

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

January 2023 ● Volume 50 Issue 1 ● The newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro ● westernkatholic.com



Looking ahead with hope

Bishop William F. Medley speaks with Deacon Mike Marsili after the dedication ceremony for the rebuilt home of Jerry Vandiver in Dawson Springs, Ky., exactly one year after the Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes. **Page 4**



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Adults who care

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Front page main photo courtesy of James Kenney

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THE WESTERN KENTUCKY  Catholic

Official newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro

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

Telephone ● (270) 683-1545

Email ● wkc.editor@pastoral.org

Publisher ● Bishop William F. Medley

Editor ● Elizabeth Wong Barnstead

Contributors ● Riley Greif

Send change of address requests to
janet.clancy@pastoral.org

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

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



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A well-kept secret for Christian unity

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We often speak of some very good things as “well-kept secrets,” meaning some things very positively notable are not well known or observed at all. Perhaps we might even say the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness is too often a well-kept secret.

This month I want to speak of an annual observance of the Christian family that qualifies as a well-kept secret. For over 100 years the Catholic Church has collaborated with multiple other Christian denominations to pray in a most intentional way for the unity of Christ’s followers. This is observed every year from January 18-25 as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The root of this observance and longing is to be found in the final discourse of Jesus to his apostles on the night before he died. He prayed, “May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.” (John 17:21)

Clearly Jesus was praying for his chosen apostles and recognizing the scandalous disunity even these 12 had shown at times when they argued over who would be first in the Kingdom of God, who might sit at Jesus’ side when he came into his throne. The evangelist St. John positions this prayer just before Jesus’ arrest when the betrayal of Judas was complete and then the remaining apostles scattered. This prayer foreshadowed the scandal that followers of Jesus would continue by their arguments and fragmenting even unto our own day.

There are wonderful examples of Christians praying together and working together, most

especially when we join resources to serve the poor. But we can persist in pettiness and even bigotry at times. Though what the followers of Jesus have in common is far vaster than our differences, human beings too often focus on what divides rather than what unites us.

So, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a well-kept secret. In many communities sister churches do take this time to come together in prayer and sometimes in special projects.

We have just in the past month observed the first anniversary of the storm that ravaged western Kentucky leaving 81 people dead and hundreds homeless. In responding to the crisis, our differences as Christians seemed to evaporate. As representatives of many churches and organizations from many places sent people and resources to assist no one asked, “Are you Catholic or Baptist or Methodist?” No one asked, “Are you a Republican or a Democrat?” No one asked who you voted for in the last election. We asked, “How can we help?”

For at least a little while in a time of tragedy and disaster, followers of Jesus understood Our Lord’s prayer “that all may be one.”

Let us pray that this lesson learned in trial may teach us to be one.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

BISHOP MEDLEY'S JANUARY 2023 CALENDAR	
JAN. 2-6	SEEK Conference St. Louis, Mo.
JAN. 8-12	Region V Bishops' Retreat New Orleans, La.
JAN. 16-19	Diocese of Owensboro Priests' Convocation Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, St. Meinrad, Ind.
JAN. 21	4 p.m. Confirmation Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson
JAN. 23	5 p.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
JAN. 24	10 a.m.-2 p.m. Paducah Office Hours
JAN. 25	6 p.m. Confirmation St. Anthony Parish, Browns Valley
JAN. 26	Day of Formation with Diocesan Staff
JAN. 27	7:30 a.m. Mass at Mount Saint Joseph Maple Mount
JAN. 30	8 a.m. School Mass Holy Name of Jesus School, Henderson
JAN. 31	9:30 a.m. School Mass St. Mary School System, Paducah

‘We did what we were supposed to do’ – Bishop Medley on one-year anniversary of Kentucky tornadoes



COURTESY OF JAMES KENNEY

During the Dec. 10, 2022 dedication of Jerry Vandiver's new home, Bishop William F. Medley speaks about the resiliency of the Dawson Springs community and how Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, as well as several other organizations, have made a difference in the lives of the residents who were devastated by the Dec. 10, 2021, tornado.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Visitors and residents of Dawson Springs, Ky., crowded under a tent on Dec. 10, 2022 to escape the steady rains during the dedication of a local man's rebuilt home – a home that one year ago had been destroyed by the historic western Kentucky tornadoes.

Jerry Vandiver, sporting a gray hoodie and a Catholic Charities baseball cap, told those gathered that “I wish I could say how grateful I am

to everyone.”

Earlier that morning, Vandiver had led visitors on a tour of his new house – visitors including Kentucky governor Andy Beshear, and Bishop William F. Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro, whose diocese and Catholic Charities office have been leaders in local tornado recovery efforts.

From Vandiver's driveway, multiple new houses could be seen in the process of being completed.

Vandiver later told The Western Kentucky Catholic that “there are a lot of good people out

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COURTESY OF JAMES KENNEY

Kristan Schlichte, Senior Director of Membership for Catholic Charities USA, speaks at the home dedication of Jerry Vandiver, one year after the Dec. 10, 2021, tornado devastated his home and the surrounding community in Dawson Springs, Kentucky. Catholic Charities USA is working closely with several other organizations to help rebuild Dawson Springs and the surrounding regions.



COURTESY OF JAMES KENNEY

Before his home dedication begins, Jerry Vandiver, left, gives Kentucky governor Andy Beshear the grand tour of his new home. Vandiver, who was in his home when the Dec. 10, 2021, tornado destroyed it, said he has been staying with family and friends while waiting for his house to be rebuilt. “It means the world to me,” Vandiver said of the outpouring of support he has received. “From the bottom of my heart, I'd like to thank everyone who had a part in this.”

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there” who have stepped up to help survivors.

Vandiver has been a client of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro’s disaster case management program as Habitat for Humanity worked on rebuilding his home. He said he is most grateful for “organizations coming together – they haven’t forgotten us.”

He said this gives him the greatest hope for the future.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony – during which Vandiver was formally presented with a bible and keys to his new house – Bishop Medley said he is proud to see the community organizations who have collaborated to accompany survivors.

“We did what we were supposed to do – we became partners,” said the bishop, recalling that within the first week after the tornadoes, Catholic Charities USA sent \$1 million to the diocese for relief and recovery.

To date, Catholic Charities USA has provided approximately \$2.9 million in gifts and about \$40,600 in grants – both of which are to be used for tornado recovery efforts – to the Diocese of Owensboro.

The bishop said the diocese’s pastoral center was flooded with calls immediately after the tornadoes, as others sought ways to donate and assist.

Parishes across western Kentucky took up a special collection for their storm-impacted neighbors; the amount ultimately totaled to \$409,419. And dioceses from around the United States gave a total of \$2,117,880 – with \$1,120,805 of that being sent by the



COURTESY OF JAMES KENNEY

Dawson Springs, Kentucky, Mayor Chris Smiley says a prayer after speaking about the rebuilding efforts in his city during the home dedication for Jerry Vandiver (far right). Kara McKnight, 11, middle, who lost her brother in a car accident just two weeks before the tornado destroyed her family’s home, was a special guest of the Beshears, who have befriended McKnight since the tornado. “The love and support,” McKnight said of everything that has been done for her family. “It’s just amazing to see everything come together like this.”



COURTESY OF JAMES KENNEY

After the Dec. 10, 2022 dedication ceremony for the home of Jerry Vandiver in Dawson Springs, Kentucky, Bishop William F. Medley speaks with Deacon Mike Marsili of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, Kentucky, whose church was destroyed in the Dec. 10, 2021, tornado.

Kentucky dioceses of Louisville, Covington and Lexington.

Kristan Schlichte, senior director of membership for Catholic Charities USA, traveled from the national office in Virginia to attend the dedication and speak at Vandiver’s home dedication.

“Being here for Dawson Springs is ‘coming home’ for anyone coming from Catholic Charities,” she told the crowd.

She told the WKC that she appreciates witnessing how people in diverse communities like western Kentucky – home to many Catholics and non-Catholics alike – “come together to work together.”

Several members of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs attended the home dedication. The day was bittersweet for them, since Resurrection’s church was destroyed in the tornadoes, but they hope to break ground for the new building in the new year.

Currently, the parish continues to worship in a metal outbuilding on the property of parishioners Donnie and Rhonda Mills.

“I feel hopeful; I am glad to see the houses going up,” said Ashley Marsili, who in addition to being a parishioner of Resurrection is also a Catholic Charities volunteer case manager.

Her husband, Deacon Mike Marsili, said they recently watched a TV special about the tornado recovery.

“The whole idea was how we were moving on,” he said. At the same time, he added, “in some ways we’re still in it. In some ways we’re forever changed.”

Deacon Marsili said he is grateful his bishop

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‘We too must bear Christ into the world’

Dec. 6 gathering features Eucharistic Revival preacher



RILEY GREIF | WKC
Bishop William F. Medley incenses the Blessed Sacrament during a period of Adoration at the Dec. 6 Eucharistic Revival gathering.



