaces had to replace their Christmas tree, which was ruined when the roof was torn off and rains seeped in during the storms. They also had to replace their stockings and Christmas ornaments – the original ornaments having been built up over many years with family memories.

“We’ll certainly be glad once the anniversary comes and goes,” said Wallace.

The Wallaces belong to and lead the music ministry for Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, which also was destroyed in the tornadoes.

Fellow parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills

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offered the use of a metal shed on their property for Resurrection to continue celebrating Mass as a community, which the parish has gratefully done over the past year.

“The parish is still intact and thriving,” said Wallace. “In some ways our parish is closer than it’s ever been. I am so, so grateful to the Mills because otherwise we’d have been scattered to the winds.”

Dcn. Mike Marsili, who serves Resurrection Parish as well as Holy Cross Parish in Providence and Immaculate Conception Parish in Earlington, agreed.

“I’m happy to say all our parishioners who were coming previously are still coming,” he said.

Dcn. Marsili said the remains of Resurrection Parish have been demolished. Now that the surveys have been done and the soil has been sampled, the next steps include working with the architect and presenting the design plans to the diocese.

The past year has presented its share of challenges to Dcn. Marsili personally. His brother and sister, both of whom lived out-of-state, died this year.

Even with personal losses, his vocation as a deacon remains – especially a deacon serving a tornado-impacted community: “People are still going to call; none of that goes away, life has to go on.”

He considers it a profound blessing that both his siblings were reconciled with the Catholic Church before passing away.

Experiencing the blessings and heartaches over the past year has reminded Dcn. Marsili that “God is never remote. That’s an impossibility. He is never far from us. He is always near.”

“This is part of what life really is,” he said. “It



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Dcn. Mike Marsili of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, lights candles on March 2, 2022, in a shed on the property of parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills. On Dec. 10, 2021, a tornado ripped through the small town and destroyed the church. Since then parishioners have worshipped in a shed on the Mills' property.

can be messy and sorrowful but these are things God uses to bring us closer to him in the end.”

Wallace said the tight-knit community of Dawson Springs “pulls together pretty good about lots of things, but we never expected or wanted” tornadoes to be the reason. She said their city motto is “Dawson Springs is a very special place.”

“Those who are in our homes are doing better, but there will be reminders forever,” she said, asking that people remember to pray for those impacted. “Psychologically, it’s going to be years.”

She said that “just because we’re on the way doesn’t mean we’re there yet.”

“I hope people won’t forget about us,” she said. “Even if you didn’t have damage, you were affected. And our church isn’t back yet.” ■



COURTESY OF DCN. MIKE MARSILI

A terra cotta nativity set that was gifted to Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs by a woman in Ohio for use in Resurrection’s future church when it is rebuilt.

Helping people on their own terms

Why listening is crucial when accompanying survivors

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

According to a pastor whose Madisonville parish was among the first groups to assist people impacted by the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes in western Kentucky, the virtue to keep in mind when assisting survivors is “humility.”

“Humbling ourselves before the needs of another and not assuming we know what they need – but listening and asking what they need” is crucial, said Fr. Carl McCarthy, the pastor of Christ the King Parish in Madisonville.

His parish was not impacted by the storms, but only 30 minutes down the road, Dawson Springs and surrounding areas were reduced to shells of their former selves.

Fr. McCarthy told The Western Kentucky Catholic in a recent interview that after any disaster, people often feel motivated to purge their closets and donate items they no longer need, for use by disaster survivors.

“In and of itself that’s not bad,” he said. “But in every disaster, that may not be what people need up front. We might think ‘They don’t have anything, so I’ll give them my old things.’”

In reality, “everyone’s needs are different,” said Fr. McCarthy, with emphasis on helping individuals on a case-by-case basis informed by listening.

“The intent is good – we want to respond to a



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Fr. Carl McCarthy, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Madisonville, Ky., is pictured March 2, 2022. His parish collected donated items to help people get started in new homes following the tornadoes that devastated nearby towns in December 2021.

need – but we don’t always know how to respond in the best way,” he said.

One year later, Fr. McCarthy still remembers

“the faces of shock” of people who came to the distribution center set up in Christ the King’s school gym.

“They just needed someone to love them, to hug them, to show that someone cares – and the willingness of the person who was helping to connect them with a way to address their needs,” he said in a Nov. 10, 2022 interview with the WKC.

Fr. McCarthy learned the importance of this approach when he participated in a mission trip to the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

While there, they had the opportunity to celebrate Mass and eat dinner with the bishop at the time, then-Bishop Thomas J. Rodi of the Diocese of Biloxi, Miss. (He has since become archbishop of Mobile in Alabama.)

“He told us ‘If you do not lift one hammer, do not move one tree limb... if you will only listen to our people tell their stories – it’s in allowing them to tell their stories that they will be healed,’” Fr. McCarthy recalled the bishop saying.

Fr. McCarthy said it takes “time and patience to sit and listen.”

“We’ve got to be willing to walk and accompany them on the journey,” he said.

“People’s basic element is ‘I want to help,’” he said. “That’s God-given and that is good! The key is helping in the right way.” ■

All Soul's Day celebrated at St. Raphael Cemetery

BY GRADY EBELHAR, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Nov. 2, 2022, St. Raphael Church grounds was visited by many former family members who gathered for Mass and a blessing of the dead. Fr. Augusty Valomchalil, parish priest of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, presided at the celebration. Approximately 40 people were there to celebrate with him. A candle was lit by everyone present and at the end of Mass and blessing, the candles were placed on the family members' monuments in the cemetery. The many families included: Cecils, Ebelhars, Hayden, Freels, Murphy, Beyke, Head, Burch, Osborne, Bickett, Mischel, McCarty, Dodson, Li and Coomes. Each family represented a family member buried there in the cemetery.

St. Raphael Church was the second Catholic church built in Daviess County outside of Owensboro. It was established in 1844. In 1857 the log church burned. In 1861 a new log church was built. That log church was abandoned and was moved to the top of the hill in 1878 with a new brick church. The church was damaged by the big tornado that hit West Louisville on April 12, 1890. In 1925, the school was destroyed by fire. The school was built back and remained open until 1963.

In May 1977 the church was struck by fire once again. The church officially closed when Bishop Henry J. Soenneker announced that Sept. 25, 1977, was to be the last Mass celebrated in the church. It was torn down in 1983. The big 800-lb bell was moved to St. Mary Magdalene in Sorgho.



COURTESY OF GRADY EBELHAR

Grady Ebelhar on Nov. 2, 2022, at the grave of his mother's parents, who were both born and raised at St. Raphael.

It rang for the first time on Easter Sunday, 1984.

For several years many of the former parishioners would gather in the fall at the cemetery on a Saturday afternoon to celebrate Mass and a dinner gathering. Last year Fr. Augusty celebrated the Mass there for the first time in several years. Mass was celebrated and once again the cemetery was blessed, and candles were placed on graves of family members of those present.