RILEY GREIF | WKC
Fr. Connor Danstrom, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, speaks at the Diocese of Owensboro’s Dec. 6 Eucharistic Revival gathering for priests, parish staff, Newman Center staff and Catholic school administrators.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Speaking to the crowd of 256 people gathered for the day at the Owensboro Convention Center, Fr. Connor Danstrom said it doesn’t make sense to say, “I am Catholic” – but not to “understand or believe in the Eucharist.”

Fr. Danstrom was the guest speaker for the Diocese of Owensboro’s Dec. 6 Eucharistic Revival

gathering for priests, parish staff, Newman Center staff and Catholic school administrators. He is one of the 56 National Eucharistic Preachers commissioned to travel around the country and speak to dioceses as part of the National Eucharistic Revival, led by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“The way we celebrate and pray the Mass communicates to others what we believe of the Eucharist,” he said. He asked, “Do we act as though

that’s who we are in the presence of?”

A priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Fr. Danstrom currently serves as the chaplain of the St. John Paul II Newman Center at University of Illinois – Chicago. He said that in today’s “age of spectacle,” it is vital to often make time to step away from digital screens and enter into prayer – especially mental prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration.

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‘Healing that we don’t understand’

Couple recounts Rachel’s Vineyard retreat experience

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD,
THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Jan. 20, 2013 – a day that brought peace to a couple that had been silently suffering for decades.

Looking back, “Eileen” and “Steven” (pseudonyms used for privacy) believe their Rachel’s Vineyard retreat that weekend provided the greatest healing they have ever experienced as a couple.

“After we went, I understood,” said Eileen. “I realized that God works in mysterious ways and sometimes we don’t understand why things happen.”

Rachel’s Vineyard of Kentucky is a branch of an international program that offers confidential retreats for women and men suffering from lingering effects after an abortion experience. The retreats often take place at the secluded St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, Ky., which is home to a community of cloistered Passionist nuns.

“It basically gave us closure,” said Steven, who with his wife of 38 years recently shared their story with *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

When Eileen and Steven were dating in their early twenties, they became pregnant.

“I was so scared; I didn’t want to hurt my parents,” said Eileen, who described Steven as not religious at that time, and herself as “Catholic but lost.”

Today she wishes someone would have sat down with her and said, “It’ll be ok.”

Instead, one of her sisters accompanied Eileen and Steven to a Planned Parenthood clinic, where Eileen had the abortion.

“There was definitely trauma,” said Eileen of the experience, adding that “I



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A statue of the Pietà – Our Lady holding Jesus after he was taken down from the cross – is seen at St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, where Rachel’s Vineyard retreats are often held in Kentucky.

completely blocked it out of my mind.”

Steven said he also “blocked out” the abortion afterward and in the years to follow.

“If an ad for abortion came on TV, I’d quickly change it,” he said. “It affected me more than I realized.”

They got married two years later and waited to have children until she was 27 and he was 30. By this point, they had become more invested in their faith, with Steven having become Catholic before they were married.

They felt that their lives were in a good place, though Eileen said she had brought up the abortion multiple times in the confessional. Even while receiving God’s forgiveness, Eileen said she “could not forgive myself.”

Apart from that, she did not discuss the abortion with anyone else.

When their first child was born, they were puzzled that “it triggered something and I started having anxiety attacks,” said Eileen.

She started seeing a therapist, who encouraged her to dig deeper.

“At first, with the therapist, I refused to tell her,” said Eileen. “I had said ‘I

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Missionaries go door-to-door, invite neighbors to Mass and bible studies

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

From September through December 2022, those living in the Beaver Dam and Morgantown areas might have been surprised to hear a knock on their door and see two young men wearing white button-up shirts and black pants, inviting them to church.

No, they were not Mormon, though one of the young men, Cristian Aguilera, admitted that people often mistake them for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Aguilera and his fellow missionary, Werner David Acabal Sequen, are in fact members of a Catholic community called the Misioneros Servidores de la Palabra (Missionary Servants of the Word).

The two recently shared about their mission, even as they prepared to head back to their house of formation in Columbus, Ohio, after a fruitful semester of sharing the Gospel with strangers.

The community was founded by Fr. Luigi Butera in the 1980s in Mexico, but it has spread across the globe. It includes priests and religious brothers and sisters, as well as committed lay members. The community also offers an opportunity for lay young adults – like Aguilera and Sequen – to be trained as missionaries who will be sent to serve in a specific area for a set period of time, similar to NET Ministries and other Catholic young adult initiatives.

In the United States alone, the community currently serves in about 20 states. Before the missionaries are sent forth, they train for eight months at one of their houses of formation in either Ohio or California.

This semester, Aguilera and Sequen resided with Fr. Julio Barrera, the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Morgantown and Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam. Using the parishes as home base, the missionaries set out to get to know the people of the local area.

Aguilera said it is “definitely effective to do door-to-door,” since they have seen the success of their non-Catholic brothers and sisters using the same method.

He said “there are always Catholics who don’t find Mass very important” – which provides the missionaries an opportunity to invite them to come to church.

“We are here to help out the Catholics who are questioning their faith – to reaffirm their faith,” said Aguilera.

Besides inviting their neighbors to Mass, the missionaries also invited them to attend bible studies at the parish. The studies were offered at different times throughout the day and were geared toward specific age groups, such as adults, young adults and youth.

And it was not all seriousness all the time: they said that besides leading bible studies, they liked showing religious movies and playing games to teach the young people that being Catholic is not



COURTESY OF FR. JULIO BARRERA
Werner David Acabal Sequen (left), Fr. Julio Barrera (center), and Cristian Aguilera (right) stand inside Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam. The two young men belong to the Misioneros Servidores de la Palabra community, which sends missionaries around the world to share the Gospel with others – even going door-to-door to invite people to Mass.

boring.

The two missionaries said they are thankful to Fr. Barrera for inviting their community to serve at his parishes.

“Fr. Julio is a good person and a good priest,” said Sequen of Fr. Barrera, who hopes to invite more missionaries to serve at his parishes in the future.

Aguilera and Sequen added that they’ve witnessed how “seeing young people recharges the batteries” of older parishioners who are not used to seeing young people spread the Gospel. ■

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has continued to speak about the tornadoes so that people do not forget. This included Bishop Medley reflecting on the storms during the diocese's Dec. 6 Eucharistic Revival convocation – hearkening back to a week after the tornadoes, when the bishop flew in a plane across the path of destruction, blessing all below with the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance.

At Vandiver's home dedication, Beshear spoke of the 81 lives lost to the tornadoes in Kentucky, including 10 of those being in Dawson Springs.

"Today, one year after the deadliest tornado event in our state history, we are making progress," he said, "but I know those families continue to carry that grief."

He said his administration plans to mail 10,000 checks with a \$1,000 balance to those who filed an insurance claim or received FEMA aid.

"There's still a lot of work," he said.

Chris Smiley, the mayor of Dawson Springs, reflected on the progress that has been made in a year – including nine other homes Habitat for Humanity is currently building in collaboration with other community partners.

"It was unbelievable what we saw" of last year's storms, he said, "and now this is unbelievable."

"Thank you, Jesus, for getting us where we are now," he prayed aloud. ■

Rachel's Vineyard continued from page 7

have a wonderful life, etcetera...' She said, 'There must be something you aren't telling me?' And that's when I started weeping."

When Eileen mentioned the abortion, the therapist said, "There it is, that explains the anxiety attacks."

In the meantime, the couple had been routinely visiting the Fathers of Mercy in Auburn, Ky., to attend Mass with the religious community of priests. There they encountered Fr. Ben Cameron, CPM, who had helped start Rachel's Vineyard of Kentucky and who serves as the site leader of the Western Kentucky team.

Eileen and Steven said nothing to Fr. Cameron of their personal experience. That is, until Eileen's sister told Fr. Cameron about the abortion – meaning well, but without permission – and the priest invited Eileen to consider a Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

"I got very upset," said Eileen. "I told (my sister) she had no right! But God had a plan and

eventually I forgave her."

Fr. Cameron gently but consistently continued to invite Eileen to attend Rachel's Vineyard.

Finally, after six years of being invited, Eileen said in frustration to her husband, "Pack your bags, we're going so Fr. Ben will leave me alone!"

It was on that retreat that Eileen and Steven received "healing that we don't understand," she said.

"I realized I needed to forgive myself," said Eileen. "Before, even though I went to confession and therapy I did not have closure."

Steven echoed his wife and added, "The retreat gave me closure too, that I didn't realize I needed."

Through readings, meditations and prayers, the Rachel's Vineyard retreat – which features the collaboration of laypeople, a priest, and a professional therapist – helped the couple achieve peace in themselves and even in their marriage.

Before the retreat, "I thought I had reached that healing," said Eileen. "But many women think they're healed, and are churchgoing and faith-filled, but there is always something hanging around you."

The couple, who today have become close friends with Fr. Cameron and volunteer with the retreats, said Rachel's Vineyard is a "safe place to share the deepest wounds."

Steven said people can attend even if they personally did not experience an abortion: "You can participate in it if someone in your life had an abortion and maybe you have feelings of guilt that you couldn't convince them not to."

Eileen said that unfortunately, "there are so many Catholics in the faith who judge people who have experienced abortion. I would say to them, you do not know what was in that person's heart that made them do it."

"People need to stop judging others because you don't know what brought them to that point," she said, adding that "it is a loss: you have that pain forever. But when you give it to Jesus, you are transformed."

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard retreats in the region include June 2-4, 2023 in Dickson, Tenn., and Nov. 3-5, 2023 in Whitesville, Ky. Learn more at hopeafterabortionky.com. ■

Black Americans on the road to sainthood: Pierre Toussaint – From slave to sainthood

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE
OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

During the month of January we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, the arrival of the Magi to pay homage to “the king of kings.” The Psalm for this day’s liturgy tells us that this king will “govern [the] people with justice” (Ps. 72:2) and that as a ruler, this king “rescues the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help. He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor” (Ps. 72:12-13).

As we continue our journey with Black Americans on the road to sainthood, this month Pierre Toussaint comes to mind as an embodiment of the qualities noted in this scripture.

Born a house slave in Haiti on a French plantation on June 27, 1766, Pierre and his sister were raised as Catholics and he as the godson of his master’s sister with whom he maintained a close relationship until her death. In 1787, Pierre and his sister were transported to New York with their master’s family as they fled the violent Haitian slave revolts. In New York, the family joined the small Catholic population there and



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Pierre Toussaint, declared venerable in 1997, is depicted in a stained-glass window in the mausoleum chapel at Holy Rood Cemetery in Westbury, N.Y. Born into slavery in modern-day Haiti, Toussaint (1766-1853) became a successful hairdresser in New York City. He later bought his freedom and generously supported many charitable endeavors of the local Catholic church.

reportedly Pierre attended daily Mass for over 60 years.

He was apprenticed to a beautician and quickly mastered the art at which his proficiency made his services highly desirable and provided him a means to support his master’s family and to provide charitable assistance to many in need. For the next several decades, he was a well-known beautician and offered counsel to many ladies of high society in New York City.

Pierre lived as a slave and after his master’s death, financially supported his master’s household and young widow. Never asking for his own freedom, he bought the freedom of several slaves including his own sister, Rosalie. He attended daily Mass at Old St. Peter’s, did the household marketing and chores and then, because he was prohibited from using the transportation system due to his race, went on foot throughout the city with his barbering equipment to dress the hair of his extensive clientele. He became known for his good advice and his counsel which was sought after by many even after he was too old to continue this grueling daily routine.

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Pierre Toussaint continued from page 10

Toussaint was eventually freed from slavery by his mistress just before her death. He later expressed his joy that she never had a want, and he was glad he had served her. The remainder of Pierre's life was spent in service to the Catholic cause in New York City. As his clientele grew, he had become one of New York's foremost entrepreneurs, investing in banking and real estate. He might have been the richest Black man in the United States – had he not spent so much of his resources aiding those in need and assisting the Church. In fact, he was a major benefactor in the construction of old St. Patrick's Cathedral;

he gave assistance to St. Elizabeth Seton's new founded order; he purchased the freedom of many slaves; he cared for the sick in the time of a contagious plague, and he gave wise counsel to all who sought his advice. He was a benefactor of the Catholic Orphan Asylum and even raised several homeless Black children.

Pierre Toussaint died on June 30, 1853 at the age of 87. His funeral was a celebration of his life of selflessness. Initially buried in the graveyard of old St. Patrick's, his remains were exhumed and moved to the current St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue in 1991 when Cardinal O'Connor introduced his cause for canonization. In 1996

Pierre was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II.

Please pray for the cause of this holy man.

While not a candidate for canonization, we certainly acknowledge the martyrdom of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and celebrate his life of advocacy for freedom and justice this month. Let us continue to pray for the repose of his soul and for freedom, justice and mercy in our world.

"Memoir of Pierre Toussaint" by Hannah Sawyer is the source of information for this article.

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

Eucharistic Revival continued from page 6

"In an age of spectacle, isn't it even more important to sit in the 'unremarkable' presence of Christ?" he said. "If we sit there long enough, our desires can be refocused to their proper end. He is always working hard to draw you into deeper communion."

This gathering was part of the first year of the three-year revival, which launched on Corpus Christi in June 2022.

According to eucharisticrevival.org, the official website for the initiative, the National Eucharistic Revival exists to "inspire and prepare the People of God to be formed, healed, converted, united, and sent out to a hurting and hungry world through a renewed encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist – the source and summit of our Catholic faith."

The Dec. 6 gathering kicked off with 8 a.m. Mass

at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. Fr. John Thomas, rector of the cathedral, focused his homily on the Gospel reading of the Good Shepherd who seeks the one lost sheep.

"This parable of the lost sheep should be of particular interest for all of us," said Fr. Thomas. "He is the Good Shepherd who would risk everything. Jesus will give everything just for the one."

He called the faithful to "look at things differently – to look at this parable and realize the cost of salvation. For one soul, Christ will give everything."

The day was divided into portions for silent Adoration, Morning Prayer, small group discussion, lunch, and speaker presentations.

During the time of morning Adoration, Bishop William F. Medley shared a reflection about the different parts of the Mass as both leading to and

branching out from the Eucharist.

"The Eucharist is both sacred meal and holy sacrifice," he said, explaining that in receiving the Eucharist, "we bear Christ into the world as truly as Mary bore Christ into the world. We too must bear Christ into the world and do our part in salvation history."

He said the priest's final words of the liturgy – "Go in peace" – are a reference to the fact that "what happens at the Eucharist cannot stay there."

The bishop also reflected on the upcoming one-year anniversary of the deadly Dec. 10, 2021 tornadoes, which devastated much of western Kentucky and "where more than 80 of our brothers and sisters died in that storm."

He urged those gathered not to forget those who experienced the tornadoes and to continue to pray. ■

Time for a change?

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

I expect you've heard about the National Eucharistic Revival, and you may wonder what this effort will offer you and our wider Church. You might not know that this effort is coming out of the Office of Evangelization at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Fifty years ago, Pope Paul VI said, "The Church exists to evangelize." Meaning, we exist to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a world that desperately needs answers. Since the great commission in Matthew 28:18 when Jesus told the disciples to "Go and make disciples of all nations" the Church has been about this mission. And clearly, the Holy Spirit has led our Church throughout every generation to serve our world in Christ's name.

So why the Eucharistic Revival now? Priests and parish staff members from our diocese gathered in early December to learn the "why." Fr. Connor Danstrom, one of the National Eucharistic Revival Preachers, offered two talks.

The first talk focused on the call to personal and communal transformation. His three points were: sacrifice, communion, and presence. He said that "human beings are made to live in communion with the Holy Trinity." We are to be changed by the one sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, which is represented at each Eucharist. As we receive Jesus, we are called to become what we receive! To be transformed into "perfect self-giving love." We are to become Christ's



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Fr. Connor Danstrom speaks to the 256 priests, parish staff and others gathered for the Dec. 6 Eucharistic Revival convocation held at the Owensboro Convention Center.

presence in all we do throughout the week for others.

The second talk offered three points as well, and it is interesting to note that all 56 Eucharistic Revival Preachers were trained together and sent out to share this message across the U.S. He spoke about relationship, identity, and mission.

And here's where the change is being offered to our average Catholic experience... We are called to engage in an intimate and personal relationship with God. And we do this best through what he called Mental Prayer. This involves giving and receiving and leads to intimacy and trust. Like in human relationships, there are seven levels of intimacy. Think of your loved ones and your relationship with Jesus. The first three are surface levels: cliches, facts, opinions. These do not disclose a great deal about us and do not lead to much depth. However, the following lead to great depth and need to be present in our loving human relationships and with God;

hopes/dreams, feelings, fears/faults/failures, and our deepest needs.

Changing our prayer to a conversation with God, to a communion with the Holy Trinity rooted in an intimate and honest conversation that is vulnerable and real, is essential in our daily prayer life. Our identity must come from our deep and loving relationship with God, and our mission is to live this love well, which will reflect out in all our relationships with others!

The Eucharistic Revival in an invitation to deeper intimacy with God.

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. ■

‘Go, you are dismissed’

BY DCN. JAY VANHOOSIER,
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

In August 2019, the Pew Research Center released a study about the level of Catholic belief in the Real Presence of Lord in the Eucharist. It found that many United States Catholics do not believe the bread and wine used at Mass truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Specifically, Pew found:

- 69% of all self-identified Catholics said they believed the bread and wine used at Mass are not Jesus, but instead “symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.”
- According to Gregory Smith, associate director of the Pew Research Center, “Most Catholics who believe that the bread and wine are symbolic do not know that the Church holds that transubstantiation occurs.”
- 43% of Catholics that believe that the bread and wine are symbolic also believe that this symbolic presence is the position of the Church.
- 22% of self-identified Catholics reject the idea of transubstantiation – even though they know about the Church’s teaching.

Understandably, this information was alarming to the U.S. bishops. Put simply, to be Catholic is to believe that bread and wine consecrated at Mass becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. As Fr. Connor Danstrom said in his address at the Eucharistic Revival Gathering this past Dec. 6 in Owensboro, “You can’t be Catholic and not believe in the Real Presence.”