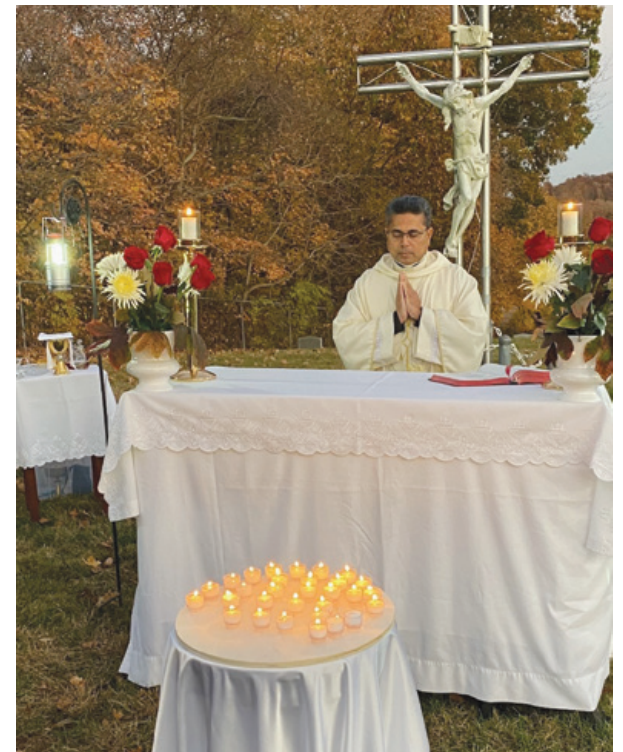
May they rest in peace. ■

Grady Ebelhar belongs to St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho.



COURTESY OF GRADY EBELHAR

Fr. Augusty Valomchalil lifts the chalice at the consecration during All Souls Day Mass on Nov. 2, 2022 on the grounds of the former St. Raphael Church in Daviess County.



COURTESY OF GRADY EBELHAR

Fr. Augusty Valomchalil celebrates All Souls Day Mass on Nov. 2, 2022 on the grounds of the former St. Raphael Church in Daviess County.

The Lord of Miracles, a Peruvian devotion in Hopkinsville, Kentucky



COURTESY OF DR. VICKY BARNES

A procession for El Señor de los Milagros (Lord of Miracles) takes place outside Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville this past October.

BY DR. VICKY BARNES, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

It is with great pride that I write about the legacy of my parents, Pedro and Olga de Montejos. Many autumns ago, a devotion to El Señor de los Milagros (Lord of Miracles) began with a Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, Ky. It was my father's dream to start this Peruvian devotion in Kentucky. My dad used to say, "Wherever there is a Lord of Miracles' brother, there should be a Mass and procession in honor of our Lord of Miracles."

The devotion to the Lord of Miracles originated in the 17th century in Lima, Peru. The story goes

that in the area where the slaves had been brought from Africa, there was a slave from Angola who painted the image of the crucified Lord on a simple rock. It was like a mural for all the slaves to see. There was a very big earthquake in that century that caused almost half of the city of Lima to disappear under the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Only the area of the slaves and the mural of the Lord of Miracles were not touched or damaged by the earthquake.

My father was a member of the Brotherhood of the Lord of Miracles in Lima, Peru. Every year he accompanied the crucified Lord in procession: he was one of the brothers who carried the litter depicting the image of the Lord. He sometimes



COURTESY OF DR. VICKY BARNES

Pedro and Olga de Montejos, the parents of Dr. Vicky Barnes of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville. Barnes credits her parents for bringing the Peruvian devotion of El Señor de los Milagros (Lord of Miracles) to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish.



COURTESY OF DR. VICKY BARNES

Dr. Vicky Barnes (center) stands with her brother Ivan Montejos and sister-in-law Juanita Montejos during the October 2022 celebration for El Señor de los Milagros (Lord of Miracles) at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville.

Continues on page 15

The Lord of Miracles continued from page 14

came with sore and bleeding shoulders, but happy to have been with the Lord.

It was in the fall 2009 that a Mass was offered for the first time to the Lord of Miracles in Sts. Peter and Paul parish. This was done with the help of Libby Downs, Fr. John Thomas, and Fr. Carmelo Jimenez. The first procession took place in October 2010. Unfortunately, my father passed away in March of that year.

Fr. Thomas, Fr. Carmelo, and Fr. Uwem Enoch celebrated the Mass for the Lord of Miracles on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010. It was then when the entire Hispanic community went in procession for the first time. Later, there was a dinner with dishes from various Hispanic countries. My mother was deeply pleased to see the fruits of my father's devotion to the Lord of Miracles. She passed away in February 2011.

During the 2019-2020 pandemic we did the novenas via Zoom. We also broadcast the novenas through Facebook. Today, we continue to use Facebook to livestream the novenas and rosaries for the Lord of Miracles. This October we celebrated the 13th anniversary of the Lord of Miracles in Hopkinsville.

Our priests and deacons who have continued this devotion throughout these 13 years are Fr. Richard Meredith, Fr. Al Bremer, Fr. Daniel Dillard, Fr. Basilio Az Cuc, Fr. Michael Charles Obiero, Fr. Jude Okeoma – and our missionary priest who visits from Argentina, Fr. Julio Palarino – and our deacons, Bill Sweet, Roberto Cruz, and Trinidad Soriano. My brother Ivan Montejos and his wife Juanita also work to make it a reality. My eternal gratitude to my beloved husband, Deacon Tim Barnes, for making my father's dream come true. ■



200 East 18th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

svdpwky.org

Join your local St. Vincent de Paul as they make sure others have essential items that keep them warm during the cold winter months.

“Warmth for the Holidays”

We are collecting hats, gloves, scarves for children, teens, and adults that are homeless or struggling to provide for themselves and/or their loved ones.

You can drop off any of these items at our participating partners through Friday, December 16, 2022.

FIFTH THIRD BANK
500 Frederica Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

simply Chic
101 West Third Street
Owensboro Kentucky

JERRY RAY DAVIS
CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM
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Owensboro, Kentucky



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CHRISTMAS CAMP

GRADES 8-12

DEC. 29 - JAN. 1

COST: \$125

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GASPERRIVERRETREATCENTER.ORG

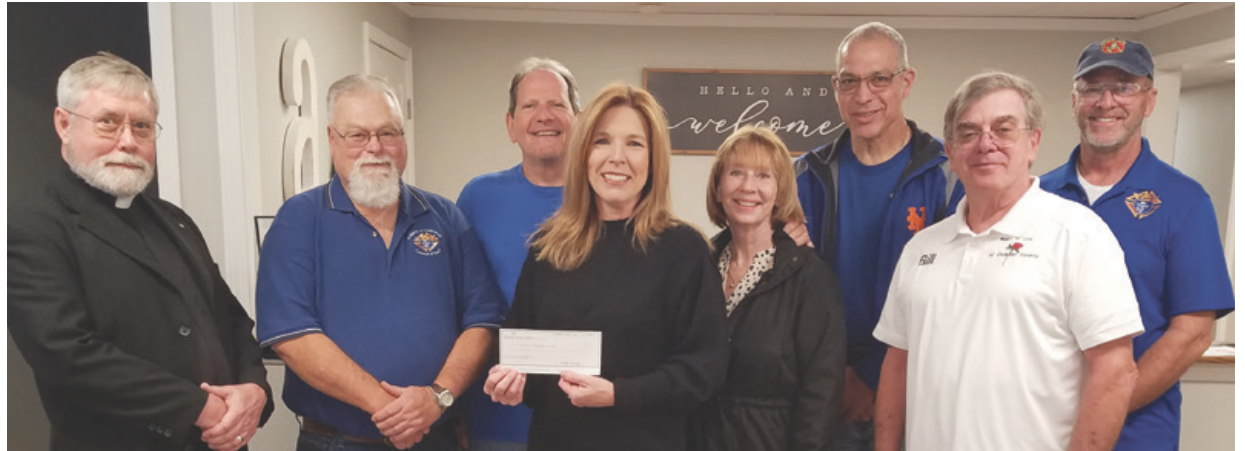
‘Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear – Pickin’ Life’ raises \$38,592 for pro-life pregnancy care centers

BY JEFF SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Pickin’ Life Project and seven Kentucky Knights of Columbus councils joined forces on Oct. 8, 2022 to host the 9th annual one-day music festival fundraiser at Lake Beshear, near Dawson Springs. The result was a huge success that smashed previous fundraising records for “Bluegrass on Beshear – Pickin’ Life.”

Life-affirming pregnancy care centers Door of Hope (Madisonville), Alpha PCC (Hopkinsville) and H.O.P.E. Clinic (Benton and Eddyville) were the event’s beneficiaries. Each pregnancy care center received a check for \$12,864 – one third of the \$38,592 raised at the music fest – an event record. Additionally, the Pickin’ Life Project donated \$1,000 to the St. Gerard Life Home for moms and babies, which is in Owensboro and operated by Catholic Charities.

Knights of Columbus councils from Madisonville, Hopkinsville, and Dawson Springs/Princeton/Eddyville donated food and volunteers who prepared and served it to the concertgoers. In addition, they helped guests park and assisted people with mobility issues. Also, councils from Murray, Calvert City, Hardin/Aurora and the State, through its Culture of Life Fund for the Diocese of Owensboro, made large donations to sponsor the music fest. The participation of these councils will also lead to an additional \$7,200 in donations to the pregnancy centers through a new Knights of Columbus program



COURTESY OF PICKIN’ LIFE

Angie Crawford, executive director of Alpha Pregnancy Care Center in Hopkinsville, holds a check for \$12,864 from the Pickin’ Life Project. It is a donation from the proceeds of Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear, which was held on Oct. 8. With Angie are (from left) Fr. Richard Meredith, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish; Ken Buckner and Tom O’Hagan from the Hopkinsville Knights of Columbus; Sheila O’Hagan from the Alpha Board of Directors; Joe Mezzoni (Hopkinsville Knights); Bill Rush, president of Christian County Right to Life; and Jeff Smith, co-host of the bluegrass event.

called Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP).

“Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear – Pickin’ Life” raised money through sponsorships, donations, food, drink and merchandise sales, and a multi-item raffle. A benefactor matched the first \$12,000 of donations and the Pickin’ Life project donated \$3,000. Event hosts defrayed all costs up front so that 100% of donations went directly to the pregnancy care centers.

Planning has already begun for next year’s 10th anniversary “Bluegrass on Beshear – Pickin’ Life” music fest. It will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023. Follow www.bluegrassonbeshear.com or [facebook/bluegrassonbeshear](https://facebook.com/bluegrassonbeshear) for details. ■

Jeff Smith belongs to Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs.



COURTESY OF PICKIN’ LIFE

The Lighthouse Vocal Band plays at Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear - Pickin’ Life" on Oct. 8, 2022.

As winter sets in, now is the time to help our neighbors

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Western Kentucky would like to express the tremendous gratitude we have for our donors across our 32-county service area. Last month's article on SVDP's St. Mary's conference in Franklin, Ky., needing assistance and the recent parish conference Mass presentations by SVDP members did not go unnoticed by you, our donors. Your generous donations are evidence of your faith in God's request for us to be the face of Jesus to our brothers and sisters.

As witnessed in last month's WKC by Jim Dale, SVDP Southeast District president, in St. Mary's/Franklin the need is great, and it is growing. This newly-established conference is struggling to meet the needs of their neighbors in the Southeast District. A district that serves seven counties: Allen, Butler, Christian, Edmonson, Logan, Simpson, Todd, and Warren.

Many of the conferences in the diocese have been established for several decades and have regular donors but the needs are never completely met. Right now your parish conferences are gearing up not just for the holidays but also for the coming winter. A winter which the weather service is predicting to be a cold one with increased inflation looming in all areas of human need: food, clothing, shelter, utilities... the list continues endlessly and affects every household budget.

If you are struggling to make ends meet with a regular good-paying job, just think how parents of

young children feel in a job – or two or three – that only pays minimum wage. Yes, many households are holding down as many as three part-time jobs to provide for their families. That is time away from their children, their spouse, no resting time, time spent wondering where God is in this life of theirs.

Take a minute to review our 2021 SVDP annual report. It is a collective view of the amount of assistance we have provided in our 32 counties. Note that those numbers are before this year's layoffs happened throughout the state; before the effects of losing unemployment impacted so many in our community. We are gathering our numbers for our 2022 annual report and know already they are higher. So, what is 2023 going to look like? Take a moment to reflect during this season of the year. Why are you thankful? What could you do for others during this season of giving?

If you would like to help our newest conference, SVDP/St. Mary's in Franklin, send your donation to:

Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Southeast District Council
P.O. Box 1093
Franklin, KY 42135

If you would like to donate to your parish conference, a list of all parish conferences is available on our website: svdpwky.org.

Belinda Abell is the marketing coordinator for Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Western Kentucky.

Social impact measurements

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Western Kentucky, Inc.

"The people we help are people you know."

Through the generosity of Vincentians, donors, and volunteers our service impact throughout western Kentucky in 2021 was \$3,104,393. (Financial distributions dated Oct. 1, 2020-Sept. 30, 2021.)

67,808 western Kentucky neighbors served

\$1,089,125 contributed to rent, utilities, medical, etc.

\$449,533 provided in food, clothing, furniture distribution

54,677 volunteer hours served
Value of volunteer hours: **\$1,560,196**

7,972 volunteer visits

Did you know?

SVDP covers 32 counties in western Kentucky, divided into four districts representing 21 individual parish-based conferences and seven thrift stores.

Religious life celebrated at 2022 jubilee liturgy

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

Beautiful words and music accompanied sisters from several congregations on Oct. 22, 2022, during the Diocese of Owensboro's Jubilee for Women Religious.

Gathering at St. Martin Parish in the Daviess County community of Rome, the Council of Religious and Bishop William F. Medley honored 13 sisters from four communities celebrating jubilees, although only four could attend – Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Ruth Gehres, Rose Jean Powers and Sharon Sullivan, and Glenmary Sister Pat Leighton.

Bishop Medley praised the sisters who “go to the world,” whether that means praying in their room or physically going to another part of the world.”

“You have been given wonderful gifts from God to be given away,” he said. ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Following the ceremony, Bishop Medley posed with the four jubilarians present. From left are Ursuline Sister Sharon Sullivan (40 years), Ursuline Sister Rose Jean Powers (60 years), Ursuline Sister Ruth Gehres (70 years) and Glenmary Sister Pat Leighton (40 years).

Diocese of Owensboro to hold collection to aid Catholic aging religious

PRESS RELEASE

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) announces that on Dec. 10-11, the Diocese of Owensboro will hold the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection in parishes throughout the diocese.

Last year, the parishioners in the diocese donated \$32,470.02 to the collection. About the upcoming collection, NRRO Executive Director Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco, said, “The care of our aging religious presents an enormous financial responsibility. It is our privilege to care for those who gave a lifetime of tireless service, and

I feel we are deeply blessed by all the U.S. Catholic donors who have steadfastly contributed to this fund.”

Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—known collectively as women and men religious—served for little to no pay. With rising healthcare expenses, hundreds of U.S. religious communities face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support their care. As a result, many now lack adequate retirement savings.

The 2021 appeal raised nearly \$28.5 million, and the NRRO distributed funding to 271 U.S. religious communities. Donations also underwrite

resources that help religious communities improve elder care and plan for long-term retirement needs.

For more information, visit retiredreligious.org, or contact Robin Cabral, Campaign Director, by phone at (508) 685-8899 or email at robincabral@retiredreligious.org. ■

The National Religious Retirement Office coordinates the annual national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes financial assistance for retirement needs to eligible religious institutes. To help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious orders, Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious Collection in 1988.