Although these findings can be attributed, as many bishops have stated following the release of this survey, to a failure in catechesis – the formal handing on of faith – I would argue that there is another equally valid reason that the Real Presence has lost resonance in the hearts and minds of many Catholics: they have forgotten that the Eucharist, by virtue of their Baptism, calls them to be people of mission.

The most important and highest form of worship for Catholics are the



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

liturgies of the Mass. During Mass, we are first fed by Christ in Scripture during the Liturgy of the Word and then fed by his actual Body and Blood in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Receiving these precious gifts of nourishment, we are called, as baptized disciples, to use them. In other words, we are not finished when Mass ends. In fact, our job as followers of Christ has just begun!

The word “mass” comes from the Latin word “missa” meaning “dismissed,” and was the name used in the Western Church for the primary worship service as early as the 5th century. In fact, worship was concluded with the words “Ite, missa est” – “Go, it (the assembly) is dismissed.” However, according to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, the word “missa” has come to mean something much more. In “Sacramentum caritatis,” he wrote, “In antiquity, missa simply met ‘dismissal’.

In Christian usage, however, it gradually took on a deeper meaning. The word ‘dismissal’ has come to imply a ‘mission’. These few words succinctly express the missionary nature of the church” (51).

This has profound implications for Catholics. The Eucharist – what we receive in communion; the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ; the source and summit of our faith – transforms us. We become what we eat. We are made holy. It urges us forth from the building in which we worship and out into the world to become Christ for whomever we meet! We have a job to do and the Eucharist gives us the strength and the grace to do it.

There will be some who will say that what we need to do in order to help reinforce the teaching of the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist is to do more Eucharistic Adoration or more Eucharistic processions. These are not bad things. The Church does encourage them, after all. The danger lies in losing focus to what Adoration and processions are intended to draw our attention: what happens on the altar during Mass. The very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ substantially coming to us – salvation coming to us – and then it’s our responsibility to take Him out to the world. Even Adoration and

Continues on back page

We need adults who care



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Matt Purcell, a youth ministry leader from Fancy Farm, spends time with youth during Owensboro Diocese Youth Conference, which was held Nov. 18-19, 2022.

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, OFFICE OF
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

During the recent synod listening sessions, we heard the concern time and time again about young people leaving the Church. According to the Diocese of Owensboro's synthesis, "We repeatedly heard the concern that young people are leaving the Church at alarming rates... A desire was expressed for more opportunities to help young people grow closer in their relationship with Jesus and to have a greater sense of belonging in their parish communities." In the national synthesis from the USCCB, a similar concern was shared. It stated, "Practically all synodal consultations shared a deep ache in the wake of the departure of young

people... Young people's waning participation in parish life was a source of great pain for many older community members."

There is good reason for the concerns being expressed. We often hear staggering statistics like for every one person coming into the Church, six are leaving. Two recent CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) studies have revealed that youth who are leaving the Church have decided to do so on average by the age of 13 and that the decision may come as early as age 10.

While awareness is a start, I am asking you (every adult in each parish of the diocese) to consider doing more than worrying, more than simply expressing concern. I'm asking you to know

Continues on back page

Lazarus Retreat

February 17-19, 2023

Gaspar River Catholic Youth
Camp and Retreat Center

WHO: All High School
Youth (9th-12th Grades)

WHAT: As we journey
through the story of the
raising of Lazarus, we
truly see what it means
to be dead in this world
and called to life in
Jesus. This retreat is an
intentional invitation to
life in Christ.



Why is Mount Saint Joseph home to a stuffed South American parrot?

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

In my August article I mentioned some of the more peculiar items that were uncovered while the archives was undertaking several large projects. I noted that some of the items would be featured in upcoming articles. This month's article will feature one of those items, Polly the Parrot.

My favorite figure in the history of our diocese, even before we were separated from the diocese of Louisville, is Fr. Paul Joseph Volk (1841-1919). A short description of Fr. Volk is that he was a German missionary priest who served western and central Kentucky and later South America. Perhaps his greatest gift to the diocese was the founding and construction of Mount Saint Joseph. He is responsible for the construction of over 20 churches. In our diocese alone, he is responsible for the reconstruction of St. Alphonsus Parish, Daviess County; organizing St. Joseph Parish, Owensboro; and the construction of St. Benedict Parish and St. Sebastian Parish in McLean County. He later went on to serve the very poor, and indigenous people of South America. Towards the end of his life, he returned to Kentucky where he continued to serve until he spent his final days at MSJ, where he is now buried. So what does this saintly priest have to do with Polly, the stuffed parrot?

Tradition has it that while Fr. Volk was missioning in South America, he acquired a pet macaw that he named Polly. This would have been



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES
Pictured is Polly "Old Pol" the Parrot.

a delightfully exotic animal for a German around the turn of the century. When Fr. Volk returned to Kentucky, he brought Polly (later called Old Pol) back with him. Being that macaws live an average of 40 years, Fr. Volk was outlived by his little feathered friend and the aging parrot was left in the loving care of the Ursuline Sisters.

The responsibility of Polly was taken up by Sr. Johanna Froeba, OSU. The two became dear friends. Sr. Johanna would feed Polly after the sisters ate. When Polly saw his friend Sr. Johanna coming, he would happily jump onto the broomstick which was used for his feedings. After Sr. Johanna died, Polly refused to eat and followed shortly after.

After the parrot passed, the question of what to do with him arose. Nearly anything that the holy priest, Fr. Volk, had touched was preserved by the Ursuline Sisters, his spiritual daughters. So as logic would have it, they had the exotic bird taxidermized. When the Mount's museum was established, it seemed the obvious home for him.

For years, Old Pol was a premier attraction at the MSJ Museum. The story of his origin, arrival to the United States, friendship with Sr. Johanna and subsequent death was told and retold. He was often mentioned by students writing letters of appreciation to the museum. One teacher, Ms. Halie Medkiff, even wrote "The story about the parrot was heart-breaking to some (especially to me.)" The stories of his adventures and friendships continued to win hearts long after his had stopped beating.

A viewer may look at this bird and his surroundings and wonder why in the world is there an exotic stuffed parrot in a convent in western Kentucky. Well, this may be a time where the truth is stranger than fiction. Old Pol is a true example that even the most unassuming can be grand adventurers.

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. ■

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Immaculate Conception/ St. Columba help community during Christmas season

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Three different groups have come together the past 12 years to make Christmas a little brighter for some families in Hancock County. Those groups are the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Hancock County, Santa Sacks, and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots. The event is held at the Lewisport Community Center; with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic it has become a drive-thru event.

A line of cars waiting stretched four city blocks before the official opening of this year's event. Bob Durbin, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Northeast District president said, "Without the collaboration of these three groups and the volunteers who show up to help, this event would never happen."

More than 250 families will receive food for a Christmas meal provided by Santa Sacks; clothes including coats, underwear, socks, and other clothes from St. Vincent de Paul; and of course toys from the U.S. Marine Corps.

Other major organizers who have lent a hand in this project are Monty and Noel Quinn and Beth Payne. The Quinns began Santa Sacks many years ago and were happy to participate in the joint venture.

"I begin early contacting companies and businesses for donations, both in-kind and financial. They are always happy to help in any way they can," said Noel Quinn.



COURTESY OF BELINDA ABELL

Project organizers Beth Payne and Noel Quinn stand in front of four 10-foot trailers packed with food to distribute. Clothing and toys are housed in the Lewisport Community Center.

Beth Payne, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store manager in Hancock County said, "This is only possible because of the great people who come out and help us."

Noel Quinn added, "The two of us make a good team, we help each other when needed."

Beth Payne agreed, "God provides when you need it."

The project is well-organized using applications

and local recommendations to identify those who could use a hand-up. While companies and businesses contribute, so do individuals. One particular family who has roots in the community band together and generously donate \$10,000 to the project for the past four years. Every penny donated to the project is used for the project.

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

Time, talent and treasure = trivia

BY LIZ MEDLEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Patricia Carroll of St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah has been using her time, talent and treasure for 11 years to raise several thousand dollars for charities. And how does she do it, you ask? Trivia!

Mrs. Carroll spends countless hours over several months gathering questions and answers from a variety of sources for her trivia competition. She types her own trivia questions, answer sheets and makes a large scoreboard for the game. During this time, she is also busy visiting local businesses to ask for donations of goods and services for door prizes in addition to making purchases herself. When all is ready, she then makes numerous telephone calls to gather teams and to solicit snacks and volunteers to assist with game night.

The trivia night is a fun evening for all with a meager entry fee of \$10 per person. There is always enough food to feed an army as well as many door prizes to give away throughout the evening. And, there is always the 50/50 drawing. One lucky person wins one-half of the pot and the other goes to the local charity, along with the entry fees collected and donations received.