Black Americans on the road to sainthood: Servant of God Julia Greeley

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

As we enter into the month of December and the season of celebrating the gift of salvation and the tradition of giving in the spirit of Our Lord, it seems fitting to begin our journey with “Black Americans on the road to sainthood” with Servant of God Julia Greeley. Many will not recognize the name of this holy woman whose cause for canonization was forwarded by the Archdiocese of Denver and accepted in 2016.

Known as “Denver’s Angel of Charity,” Julia Greeley was born into slavery at Hannibal, Mo. sometime between 1833 and 1848. She suffered the loss of one eye and debilitating physical injuries from slave masters. Emancipated by Missouri in 1865, Julia traveled to Wyoming, New Mexico and Colorado working as a housekeeper, cook and a nanny.

For many years, she was a familiar sight on Denver’s streets wearing her signature floppy black hat and lugging a little red wagon, bringing food, clothing and encouragement to somebody in need. “Old Julia,” as she came to be known, did her ministry at night, hobbling on a lame foot, after working all day as a domestic servant. When her own resources were inadequate, she begged for food, fuel, and clothing for the needy. To avoid embarrassing the people she helped, Julia did most of her charitable work under cover of night through dark alleys.

Of note was her great concern for firefighters. Lacking fire codes and safety materials, the wooden buildings of the 19th century were highly combustible. Every month she visited on foot every fire station in Denver and delivered literature of the Sacred Heart League to the firemen, Catholics and non-Catholics alike.



CNS PHOTO/ICONOGRAPHER VIVIAN IMBRUGLIA, COURTESY ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

This image of Julia Greeley, a former enslaved woman who lived in Colorado, was created by iconographer Vivian Imbruglia, who was commissioned to do the painting by the Archdiocese of Denver. Greeley’s cause for canonization was forwarded by the Archdiocese of Denver and accepted in 2016.

Julia was also known for her commitment to her Christian faith. When she served the poor and indigent, Julia never questioned their creed or belief; all she wanted to do was lift them up. Julia entered the Catholic Church at Sacred Heart Parish in Denver in 1880, and was an outstanding supporter of all that the parish had to offer. The Jesuits who ran the parish considered her the most enthusiastic promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus they had ever seen. A daily communicant, Julia had a rich devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin and continued her prayers while working and moving about.

She joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901 and was active in it until her death on June 7, 1918, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And it was in Sacred Heart Church, her parish, that funeral was held. As she lived in a boarding house, Julia’s body was laid out in the church, and immediately many hundreds of people began filing past her coffin to pay their grateful respect. As part of the Cause for Canonization, Julia’s mortal remains were transferred from her original grave to Denver’s Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on June 7, 2017.

“Julia Greeley is a role model for all women and an inspiration for anyone facing poverty or hardship,” states the website JuliaGreeleyHome.org, a Denver program that

welcomes women who are homeless and alone into a transitional, family-style home, where they have the time and spiritual support to realize their God-given dignity and achieve self-sufficiency.

Let us pray for the cause of canonization for Servant of God Julia Greeley especially during this season of giving. Prayer cards are available from the Office of Black Catholic Ministry by emailing veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org, calling (270) 683-1545 or writing to McRaith Catholic Center, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY, 42301.

For more information on Julia’s canonization cause, visit <http://juliagreeley.org/>. ■

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

The Lord teaches how to serve

BY DCN. JAY VANHOOSIER, OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Perhaps one of the greatest gifts Jesus gave to us is powerfully and dramatically presented to us in John's Gospel – specifically, John 13:1-5. In the humble act of washing feet, Jesus teaches us how to serve.

I read somewhere once that there are three kinds of assistance we can offer others in order to show our love of neighbor. We can help them, we can fix their problem, or we can serve them.

It is only by serving our neighbor that we show them that we are connected to them. Simply helping people or just fixing their problems is a good thing – don't get me wrong. But sometimes these kinds of acts can be patronizing or makes

people feel indebted to the one who assists – and this is never a good thing.

Serving, however, truly connects and heals both the giver and the receiver. Jesus uses the words “serve” and “servant” dozens of times in the New Testament. In the powerful scene from John, Jesus, after washing his disciples' feet, asks them if they realize what he has done. Some of the disciples might have said, “Well, you helped me get my feet clean.” Others might have said, “Well, you certainly have fixed my stinky-feet problem.” But the correct answer is, “You have taught us how to serve.”

Indeed, Jesus has demonstrated the radical form of love we are to put into practice if we are to be his followers. We are to become one with our

sisters and brothers in need; we are to serve them. This is the kind of action that comes forth naturally when we believe—as Jesus did—in the radical equality of all human beings. ■

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.



FILE PHOTO

Jay VanHoosier is the director of the Office of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Owensboro.

'We're here for the long haul' continued from page 11

partnering with CAM (Christian Aid Ministries), who are going to rebuild homes for existing homeowners who lost everything.”

Dcn. Kimbler said they continue coordinating with other local organizations and the long-term recovery groups. He said they have worked with agencies like St. Vincent de Paul's House in a Box program, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Convoy of Hope, and Samaritan's Purse.

“When we all come together and work together, as we can and should, it's a beautiful thing,” he said.

Unfortunately, while “something like this brings out the very best in people, it also brings out the very worst in people,” he said, in reference to those who attempt to use the disaster to scam the system.

But fortunately, Dcn. Kimbler said Catholic Charities' case managers focus on properly assessing needs of their clients and others who come to them for help. He has been moved by their genuine care for those they serve.

“They are just good people,” he said. “Working alongside them is a pleasure and a joy. The bottom line for them is that it's about the client, it's about the survivors.”

He also credited Katina Hayden and Scott Ingram, Catholic Charities' directors of case management, who “have done an excellent job.”

Dcn. Kimbler recently preached a homily on the virtue of perseverance. He asked the faithful, “Can we stay the course? Can we hold on?”

“That's the same question for Catholic Charities,” he told the WKC. “And my answer is yes! You definitely learn as you go – we were thrown in there. We had resources, but like anything else, until you hit the ground you just don't know what to expect.”

He is thankful for the spiritual support of “so many, including our bishop, and our priests who are so good.”

“It's not our timing; it's God's timing when you're dealing with this scope of work across all of these counties,” he said of the estimated 3-5 years of recovery work ahead. But, “I'm proud of every one of our case managers and everyone involved with Catholic Charities.”

“We're here for the long haul,” he said. ■

DECEMBER 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.

Advent lessons and carols service planned for Dec. 4

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and the Saint Meinrad community choir will present an Advent lessons and carols service. The event will be Sunday, December 4, at 7 p.m. Central Time in the school's St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, St. Meinrad, IN. The service tells the story of the redemption of humankind by alternating Scripture readings with the singing of hymns and carols. The service is expected to last an hour and is free and open to the public. A reception will follow. Parking is available in the Guest House and student parking lots. For more information, contact Mary Jeanne Schumacher during business hours at 812-357-6501. For updates on the day of the performance, call 812-357-6611.

Belonging to Love: Prayer and Conversations online Dec. 8

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, Dec. 8 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/>

Service of the Longest Night set for Dec. 17

Abbey Caskets, a work of Saint Meinrad Archabbey,

will host a Service of the Longest Night on Saturday, December 17, 2022, at 6 p.m. Central Time in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House Chapel in St. Meinrad, IN. Many people find the holidays a challenging time. Instead of celebrating, they are struggling with grief. They miss loved ones and find that the usual traditions and bright lights serve only to heighten their struggle. Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB, will lead the service with prayer and Scripture that acknowledge those who mourn and struggle with loss during the Christmas season. While the service will not be streamed live, it will be recorded and posted on the Abbey Caskets website. Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will follow. RSVP requested, but not required, for planning. Reply to info@abbeycaskets.com or call 800-987-7380 for further information. Parking is available in the Guest House parking lot.

Join Ursuline Sisters for Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have revised their Eucharistic Adoration schedule. They now invite the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Motherhouse Chapel in Maple Mount, Ky. (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). Adoration on the second Friday of each month is dedicated to praying for vocations. The Adoration concludes with evening prayer.

Principal – St. Athanasius School, Louisville, Kentucky

St. Athanasius Parish and School is currently conducting a search for the Principal position to be filled effective July 1, 2023. Led by our Pastor, Fr. Minh Vu, we are seeking a practicing Roman Catholic with proven leadership skills that are focused on each student's development in faith and academic growth. Our school has a current enrollment of 205 PreK thru 8th grade students. We have a trusted partnership with our teachers, staff and parents that works to develop each child to be the best version of themselves. We have a 60+ history that welcomes all to our exciting programs in the classroom and specialty areas. Candidates must meet the Archdiocese of Louisville's Principal Requirements. Salary and benefits will be based on education, experience and certification as established by the Archdiocese. Inquiries and

resumes, including your philosophy of education and references should be sent by December 30, 2022 to: Search Committee, c/o Fr. Minh Vu, 5915 Outer Loop, Louisville KY 40219 or mvu@staparish.com.

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>.

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/.

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/>.

December 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

Ed & Mae Hoskins, 53
Mark & Jan Hubbs, 54
Mike & Rose Clark, 50
Tony & Lois Booker, 50

Christ the King, Madisonville

Anthony & Marcie Stewart, 40
Bob & Floy Daugherty, 69
George & Danielle Stewart, 40
James & Debbie Allen, 53
Sherrell & Jeannie Calhoun, 64

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Aaron & Nicole Barkley, 10
Allen & Terri Allen, 54
Brian & Malissa Crafton, 25
Danny & Lynn DeKemper, 52
Forrest & Mary Meuth, 61
Herb & Mary Gold, 53
Lucio & Ramona Hernandez, 55
Steve & Roxanne Sellars, 51

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

Steve & Dorothy Storm, 51

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Allen & Judy Freeland, 54
Anthony & Jennifer Swift, 25
Baw Reh & Linda Soe Meh, 25
Frank & Carol Kersting, 53
Leon & Jane Brasher, 57
John & Mary Anne Reiss, 59
Larry & Anita Willoughby, 59
Matthew & Kelly Maresca, 10
Richard & Marcia Poole, 53
Sam & Tina Rzepka, 18
Wei-Ping & Nancy Pan, 40
William & Lynda Svano, 60
William & Sharon McKay, 58

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Ken & Rosemary Porter, 62

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

David & Demia Price, 25
Ellis & Sharon Russelburg, 56

Immaculate, Owensboro

Carl & Brenda Millay, 54
Fred & Beverly Bosley, 52
Otis & Judy Hicks, 59
Paul & Donna Munsey, 55

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Daniel & Dolores Fickas, 53
Danny & Kathi Roach, 50
James & Diane Hunter, 54
James & Linda Warren, 55
John & Kay Steele, 61
Marty & Lori Boehman, 5

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Gary & Lois Miller, 50
James & Dorothy Hodges, 51
Jesse & Theresa Lowe, 59

Resurrection, Dawson Springs

Joe & Mazie Mastromarino, 70

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

Robert & Annie Evers, 25

Sacred Heart, Russellville

Erasmus & Gloria Gomez, 61
Mike & Linda Slaughter, 55

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Mike & Linda Williamson, 52
Mike & Marilyn Fenwick, 53

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Alvin & Betty Borup, 64
Kenny & Linda Gough, 55

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Chris & Joyce Kormelink, 59
Jim & Patsy Love, 52

St. Ann, Morganfield

John & Madonna Wyatt, 63
Justin & Wilma Wolfe, 59
Tommy & Grace Greenwell, 25

St. Anthony, Axtel

Celestine & Bonnie Hinton, 53
Denvir & Carolyn Henning, 52

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Ron & Janice Tindall, 55

St. Augustine, Grayson Springs

Leon & Martha Hill, 55

St. Charles, Bardwell

Daniel & Wanda Hayden, 58
Jim & Sue McIntyre, 56

St. Charles, Livermore

George & Carol Rhodes, 57

St. Columba, Lewisport

Anthony & Margaret Hall, 55
Robert & Patty Durbin, 56

St. Elizabeth, Clarkson

Glenn & Patty Campbell, 54

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

David & Edie Keeney, 63
Jerry & Diane Perry, 54

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Bruce & Sue Turner, 53
Dennis & Peggy Tharp, 55
Eli & Madalyn Green, 5
Kenneth & Karan Carter, 40
Laddie & Judy Thomas, 57
Larry & Delores Wilson, 56
Wayne & Ruth Ann Higdon, 67

St. John the Baptist, Fordsville

Ray & Peggy Montgomery, 52

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Donald & Karol Richards, 52

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Bill & Joey Powell, 63
Jim & Phyllis Huggins, 55

John & Rita Riley, 59
William & Linda Nesbitt, 52

St. Joseph, Central City

Don & Bonnie Adams, 52

St. Lawrence, Philpot

James & Marie Brandle, 55
Jerry & Shirley Powers, 60

St. Leo, Murray

Phil & Sarah Bryan, 61
Tyson & Sue DeLoach, 54

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Louis & Elaine Hinton, 55

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Charles & Linda Payne, 60
David & Judy Connor, 58
Ivo & Martha Burch, 54
Jerry Howard, 54
Larry & Norma Kaelin, 40
Mark & Alleen Mills, 50
Matthew & Toney Roby, 5
Paul & Brenda Clemons, 58
Phillip & Sandra Reynolds, 25
Raymond & Emma Whistle, 70
Ronnie & Patsy Mayfield, 55
Timothy & Sherry Aud, 5

St. Mary, LaCenter

Butch & Janie Rainer, 58
Clyde & Mary Kay Riepe, 55
David & Gladys Fraser, 63
King & Cecilia Moss, 52

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Joseph & Marcia Schmitt, 53
Lionel & Sue McElroy, 70

St. Michael, Sebree

Daryl & Carmen Periard, 58
Greg & Lea Ann Sugg, 50

Continues on page 23

Anniversaries continued from page 22

St. Paul, Princeton

Jim & Linda Herbek, 55

St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly

Jerome & Denise Walker, 10

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Bryan & Leslie Krampe, 5
Thomas & Janice Conrey, 53

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Adam & Stephanie Basham, 10
Don & Sue Ford, 58

Harold & Fonda Roach, 51

Jimmy & Sharon Robbins, 25

Joe & Katie Flood, 10

Ort & Barbara Critchelov, 50

Paul & Anne O'Reilly, 56

Steve & Jenny Critchelov, 50

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

David & Betty Abrams, 63
Larry & Patricia Hardison, 58

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

David & Olivia Spears, 10
Garry & Ann Pierce, 54
Matt & Amanda Layson, 5

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Raymond & Roberta Ward, 64

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Daniel & Emily Thomas, 5
James & Priscilla Hollowell, 55
Mike & Sherry Hayden, 5
Taylor & Marilla Ballard, 10

St. William, Knottsville

Oran & Nancy Bowlds, 50
Paul & Jackie Collignon, 10

St. William, Marion

Donnie & Jeanette Phillips, 55

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Jim & Jenny Wilson, 52
Randy & Annette Blincoe, 40

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Bill & Linda Harkins, 64
Chris & Melissa Spurr, 10
Jerry & Malinda Powell, 51

Just Need to Talk?