Over the past 11 years, Mrs. Carroll has presented her trivia proceeds to a variety of organizations, including the River City Mission, Merryman House, Community Kitchen, Paducah Cooperative Ministry, Special Olympics, Moose Charities, Easter Seals, Hope Unlimited, Lourdes Hospice, American Red Cross, Paducah Day Nursery, the Human Project and St. Vincent De Paul. In the words of our Lord, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” ■



COURTESY OF LIZ MEDLEY
Norma Cox (left) at St. Vincent De Paul in Paducah receives proceeds from a family night trivia game from Patricia Carroll (right), who is also a volunteer at St. Vincent De Paul.



COURTESY OF CAROL HERNANDEZ

Cameron Sena, an intern with the disaster case management branch of Catholic Charities USA, graduated from Murray State University on Dec. 10, 2022.

Jaime M. Embry (left) and Trajon Bright, two disaster case managers for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, graduated with their bachelor's degrees in social work from Murray State University on Dec. 10, 2022.

Catholic Charities case managers and intern graduate from Murray State

BY WKC STAFF

Dec. 10, 2022 was a day of celebration for several Murray State University students as they graduated with their bachelor's degrees in social work. Jaime M. Embry and Trajon Bright, both serving as disaster case managers for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, graduated that day. Fellow social work student Cameron Sena graduated with them that day; Sena has been interning with the disaster case management branch of Catholic Charities USA. ■

‘Why Be Catholic?’ mission held at St. Martin Parish

BY NICOLE GRAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Nov. 26, Fr. Ken Geraci, CPM, said Mass at St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky., to kick off the four-day mission titled: “Why Be Catholic?”

What the faithful didn’t know at that time is that that was the beginning of a wonderful spiritual transformation, just in time for our current Christmas Advent season.

Fr. Geraci was raised in a nominally Catholic family, who only lived the externals of the faith. He left the Catholic Church for many years. During that time, he earned a business degree and worked as a business professional in Advanced R&D and software testing; a few years into his career he joined a few of his coworkers in establishing a \$4.5 million internet software company. Focused on money, fitness, and success, he made little room for God; but God did not give up on him. During this journey, God presented him with challenges that forced him to question his personal beliefs and the question “What is Truth?” Through a series of conversions, years of struggle, study and questioning, Fr. Geraci found his way from agnosticism to non-denominational Christianity, and ultimately back to the Catholic Church.

This is what made Fr. Ken the perfect person to kick off this Advent season, especially with all the struggles the faithful have been having in the past 2.5 years. There have been times that we all have felt abandoned and alone. Many of us had questions about our faith and wondered “Why?” Fr. Geraci answered that during these mission talks.

The first night’s talk was “What did Jesus Do



COURTESY OF NICOLE GRAY

During their parish mission with Fr. Ken Geraci, CPM, the faithful of St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky., participate in the talk on Day 3: “Two Obstacles to Healing.” People waiting for confession line the sides of the church; St. Martin had several visiting priests to help with the large crowd. At the front, the faithful come forward pew-by-pew to receive a Eucharistic blessing from Fr. Geraci with the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance.

– Church or Spirituality?” Day 2: “Why do we do that as Catholics?” Day 3: “Two Obstacles to Healing,” and Day 4 was “How to Pray the Mass.” Each night confessions were heard before and after the talks. Fr. Geraci also had the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction each night. Each night of the mission, St. Martin Parish had a packed church, especially on Day 3. During the healing talk, Fr. Geraci spoke about forgiveness, how to forgive others and yourself, so that you may be healed through Christ fully. Many young adults and teens were in attendance.

Wednesday evening was the Solemn Close of the Mission. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Geraci and concelebrated by pastor Fr. Pat Bittel. There were eight servers in attendance and again, the church was full. The mood was dignified and

beautiful. It was a great way to end the mission.

Fr. Geraci has a great understanding of the personal and societal pressures that individuals face and knows what it is like to “hate coming to church.” His mission talks are for people of all levels of faith; from those who are madly in love with Jesus to those who struggle with church and religion. If you’d like to go to one of his missions, please check out FathersOfMercy.com. There you can also find the mission in book form, DVD as well as a download. Just search for “Why Be Catholic?” in the media type you prefer.

What a joy it was to have Fr. Ken at St. Martin Parish. We are grateful to him and all who attended this worthwhile and meaningful spiritual journey!

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

Owensboro priest celebrates annual St. Lucy Mass for the blind

BY WKC STAFF

On Dec. 13, Fr. Jamie Dennis, parochial vicar of Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro, celebrated the annual St. Lucy Mass with clients of Xavier Society for the Blind in New York City.

The liturgy was held at St. Francis Xavier Church in New York City as St. Lucy, who is a patroness of the blind, was honored on her feast day. While Fr. Dennis, who is blind, presided at the Mass, Xavier Society clients served as lectors. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Hank Hilton, board president of the Xavier Society and a priest of the Diocese of Metuchen; and Fr. Raphael Munday of the Diocese of Brooklyn, who is actively involved in the diocese's disabilities ministry.

To learn more about the Xavier Society, including how to obtain braille and audio Catholic resources, visit xaviersocietyfortheblind.org. ■



COURTESY OF DONALD SALVATO

Fr. Jamie Dennis (center), celebrates the Dec. 13 St. Lucy Mass for and with clients of Xavier Society for the Blind. Concelebrating are Fr. Hank Hilton (left) and Fr. Raphael Munday.



COURTESY OF DONALD SALVATO

Fr. Jamie Dennis (left) distributes Holy Communion during the Dec. 13 St. Lucy Mass for and with clients of Xavier Society for the Blind. He is assisted by Fr. Hank Hilton (right).



COURTESY OF DONALD SALVATO

Fr. Jamie Dennis lifts the chalice and ciborium during the Dec. 13 St. Lucy Mass for and with clients of Xavier Society for the Blind.

Guadalupe celebrations across the diocese



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH
Children at St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield perform a retelling of the story of the 1531 apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatohuac. Depicted here is when Bishop Juan de Zumarraga is amazed to see an image of Our Lady miraculously appear on Juan Diego's tilma.



COURTESY OF ASHLEY WILKERSON
A little girl smiles in her traditional clothing in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, during the evening of Dec. 11, 2022 – the eve of the feast day.



COURTESY OF ST. MARY PARISH
Parishioners of St. Mary Parish in Franklin stand around a decorated statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as well as a mural showing St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatohuac kneeling before her in the desert.

BY WKC STAFF

During the evening of Dec. 11, 2022 and through midnight into Dec. 12, Hispanic and Latino families across the Diocese of Owensboro gathered in parishes for festivities in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The feast day celebrates the 1531 apparition of Our Lady to a lay catechist, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatohuac, on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico, which later led to the conversion of somewhere between 6 and 9 million people.

Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, the director of the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Hispanic/Latino Ministry, said this year was particularly significant "because it marks 491 years since the apparitions to St. Juan Diego, which also kicks off an 'intercontinental novena' towards major celebrations for the 500 years in 2031 and a major commemoration in 2033 for the 2,000 years since our redemption," referencing Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. ■



COURTESY OF ST. MICHAEL PARISH
A statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe is seen decorated with plants and flowers at St. Michael Parish in Sebree.



COURTESY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
A statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe is seen decorated with roses and the colors of the Mexican flag at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Guthrie.



COURTESY OF HOLLI JO CORLEY

Shown are four of the five generations of the same family baptized at St. Ambrose Parish in Union County.

Family celebrates fifth generation baptized at St. Ambrose

BY HOLLI JO CORLEY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Mia Jo Corley, my granddaughter, was baptized on Saturday, Nov. 26, by Fr. John C. Okoro, at St. Ambrose Parish in Union County, Ky. Mia Jo is the fifth generation in our family to receive the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Ambrose.

Here is our family's timeline:

Martin Andrew Collins – baptized in 1898.

Wick Edward Collins – baptized in 1934.

Holli Jo (Collins) Corley – baptized in 1990 (RCIA).

Caitlan Joanne Corley – baptized in 1993.

Mia Jo Corley – baptized in 2022.

Mia Jo's parents are Austin Phetkhamyath and Caitlan Joanne Corley. Her godparents are Collin Corley and Lexi Lamb.

Holli Jo Corley is the administrative assistant for St. Francis Borgia Parish in Sturgis. ■

Ukulele ministry shares Christmas joy with local nursing home



COURTESY OF KATHLEEN ELKINS

The ukulele ministry of St. Leo Parish in Murray with some of the residents of Brookdale Assisted Living on Dec. 4. The ministry played Christian Christmas songs for the residents that day. Not pictured are ukulele ministry members Chitra Antony, Oscar Vasquez, Liz Guerrero, and Pat Shoulders.

BY KATHLEEN ELKINS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Leo's Ukulele Ministry went to Brookdale Assisted Living in Murray, Ky., on Dec. 4 to perform Christian Christmas songs. Kathleen Elkins, Ken and Myrna Vazquez, Aaron and Bing Wildman, Lourdes Ventura, Nancy Guzman, Brandon and Deanna Swaggert, Stella, Myra, and Isla Swaggert were the players. Isla was the Blessed Mother, Myra was a shepherd, and Stella was the Little Drummer Girl.