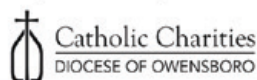


Catholic Charities collaborates with several counselors who offer their services at a reduced rate for parishioners of the Diocese of Owensboro.

For a list of counselors ready to speak to you, visit

owensborodiocese.org/counseling.

Confidentiality assured.



QUILT SALE



The Quilt Sale continues!

Don't miss the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Online Quilt Sale!

ursulinesmsj.org/get-involved/2022-23-online-quilt-sale

Several items still available! Each one is unique!

Get your Christmas shopping done!

Proceeds provide funding for the Ursuline Sisters' ministries of education and Christian formation.

Questions? Contact Carol Braden-Clarke
270-229-2008 • carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY

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



Sister Nancy Murphy is enjoying "Hope and Firm Faith: The Story of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph," especially the letters written by her relative, Mother Agnes O'Flynn. "She was a remarkable woman. I'm amazed at the stamina and resilience the Sisters had," Sister Nancy said. "This book reveals so much history that we Sisters never knew." **Get your book or buy some for Christmas gifts! More than 300 have sold!**

If you would like to host an event with the author, please contact Dan Heckel at 270-229-2007 or dan.heckel@maplemount.org. He can tailor his talk to include your area if it is in the book.

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

Order online at ursulinesmsj.org/hope-and-firm-faith-book. Or to order by mail, send us your name, address, phone number and email. Indicate if you would like your book signed by the author.

The cost is \$37.10 (includes sales tax) plus \$10 for shipping.

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

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



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999

The Incarnation of Jesus: God with skin on

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

A little boy was having trouble sleeping and his parent came into his room and said, “You know that God is always with you, right?” To which he responded, “I know Mama, but I want a God with skin on.” Often when we see God working in our lives, it is through people that are cooperating with God’s grace.

Last month, Fr. Frank DeSiano led a parish mission at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro. He told a story that sticks with me. One day he got a flat tire on a busy road. Thinking he could handle this on his own, he got out the jack and spare. But the last time this happened, he was 25 years younger and was now struggling. Then a gentleman pulled up and insisted he would help. In fact, he did it for him. Fr. Frank offered him \$20 for his time and the man responded, “I am a Muslim and Allah has given me this chance to serve you. I cannot accept your money; thank you for allowing me to serve him.”

The point is not that he was a Muslim, although as Catholics our Catechism tells us that we share the same loving creator God as Muslims do, (“The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore



CNS PHOTO/TOM MCCARTHY JR., CATHOLIC REVIEW

A family lights an Advent wreath at their Maryland home. This year, the First Sunday of Advent was celebrated the weekend of Nov. 27.

the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day,” CCC paragraph 841) but rather that God acts in and through people.

In college, I came home for a break and looked up a high school friend. I picked him up and we went to McDonald’s, where we would often go on Friday nights. After hanging out and not finding much to do, I said, “How about we say a prayer and ask God to use us?” He shrugged and said, “Fine with me.” We said a prayer and got back in my VW Bus. As we drove along the Fox River in St. Charles, Ill., I thought I saw something in the ditch. Tim said he did not see anything, but I turned around and rode off the road to shine my lights into the ditch. There was a person lying there.

We found a young lady, who was quite inebriated and angry. We sat with her for 15 minutes and found out she lived an hour away, got in a fight with her boyfriend and he kicked her out of the car and left. We finally earned her trust and offered to

get her home. When we dropped her off, she said, “You two are the nicest boys I’ve ever met.” God sent us to get that girl home safe.

We celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus at Christmas. God sent us a person with skin on to walk among us reflecting the love of God in all his actions. As his disciples, we are invited to participate in his mission of making present his kingdom. May you be filled this Advent season with God’s love and overflow to be God with skin on for others.

Peace,
Jeff

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. He wants to hear from you and maybe feature your questions in his column! Please email questions and comments to jeff.andrini@pastoral.org.

‘I am a key to peace’

Bishop Soenneker’s 1973 Christmas message

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

The Christmas season has the power to bring out the best in all of us. Giving, gathering, and sharing, this time of year we become more Christlike than any other. It is almost paradoxical that our heightened joy during Christmas exists alongside the sadness that we can feel when we reflect on the state of the world during these cold, early nights. That sadness perhaps comes from the most Christlike parts of us. In our great joy, gathering with family and sharing gifts, we mourn for those who do not have these things. We mourn for those who hurt and have so little. We mourn for the world that struggles because it refuses to let God’s love and peace in. It seems that this happens year after year. However, as our diocese’s second bishop, Bishop Henry J. Soenneker (1961-1982), assured the diocese so many years ago, we are a people of hope and are called to be God’s peace in this world.

In December 1973 Bishop Soenneker sent a Christmas greeting to the diocese. He began by reporting that it would be the first Christmas in 23 years that Bob Hope would be on American soil to celebrate. The previous 23 he had been overseas entertaining the troops. This was a joyous sign in the final years of the long war in Vietnam. However, the bishop was distressed with the problems that seemed to be tearing our country apart, especially in the field “of labor, race, education, civil servants and farm workers.” He lamented that each side



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES
Sr. Lorraine Lauter, OSU, decorates a Christmas tree in 1982.

claimed, “that justice is on their side.” In all this the bishop called for peace.

Bishop Soenneker’s solution was clear but not at all simple; the peace must be made individually. Amidst all the beautiful snow and Christmas lights, the bishop asked each person to remind themselves,

“I am a key to peace.” The other option was easy and unacceptable, “to blame others for the trouble and turmoil.” We all had a part to play in making peace, peace within our families, peace within our country, and peace within our Church.

These reflections were meant to further perfect an already generous and loving flock. The bishop praised the generosity of the diocese whose Christmas collection had sent thousands to those suffering the effects of hunger and natural disasters all over the globe. These acts were a shining example of what our individual actions could accomplish. The correlations between the bishop’s concerns 50 years ago and our current time are obvious – but so is the generosity and compassion of our diocese. These things I will not dwell on. This month we celebrate the birth of our Savior and King. Let us be a beacon of joy, hope, and peace this month.

Though our struggles seem to remain the same year after year, so too does our strength. Just as Bishop Soenneker pointed out, no struggle and no modernized replacement should “detract from the true light and meaning of Christmas... In adoration we kneel before this child which we know to be true God and true man.” Let us make peace this Christmas because the battle is over; our victory has already been born unto us. ■

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.

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Diocesan youth conference helps young people encounter Jesus

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

¡Viva Cristo Rey! The Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference (ODYC) was a blessed celebration with youth from across the diocese. On Nov. 18-19, over 350 youth and adults from 25 parishes came together in Bowling Green, Ky., at the Knicely Center to pray, worship, laugh, dance, and grow in faith.

The theme of the conference was Christ is King/ Cristo es Rey and focused on helping participants understand their identity, belonging, and purpose in Jesus Christ and His Church. There were three talks given over the weekend, a time of Adoration and confession, breakout sessions, a glow party, and Mass with Bishop Medley. The weekend also focused on the saints and particularly San José Sánchez del Río who was martyred at age 14 in Mexico for refusing to renounce his Catholic Faith.

A special aspect of ODYC this year was that every speaker, musician, and celebrant was from our local diocesan community. We are so thankful to Jessy Bennett, Ethan Bennett, and Kristin Dorth for our keynote presentations; Susy Solorza-Shelman and Ben Warrell for serving as emcees; Fr. Daniel Dillard, Fr. Basilio Az Cuc, Wade Gaynor, John Shelman, Dr. Jill Sauerheber, and Olivia Romero for leading breakout sessions; Fr. Corey Bruns for our Holy Hour and sacristy; Francis Zelinka, Joel Ciaccio, and Kathryn Haire for providing music; several priests from the diocese hearing confessions;

and for Bishop Medley joining us for Mass.