They also gave the residents Christmas cards made by St. Leo's Youth Ministry, and a candy cane. Brandon Swaggert finished with a prayer and a blessing for all the residents. ■

St. Mary Magdalene Parish establishes memorial for unborn

BY LAVIDA MISCHER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Oct. 30, 2022 Fr. Augusty Valomchalil, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, Ky., blessed an old garden with a new spiritual purpose. With a beautiful stone marker donated by the "Christian Mothers" of the parish, the garden next to the church has become holy ground and is now known as the "Memorial of the Unborn." The garden is open to all who wish to pray. We continue to pray for all life. ■



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHER

Pictured are the group of "Christian Mothers" of St. Mary Magdalene Parish. Front row: Gloria McCarty, Martha Kaufeld, Mary Jane Alexander, Sherry Durham. Back row: Rosie Roberts, Donna Ebelhar, Terri Knott, Rose Marie Cecil, and Mary Ann Knott.

St. Teresa Ministries names Wiseman as new executive director

PRESS RELEASE

The Board of Directors for St. Teresa Ministries is excited to announce the appointment of Kelly Wiseman as executive director.

Since graduating from Western Kentucky University, Wiseman has served in various professional and service roles in Bowling Green-Warren County including the director of marketing and public relations at Greenview Regional Hospital and partnership director at the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce before she transitioned into her role as a stay-at-home mom.

During those years, Wiseman dedicated countless hours to serving the community and faith-based organizations including the Family Enrichment Center, Holy Spirit Parish and St. Joseph Interparochial School.

“St. Teresa Ministries is thrilled to have Kelly at the helm,” said Ken Herndon, board president. “Her strong ties in the community and her willingness to serve those in need truly align with our mission. Under her leadership, we look forward to seeing our ministry grow allowing us to serve more in our community. We have been blessed to be able to give back to our community over \$200,000 in 2022



COURTESY OF ST. TERESA MINISTRIES

Kelly Wiseman is the new executive director of St. Teresa Ministries, based in Bowling Green.

alone. We believe this capacity will be even greater moving forward.”

St. Teresa Ministries focuses on providing food, basic necessities and emergency services for the elderly and working low-income families. In her role as executive director, Wiseman will focus on community outreach, identifying those needs in our community and how St. Teresa Ministries can better serve them.

“I am very excited to have accepted this calling to further serve our most vulnerable,”

said Wiseman. “The Bowling Green community and South Central Kentucky opened their arms to me when I came to WKU over 30 years ago and it quickly became my home. My husband and I have always had a passion for service and helping those in need. St. Teresa Ministries is a special organization with a mission that is truly doing Christ’s work.”

St. Teresa Ministries is a local non-profit organization that provides food, basic necessities and emergency services for low-income wage-earners and the elderly by using St. Teresa Thrift Store assets. For more information about St. Teresa Ministries, St. Teresa Thrift Store and how you can get involved visit www.stteresaministries.org. ■

Happy anniversary to the following priests:

Fr. Pat Reynolds

Ordained 1/12/1980

Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Brad Whistle

Ordained 1/10/1981

Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah

Fr. Tony Stevenson

Ordained 1/10/1981

Retired

Fr. Augusty Valomchalil

Ordained 1/16/1996

Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho

Fr. Ken Mikulcik

Ordained 1/10/1998

Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville; and sacramental ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Todd County

Fr. Anthoni Ottagan

Ordained 1/8/2003

Pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish, St. Joseph; and St. Elizabeth Parish, Curdsville

Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara

Ordained 1/17/2004

Pastor of St. William Parish, Knottsville; and St. Lawrence Parish, St. Lawrence/Philpot

Fr. Suneesh Mathew

Ordained 1/2/2008

Pastor of Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN

Ordained 1/6/2008

Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Leitchfield; and St. John Parish, Sunfish

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



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

George Gray, an assistant professor of social work at Brescia University, and Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Rebecca White, OSU, stand by the peace crane tree they recently helped decorate for NonViolent Owensboro.

'Peace is everything'

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

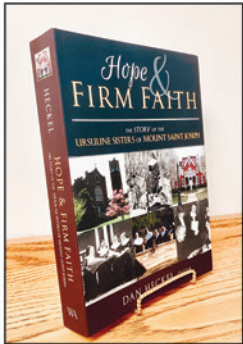
George Gray, an assistant professor of social work at Brescia University, and Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Rebecca White, OSU, recently helped decorate a peace crane tree for the holidays at Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro.

The tree was decorated by members of NonViolent Owensboro whose goal had been to create close to 1,000 origami paper cranes for the tree. The idea for the cranes was based on the true story of Sadako Sasaki, a Japanese girl who developed leukemia after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima during World War II. She had a goal of folding 1,000 peace cranes before her death at age 12.

Some of the cranes on the tree were decorated by local children who visited the NonViolent Owensboro booth at events this past year, including Juneteenth and the Multicultural Festival.

"Peace is everything" was the main message a young person wrote on one of the creatively decorated cranes. ■

You are invited to a local presentation featuring part of the Ursuline Sisters' story of *"Hope and Firm Faith"*



Join author Dan Heckel as he talks about the history of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and their service in the Daviess County area. The conversation will take place on **Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, from 2-3 p.m. at the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro.** The event will include an opportunity to purchase books and have them signed.

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 mentioned 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). If you need it shipped, add \$10. Make check payable to "Ursuline Sisters" and mail your check and information to:

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



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.



Two local women honored with 2022 Liberation Award



COURTESY OF REBECCA ROBY

This year's honorees of the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative's Liberation Award. Iris Gutierrez is seen third from left and Susan Montalvo-Gesser is seen fourth from left.

BY WKC STAFF

On Dec. 2, the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative of Catholic Charities of Louisville, Inc., honored two local women, Susan Montalvo-Gesser and Iris Gutierrez, with this year's Liberation Award.

Montalvo-Gesser is the director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro. She oversees the western Kentucky-based Catholic Charities office, whose recent work includes spearheading tornado recovery efforts, assisting with local Afghan resettlement, accompanying migrants, and offering services to human trafficking survivors.

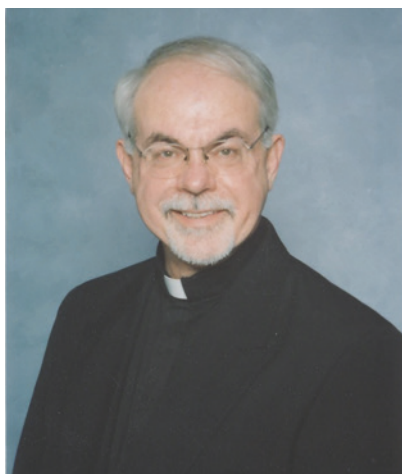
Gutierrez is a licensed professional therapist who

resides in Lexington and offers telehealth services in Spanish. Gutierrez is a participant of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro's Counseling Assistance Program, also known as CAP, which provides a list of counselors across the region who offer services at a reduced rate for Diocese of Owensboro parishioners (owensborodiocese.org/counseling).

The Bakhita Empowerment Initiative provides direct assistance and case management to survivors of human trafficking, also aiming to educate the community about human trafficking, as well as how to identify individuals who are being forced or coerced for the purpose of sexual exploitation or labor. ■

OBITUARIES

Fr. Kreutzer 1947-2022



FILE PHOTO

Fr. Isaac Daniel Kreutzer, known as "Fr. Dan," a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, passed away on Dec. 11, 2022 at the Linda White Hospice House in Evansville, Ind. He was 75.

Born Oct. 26, 1947, Fr. Kreutzer was ordained for the Diocese of Owensboro on May 31, 1997.

His years of ministry included serving as an associate pastor at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green and at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro.

He served as the pastor of St. Francis Borgia Parish in Sturgis, St. Ambrose Parish in Henshaw, St. William Parish in Marion, St. Anthony Parish in Peonia, St. Augustine Parish in Grayson Springs, St. Benedict Parish in Wax, St. Mary of the Fields Parish in LaCenter, St. Mary of the Woods Parish in McQuady, St. Anthony Parish in Axtel, St. Rose Parish in Cloverport, and Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Irvington.

Fr. Kreutzer also served as a chaplain at both Lourdes Hospital in Paducah and at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla., and assisted as a parish substitute when a pastor was unavailable.

Fr. Kreutzer retired in summer 2022.

Fr. Kreutzer is survived by one sister, Sharon Dell Fesmire of Paducah, Ky.; one brother, Bruce Kreutzer of Wingo, Ky.; one niece, Britney (Robert) Bartlett; and two nephews, Matthew Kreutzer and Travis Kreutzer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Kreutzer and Lillie Del Kreutzer.

Fr. Kreutzer was cremated per his wishes. At his request a private service with only his relatives in attendance was held. Online condolences may be left at www.lindseyfuneral.com.