Our desire for conferences like ODYC is that they provide an encounter with Jesus and His Church for young people. The real work of ongoing ministry with young people happens within their family and local parish community. Our hope is that the talks, experiences, and discussions will keep going long after the conference around the dinner table, on car rides, and at youth group nights. With that in mind, special thanks to all the youth leaders and adult mentors who came to ODYC and made it possible for the youth from their parish to attend.

A year from now we will be returning to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley blesses the participants of the Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference (ODYC) during the Nov. 19, 2022 closing Mass at the Knicely Center in Bowling Green.

with high school youth from around the country. We will begin planning for this experience in the spring. Until then, ¡Viva Cristo Rey! ¡Que Viva! ■

Charlie Hardesty is the director of the Offices of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro. Contact him at charlie.hardesty@pastoral.org.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Teens stand up and cheer during the Nov. 18-19, 2022 Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference (ODYC) which was held at the Knicely Center in Bowling Green.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Orando, sanando y reconstruyendo un año después de los tornados

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

En la noche del 10 de diciembre de 2021, yo no estaba mirando la televisión y no estaba al tanto de los informes de advertencias de tornado en el oeste de Kentucky. Las tormentas nunca fueron severas en Owensboro donde estuve esa noche, así que dormí bien. Cuando me desperté en la mañana del día 11, revisé mis aplicaciones de noticias como siempre y comencé a enterarme de la devastación en nuestra diócesis.

La información era limitada ya que mi televisión por cable no funcionaba, al igual que el servicio de mi teléfono celular, pero a medida que recibía más detalles sobre el alcance de la tragedia, me di cuenta que la destrucción generalizada incluso limitó la posibilidad a las fuentes de noticias de dar informes detallados.

Cuando finalmente obtuve un servicio celular limitado, buscaba la forma de comunicarme con los párrocos de la Parroquia San José en Mayfield y la Parroquia Resurrección en Dawson Springs. Les dejé mensajes, pero sus teléfonos celulares no entregaron los mensajes hasta la tarde. Fue un gran alivio cuando supe que estaban a salvo. Mientras tanto, me comuniqué con otros párrocos en estas áreas, pero no tenían informes precisos y, naturalmente, no podían aventurarse a las áreas más afectadas. Repetidamente, sin embargo, dijeron lo que estaban escuchando: “Es realmente muy mal, muchas personas están muertas o desaparecidas”.

El domingo 12 de diciembre viajé a la Parroquia

San Jerónimo en Fancy Farm en el condado de Graves, a solo unas pocas millas de Mayfield. Me uní al P. Eric Riley, párroco de San José en Mayfield, para celebrar la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe con un grupo mayormente hispano. Conduciendo por la Carretera Interestatal 69 (anteriormente las carreteras Pennyriple Parkway y Western Kentucky Parkway) observé la ancha banda de destrucción de las tormentas. Solamente permitían a los socorristas ingresar a Mayfield o Dawson Springs en aquel momento.

Pero ese día comencé a escuchar relatos de primera mano sobre la devastación y el trauma que miles de personas habían experimentado.

Ese domingo también comencé a recibir llamadas de obispos y párrocos de todo el país asegurándonos de su ayuda. Decían: estamos enviando suministros, haremos una colecta especial, etc. Estaba muy agradecido y conmovido por estas expresiones de apoyo. Pero, me preguntaba, ¿por dónde empezamos?

El lunes 13 de diciembre por la mañana, nuestra directora de Caridades Católicas, Susan Montalvo-Gesser, me dijo que había tenido noticias de Caridades Católicas USA y que nos enviarían de inmediato \$10,000 para los esfuerzos de recuperación. Una hora más tarde me dijo que habían vuelto a llamar y que iban a enviar un millón de dólares. Y otra hora más tarde llamaron para decir que enviarían un especialista en ayuda en casos de desastre para ayudarnos a comenzar a organizarnos.

Entonces, un paso a la vez, con el apoyo de

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY DICIEMBRE DE 2022

1 DE DIC.	8 a.m. Misa escolar Escuela Preparatoria Trinidad, Whitesville
3 DE DIC.	4 p.m. Misa de la Peregrinación del Avivamiento Eucarístico en español Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro
6 DE DIC.	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Reunión Diocesana del Avivamiento Eucarístico Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro, Owensboro
8 DE DIC.	9 a.m. Misa escolar Escuela Católica de Owensboro, Campus de 4-6, Owensboro
10 DE DIC.	10 a.m. Corte de cinta para 10 casas nuevas en Dawson Springs
11 DE DIC.	12:30 p.m. Misa por Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah
13 DE DIC.	Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky Louisville
14 DE DIC.	10 a.m. Reunión de personal Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
19 DE DIC.	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal Owensboro 1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal Owensboro

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todo el país (sobre el cual leerán en esta edición de El Católico de Kentucky Occidental), pudimos comenzar a llevar la bondad y la misericordia de Dios a las personas en una periferia muy precaria. Sé que todas las principales denominaciones cristianas e innumerables otras organizaciones benéficas también han brindado compasión y han sido sanadores de las víctimas de las tormentas. Les agradezco a todos.

En este momento de prueba y pérdida, estoy muy orgulloso de ser parte de la Iglesia católica que puede responder con tanta generosidad y eficacia. También me gustaría señalar que el verano pasado, cuando nuestros vecinos en el sureste de Kentucky en la Diócesis de Lexington experimentaron la devastación de las inundaciones, nuestras parroquias de la Diócesis de Owensboro realizaron una colecta especial que llegó a la suma de aproximadamente \$190,000, para ayudarlos. ¿Quién sabe mejor cómo ofrecer la caridad que aquellos que la han recibido?

Faltan años para la recuperación total mientras reconstruimos y sanamos de lo que sucedió en nuestra diócesis hace un año este mes. Pido sus oraciones continuas y, si se siente llamado, considere ofrecer su tiempo como voluntario para ayudar en los esfuerzos de recuperación. Puede obtener más información al respecto comunicándose con Caridades Católicas al (270) 852-8328.

Mantengámonos unos a otros en oración.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro



Parroquias con misa en Español



La Conferencia de Adolescentes de la Diócesis de Owensboro



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Los adolescentes cantan y oran durante ODYC (la Conferencia de Adolescentes de la Diócesis de Owensboro), que tuvo lugar en el Centro de Conferencias Knicely en Bowling Green, Kentucky, del 18 al 19 de noviembre de 2022. Fue la primera vez que se llevó a cabo la conferencia desde antes de la pandemia del COVID-19.

El Señor de los Milagros, una devoción peruana en Hopkinsville, Kentucky



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA DRA. VICKY BARNES

Una procesión para El Señor de los Milagros se lleva a cabo fuera de la Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo en Hopkinsville en octubre pasado.

POR LA DRA. VICKY BARNES

Es con gran orgullo que escribo sobre el legado de mis padres, Pedro y Olga de Montejos. Hace muchos otoños, una devoción al Señor de los Milagros comenzó con una misa en la Iglesia de San Pedro y San Pablo en Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Era el sueño de mi padre iniciar esta devoción peruana en Kentucky. Mi papá solía decir: “Donde haya un hermano del Señor de los Milagros, debe haber una Misa y procesión en honor de nuestro Señor de los Milagros”.