January 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
Brandon & Christina Barnard, 10
Kenneth & Dianne Murphy, 51
Robert & Debbie Newman, 54
Terry & Jan Storm, 55

Christ the King, Madisonville
Billy & Patty Folk, 54

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington
Ted & Barbara Brown, 65

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson
Alan & Dottie Cunningham, 25
Alfonso & Concepcion Aldana, 40
Fred & Sue Hagan, 56
Guy & Frances Hogan, 61
Ira & Ellese Hay, 51
Jack & JoAnn Jacobs, 51
James & Sharon Drury, 61
John & Kathy Jenkins, 51
John & Phyllis Brown, 52
John & Sue Allen, 53
Steve & Pattye Tweddell, 52
Steve & Susan Book, 53

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam
Keith & Hughetta Dale, 51

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
Basil & Joann Jones, 62
Beh Reh & Nga Meh, 10
Eric & Amy Mahoney, 10
George & Barbara Powers, 63
Harry & Constance Lergen, 63
Jerry & Joanne Wallace, 51
Thomas & Evelyn Pettigrew, 50
Tom & Rita Parrott, 55

Immaculate, Owensboro
Gary & Carol Jackson, 59
Hal & Eleanor Renshaw, 66

Melvin & Lois Connor, 66
Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
Anthony & Mae Kamalich, 69
James & Connie Hayden, 64
John & Tessa Alvey, 25
Ken & Charlene Ackerman, 64
Larry & Charlotte Moore, 53
William & Suzanne Blandford, 60

Precious Blood, Owensboro
Brent & Natalie Davis, 10
Dan & Melody Chelstrom, 10
George & WaNell Lanham, 50
James & Evelyn Mattingly, 70
Mike & Cloa Thompson, 63

Sacred Heart, Waverly
Richard & Nancy Mayes, 65

St. Agnes, Uniontown
Marty & Marilyn Greenwell, 56
Tommy & Joycelyn Hagan, 55

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
Mike & Audrey Clouse, 50

St. Ann, Morganfield
Damian & Diane Alvey, 51
Jimmy & Carolyn Wedding, 51
Kenny & Teresa Lee Thomas, 57

St. Anthony, Browns Valley
Kevin & Carol Grant, 25

St. Benedict, Wax
Michael & Patsy Campiglia, 52

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville
Frank & Judy Schadler, 40

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis
Don Ed & Miki Wright, 55
Jerry & Brenda Stevens, 57

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
Dan & Vickie Bilski, 25
David & Jennifer Washburn, 25
Francis & Judith Taylor, 59
Mark & Janet Vannatter, 25

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Charles & Shirley Rowe, 65

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Albert & Joyce Wurth, 63

St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish
Estil & Paula Wilson, 51

St. Joseph, Bowling Green
Frank & Patricia Royal, 55
Robert & Sandra Gasperetti, 57

St. Joseph, Leitchfield
Johnnie & Nina Justis, 54

St. Joseph, Mayfield
James & Frankie Riley, 66

St. Lawrence, Philpot
Larry & Betty Johnson, 54
Michael & Patricia Wright, 53

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
John & Mary Ann Ebelhar, 55
Sam & Mary Wolfe, 40

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Charlie & Ina Mattingly, 54
Dan & Sue Howard, 64
Tony & Vickie Morris, 50
Virgil & Jackie Head, 66

St. Mary, Franklin
Larry & Michelle Anderson, 54

St. Mary, LaCenter
David & Gloria Henderson, 54

St. Paul, Leitchfield
Rodric & Earline Brady, 53

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
Eddie & Jeanette Smith, 55
James & Mary Keller, 66
James & Patty Settles, 63
Jerome & Bonnie Blair, 56

St. Pius X, Owensboro
Danny & Sue Castlen, 51

Don & Sylvia Hamilton, 64
James & Cheryl Gerteisen, 50
Leon & Cecilia Aud, 60
Yo Htoo & Naw Nu, 25

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Jerry & Pam Raymer, 50
Logan & Judy Tivitt, 58
Mack & Dolores Mattingly, 64
Mark & LaDonna Hazelwood, 10
Sammy & Brenda Duggins, 52

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport
Bill & Bonnie Hawkins, 59
Randy & Gerry Brown, 55

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Audie & Sue Cooper, 58
Don & Carol Ralph, 57
Jim & Janet Murphy, 51
Mark & Cindy Mahoney, 40
Mark & Janice Higdon, 50

St. Thomas More, Paducah
Robert & Carolyn Murphey, 50
Trent & Ann Bongiolatti, 52

St. William, Knottsville
Darrell & Donna Barnett, 50
David & Patricia Payne, 54
Donald & Martha Morris, 53
John & Pamela Scott, 52
Patrick & Rose Meserve, 57
Vince & Irene Nealen, 51

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
Pete & Patty Johnson, 54

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
Levi & Margaret Peterson, 64

JANUARY 2023 BULLETIN BOARD

Belonging to Love: Online Prayer and Conversations continue in 2023

A monthly online program to deepen your prayer life will continue in 2023. New attendees are always welcome. "Belonging to Love: Prayer and Conversations" is led by a spiritual director and brought to you in part by the Mount Saint Joseph Spirituality Ministry. These sessions include music, centering prayer, and discussion over short readings on contemplative practice and how we bring that into our life. This prayer program takes place on the second Thursday of each month. These are free online Zoom presentations -- donations are appreciated. Our next program is on Thursday, Jan. 12 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/>

Scholarships for Young Adult Leaders

Catholic Extension is offering grant opportunities in graduate theological education and pastoral experience to young leaders aspiring to serve the Church in Extension Dioceses through our Young Adult Leadership Initiative in 2023! Through partnerships with Boston College, Fordham University, and the University of Notre Dame, this master's degree program will allow students to gain hands-on pastoral experience while pursuing their degree. Visit <https://www.catholicextension.org/grant-information/strategic-initiatives/young-adult-leadership-initiative/> for more information and to access the online application by the request deadline of Friday, February 3, 2023.

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.

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.

How to Stay in Touch with the Ursuline Sisters

There are several ways you can stay in touch with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) The Sisters have a website: ursulinesmsj.org. They publish a magazine three times a year. To sign up to receive "Ursulines Alive," visit the website and click Contact Us. You can read past issues online by clicking About Us and Publications. You can also find past issues of the "Update" newsletter for Ursuline Associates and the "New Mount" featuring Mount Saint Joseph Academy alumnae (the direct link is <https://issuu.com/ursulinesmsj>.) You can ask to receive our Quilt Club, raffle, and annual appeal letters. If you would like to get our monthly Pilgrimage emails, visit our website and click Subscribe. You can sign up in the same place to receive prayer requests. To submit a prayer request, click on Prayer Requests. Every day there is a new Facebook post, so be sure to like the Ursuline Sisters (facebook.com/ursulinesmsj). The Sisters also post occasionally on Twitter ([ursulinesmsj](https://twitter.com/ursulinesmsj)), Instagram ([ursulinesistersofmsj](https://instagram.com/ursulinesistersofmsj)) and YouTube ([UrsulineSistersMSJ](https://youtube.com/UrsulineSistersMSJ)). You can reach the Sisters by phone (270-229-4103), email (info.ms@maplemount.org) or their mailing address is 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. The Ursulines look forward to hearing from you!

A Scout is Reverent

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/>.



Are you looking for ways to deepen your faith?

Consider becoming an Ursuline Associate,

and share in prayer, celebration and hospitality with the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

You can learn more by visiting ursulinesmsj.org/associates.

Contact Doreen Abbott, coordinator of Ursuline Partnerships, if you have questions or to begin your journey.

270-229-2006 • doreen.abbott@maplemount.org



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

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Un secreto bien guardado para la unidad de los cristianos

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, A veces llamamos "secretos bien guardados" a algunas cosas muy buenas. Queremos decir que son cosas muy importantes pero que no se conocen ni se observan para nada. Quizás incluso podríamos decir que el Evangelio de Jesucristo en su plenitud muchas veces también es un secreto bien guardado.

Este mes quiero hablar de una observancia anual de la familia cristiana que califica como un secreto bien guardado. Durante más de 100 años, la Iglesia católica ha colaborado con muchas otras denominaciones cristianas para orar, de una manera más intencional, por la unidad de los seguidores de Cristo. Esto se observa todos los años del 18 al 25 de enero como la Semana de Oración por la Unidad de los Cristianos.

La raíz de esta observancia y anhelo se encuentra en el discurso final de Jesús a sus apóstoles la noche antes de morir. Él oró: "Que todos sean uno: como tú, Padre, estás en mí y yo en ti, que también ellos sean uno en nosotros, para que el mundo crea que tú me enviaste" (Juan 17, 21).

Claramente, Jesús estaba orando por sus apóstoles que él había escogido, reconociendo la escandalosa desunión que incluso estos 12 habían mostrado en ocasiones cuando discutían sobre quién sería el primero en el Reino de Dios, y sobre quién se sentaría al lado de Jesús cuando llegara a su trono. El evangelista San Juan coloca esta oración justo antes del arresto de Jesús cuando se

completó la traición de Judas y luego los apóstoles restantes se dispersaron. Esta oración prefiguró el escándalo que los seguidores de Jesús continuarían con sus argumentos y fragmentándose incluso hasta nuestros días.