La devoción al Señor de los Milagros se originó

en el siglo XVII en Lima, Perú. Cuenta la historia que en la zona donde Vivian los esclavos de África, había un esclavo de Angola que pintó la imagen del Señor crucificado sobre una simple roca. Era un mural para que lo vieran todos los esclavos. Hubo un terremoto muy grande en ese siglo que casi la mitad de la ciudad de Lima desapareció bajo las aguas del Océano Pacífico. Sólo el área de los esclavos y el mural del Señor de los Milagros no fueron tocados ni dañados por el terremoto.

Mi padre era miembro de la Hermandad del Señor de los Milagros en Lima, Perú. Todos los años acompañaba en procesión al Señor crucificado.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA DRA. VICKY BARNES
Pedro y Olga de Montejos, los padres de la Dra. Vicky Barnes de la Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo en Hopkinsville. Barnes les da crédito a sus padres por traer la devoción peruana de El Señor de los Milagros a la Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA DRA. VICKY BARNES
La Dra. Vicky Barnes (centro) con su hermano Iván Montejos y su cuñada Juanita Montejos durante la celebración de octubre de 2022 de El Señor de los Milagros en la Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo en Hopkinsville.

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 Asis, 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 Badiño (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>.

Caridades Católicas continúa siendo un líder en recuperación y alivio de los tornados

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Hace cuatro años, este enero, Susan Montalvo-Gesser se convirtió en directora de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Su plan había sido hacer crecer la agencia aumentando la asistencia a las víctimas de la violencia, mejorando la ayuda humanitaria, ayudando con las visas patrocinadas por familiares y ampliando los recursos de consejería de la diócesis, entre muchas otras esperanzas.

Tuvo un año “normal”, por así decirlo. Luego, en 2020, comenzó la pandemia del COVID-19, “y las cosas cambiaron”, comentó a *El Católico de Kentucky Occidental* en una entrevista reciente.

Poco después de eso, la agencia de Caridades Católicas comenzó a ayudar a los afganos a establecerse en el área, “y cambiaron más cosas”, dijo.

“Luego tuvimos los tornados”, dijo Montalvo-Gesser sobre las tormentas del 10 de diciembre de 2021 que devastaron el oeste de Kentucky.

En este punto, Caridades Católicas se había acostumbrado a dar un giro cada vez que algo cambiaba. Pero estas tormentas, que se consideraron el peor brote de tornados en la historia de Kentucky, aumentaron la carga de trabajo del pequeño personal de la agencia y los arrojó a una intensa curva de aprendizaje.

Un año después, Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro tiene administradores de casos que ayudan a los sobrevivientes de tornados en todo Kentucky occidental, y se ha convertido en un nombre confiable y respetado incluso para aquellos que no son católicos.

Khaibar Shafaq, quien originalmente llegó a Kentucky como parte del programa de reasentamiento afgano en Owensboro, hoy se desempeña como asistente legal y administrador de casos de desastres para Caridades Católicas.

“Todos los días siempre aprendo algo nuevo”, dijo Shafaq. “Siempre es una bendición trabajar con Susan. Es una de las mejores personas con las que he trabajado”.

Karina González, administradora de casos de Caridades Católicas, comenzó a ayudar con la recuperación de tornados como voluntaria en la Parroquia San José en Mayfield, que era un centro para el alivio de tornados inmediatamente después del desastre.

“Todavía es doloroso”, dijo.

Si bien la reconstrucción y la recuperación “llevarán mucho tiempo”, dijo que “todos los días



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE SUSAN MONTALVO-GESSER

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, directora de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro, Kentucky, abraza a Alfredo “Fredy” González, feligrés de la Parroquia San José en Mayfield, después de que los tornados del 10 de diciembre de 2021 devastaran el oeste de Kentucky.

me levanto por la mañana y digo: 'este será un buen día'. Eso me hace sentir mejor”.

Carol Hernández, colega administradora de casos del condado de Graves con Caridades Católicas, sobrevivió a los tornados de mayo de 2016 que azotaron el oeste de Kentucky y destruyeron su hogar.

“Fui víctima de eso, así que, yo conozco cómo es”, dijo.

Hernández dijo que, en 2016, después de tener que vivir en un hotel durante tres meses, Dios “me abrió el camino. No hice esto solo, Dios lo hizo por mí”.

Debido a su experiencia personal, ha podido empatizar con los sobrevivientes de los tornados de diciembre, “siendo agradecida” y ofreciéndoles la esperanza de que vienen días mejores.

“Tienes que tener esa esperanza”, dijo. ■

La Parroquia San José en Mayfield continúa la recuperación del tornado

“Siempre hay bendiciones que surjan de los desastres”, dijo Christie Scarbrough, gerente de administración de la Parroquia San José en Mayfield, que resultó dañada durante los tornados del 10 de diciembre de 2021.

La parroquia sufrió daños en el área de su porche delantero y su campanario, y el antiguo edificio de la escuela cercano se consideró una pérdida total. Sin embargo, durante el año pasado, se repararon el porche y el campanario y se demolió el edificio de la escuela para crear espacio para un nuevo edificio de educación religiosa.

“Estamos en un lugar mejor”, dijo Scarbrough, aunque agregó que muchas personas en la comunidad todavía están esperando que sus casas



RILEY GREIF | WKC

El 19 de junio de 2022, se encuentra un altar de Corpus Christi frente al antiguo edificio de la escuela en la Parroquia San José en Mayfield, Kentucky. El edificio, que resultó gravemente dañado por los tornados del 10 de diciembre de 2021, fue demolido más tarde y la parroquia espera reemplazarlo con un nuevo edificio para la educación religiosa.

sean reconstruidas o reparadas. Entre los feligreses, dijo que “todos están cuidando unos a otros, y eso es lo que uno espera ver”. ■

Continuado de la página 29

Era uno de los hermanos que llevaban el anda del Señor. A veces venía con los hombros doloridos y sangrando, pero feliz de haber estado con el Señor.

Fue en el otoño de 2009 que se ofreció una misa por primera vez al Señor de los Milagros en la Iglesia de San Pedro y San Pablo. Esto se hizo con la ayuda de la señorita Libby Downs, el padre John Thomas y el padre Carmelo Jiménez. La primera procesión tuvo lugar en octubre de 2010. Lamentablemente, mi padre falleció en marzo de ese año. El Padre Thomas, el Padre Carmelo y el Padre Uhem celebraron la Misa por el Señor de los Milagros el domingo 24 de octubre de 2010. Fue entonces cuando toda la comunidad hispana salió en procesión por primera vez. Luego, hubo una cena con platos de varios países hispanos. Mi madre estaba profundamente complacida de ver los frutos de la devoción de mi padre al Señor de los

Milagros. Ella falleció en febrero de 2011.

Durante la pandemia 2019-2020 hicimos las novenas vía Zoom y las transmitimos a través de Facebook. Hoy, continuamos usando Facebook para transmitir las novenas y rosarios para el Señor de los Milagros. Este octubre celebramos el 13° aniversario del Señor de los Milagros en Hopkinsville.

Nuestros sacerdotes y diáconos que han continuado esta devoción a lo largo de estos 13 años son el padre Richard Meredith, el padre Al Bramer, el padre Daniel Dillard, el padre Basilio Az, el padre Michael Obiero, el padre Jude Okono y nuestro sacerdote misionero el padre Julio Palarino y nuestros diáconos, Bill Sweet, Roberto Cruz, and Trinidad Soriano. Mi hermano Iván Montejos y su esposa Juanita también trabajan en esta devoción. Mi eterna gratitud a mi amado esposo, el diácono Tim, por hacer realidad el sueño de mi padre. ■