Hay maravillosos ejemplos de cristianos que oran juntos y trabajan juntos, especialmente cuando unimos recursos para servir a los pobres. Pero podemos a veces, persistir en la mezquindad e incluso en la intolerancia. Aunque lo que los seguidores de Jesús tienen en común es mucho más que nuestras diferencias, los seres humanos a menudo nos enfocamos en lo que nos divide en lugar de fijarnos más en lo que nos une.

Entonces, la Semana de Oración por la Unidad de los Cristianos es un secreto bien guardado. En muchas comunidades, las iglesias hermanas se toman este tiempo para unirse en oración y, a veces, en proyectos especiales.

El mes pasado observamos el primer aniversario de la tormenta que asoló el oeste de Kentucky dejando 81 personas muertas y cientos de personas sin hogar. Al responder a la crisis, nuestras diferencias como cristianos parecieron evaporarse. Como representantes de muchas iglesias y organizaciones de muchos lugares enviaron personas y recursos para ayudar, nadie preguntó: "¿Eres católico, bautista o metodista?" Nadie preguntó: "¿Eres republicano o demócrata?" Nadie preguntó "¿Por

Continúa en la página 28

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ENERO DE 2022	
2-6 DE ENERO	Conferencia SEEK St. Louis, Missouri
8-12 DE ENERO	Retiro de obispos de la Región V New Orleans, La.
16-19 DE ENERO	Convocatoria de Sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Owensboro Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Ind.
21 DE ENERO	4 p.m. Confirmación Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson
23 DE ENERO	5 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas Centro Católico McRaith (MCC), Owensboro
24 DE ENERO	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Horas de oficina en Paducah
25 DE ENERO	6 p.m. Confirmación Parroquia San Antonio, Browns Valley
26 DE ENERO	Día de formación con el personal diocesano
27 DE ENERO	7:30 a.m. Misa en el Monte San José Maple Mount
30 DE ENERO	8 a.m. Misa Escolar Escuela Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson
31 DE ENERO	9:30 a.m. Misa Escolar Sistema Escolar Santa María, Paducah

Continuado de la página 27

quién votaste en las últimas elecciones?” Lo que se preguntaba era: “¿Cómo podemos ayudar?”

Durante al menos un tiempo, en un momento de tragedia y desastre, los seguidores de Jesús entendieron la oración de Nuestro Señor “que todos sean uno”.

Oremos para que esta lección aprendida en la prueba nos enseñe a ser uno.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

William F. Medley

Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Una niña aplaude cantando durante la reunión del Avivamiento Eucarístico para católicos hispanos/latinos el 3 de diciembre de 2022, que se llevó a cabo en la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Una mujer canta durante la reunión de Avivamiento Eucarístico para católicos hispanos/latinos el 3 de diciembre de 2022, celebrada en la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro.

Católicos hispanos/latinos se reúnen para la celebración del Avivamiento Eucarístico

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El 3 de diciembre de 2022, la Universidad de Brescia en Owensboro fue anfitriona de una reunión del Avivamiento Eucarístico para católicos hispanos/latinos. El día incluyó cantos, oración y una comida juntos. Esta reunión fue parte del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional, “una iniciativa de tres años patrocinada por los obispos de los Estados Unidos para inspirar y preparar al Pueblo de Dios para ser formado, sanado, convertido, unido y enviado a un mundo herido y hambriento a través de un encuentro renovado con Jesús en la Eucaristía, la fuente y cumbre de nuestra fe católica”, según <https://es.eucharisticrevival.org/>. El avivamiento se inició en la Diócesis de Owensboro el 19 de junio de 2022, en la Parroquia San José en Mayfield, que incluyó una procesión eucarística. ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

El Padre Carmelo Jiménez (izquierda), párroco de la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree, da una charla mientras el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director del ministerio hispano/latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro, sostiene una estatua del joven mártir San José Sánchez del Río.

Celebraciones guadalupanas en toda la diócesis



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SAN JOSÉ
Los niños de la Parroquia San José en Mayfield interpretan la historia de la aparición en 1531 de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe a San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatohuac. Aquí se representa cuando el Obispo Juan de Zumárraga se asombra al ver una imagen de Nuestra Señora aparecer milagrosamente en la tilma de Juan Diego.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE ASHLEY WILKERSON
Una niña pequeña sonríe con su ropa tradicional en honor a la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro, durante la noche del 11 de diciembre de 2022, la víspera de la fiesta.

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Durante la noche del 11 de diciembre de 2022 y hasta la medianoche del 12 de diciembre, familias hispanas y latinas de la Diócesis de Owensboro se reunieron en parroquias para festividades en honor a la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

El día de la fiesta celebra la aparición de Nuestra Señora en 1531 a un catequista laico, San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatohuac, en el Cerro Tepeyac en México, que más tarde condujo a la conversión de entre 6 y 9 millones de personas.

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez, director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro, dijo que este año fue particularmente significativo “porque se cumplen 491 años desde las apariciones a San Juan Diego, que también da inicio a una 'novena intercontinental' hacia las principales celebraciones por los 500 años en 2031 y una gran conmemoración en 2033 por los 2,000 años de nuestra redención”, haciendo referencia a la Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SAN MIGUEL
Se ve una estatua de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe adornada con plantas y flores en la Parroquia San Miguel en Sebree.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SANTA MARÍA
Los feligreses de la Parroquia Santa María en Franklin se paran alrededor de una estatua adornada de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, así como un mural que muestra a San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatohuac arrodillado ante ella en el desierto.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SAN FRANCISCO DE ASÍS
Se ve una estatua de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe adornada con rosas y los colores de la bandera mexicana en la Parroquia San Francisco de Asís en Guthrie.

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 Badillo (706) 284-0996, o Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray

401 North 12th Street, Murray, KY 42071
Contacto: Hermana María Angélica López Rodríguez (270) 753-3876

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

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

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

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

Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Russellville

296 West 6th Street, Russellville, KY 42276
Contacto: Padre Ken Mikulcik (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/.

Joy Navan, M.A., LPA

Amend Psychological Services, PSC
877-732-8683 o 859-269-6465
*Sólo disponible a través de teleterapia.

Iris Gutiérrez, MSW, LCSW

Especialista en Salud Mental
Disponible a través de teleterapia y terapia presencial.
859-469-0133
gutierreztherapy@gmail.com

Parroquias con misa en Español



Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Para denunciar una sospecha de abuso, llame a la Línea Directa de Protección Infantil de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su Fiscal Local del Commonwealth. Para reportar abuso, actual o pasado, a la diócesis por parte de cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a 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>.

Los misioneros van de puerta en puerta, invitan a los vecinos a la Misa y a estudios bíblicos

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Desde septiembre hasta diciembre de 2022, las personas que viven en las áreas de Beaver Dam y Morgantown podrían haberse sorprendido al escuchar un golpe en su puerta y ver a dos jóvenes vestidos con camisas blancas y pantalones negros, invitándolos a la iglesia.

No, no eran mormones, aunque uno de los jóvenes, Cristian Aguilera, admitió que la gente a menudo los confunde con miembros de la Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Últimos Días.

Aguilera y su compañero misionero, Werner David Acabal Sequen, son de hecho miembros de una comunidad católica, llamada Misioneros Servidores de la Palabra.

Los dos compartieron recientemente sobre su misión, incluso mientras se preparaban para regresar a su casa de formación en Columbus, Ohio, después de un semestre fructífero de compartir el Evangelio con desconocidos.

La comunidad fue fundada por el P. Luigi Butera en la década de 1980 en México, pero se ha extendido por todo el mundo. Incluye sacerdotes y religiosos, tanto hermanos como hermanas, así como miembros laicos comprometidos. La comunidad también ofrece una oportunidad para que los jóvenes adultos laicos, como Aguilera y Sequen, se capaciten como misioneros que serán enviados a servir en un área específica durante

un período de tiempo determinado, similar a los Ministerios NET y otras iniciativas católicas de jóvenes adultos.

Solo en los Estados Unidos, la comunidad sirve actualmente en unos 20 estados. Antes de que los misioneros sean enviados, se capacitan durante ocho meses en una de sus casas de formación en Ohio o California.

Este semestre, Aguilera y Sequen residieron con el P. Julio Barrera, párroco de la Parroquia Santísima Trinidad en Morgantown y la Parroquia Santo Redentor en Beaver Dam. Utilizando las parroquias como base de operaciones, los misioneros se dispusieron a conocer a la gente del área local.

Aguilera dijo que es “definitivamente efectivo hacerlo de puerta en puerta”, ya que han visto el éxito de sus hermanos y hermanas no católicos usando el mismo método.

Dijo que “siempre hay católicos que no sienten que la Misa es muy importante”, lo que brinda a los misioneros la oportunidad de invitarlos a venir a la iglesia.

“Estamos aquí para ayudar a los católicos que cuestionan su fe, para reafirmar su fe”, dijo Aguilera.

Además de invitar a sus vecinos a la Misa, los misioneros también los invitaron a asistir a estudios bíblicos en la parroquia. Los estudios se ofrecieron en diferentes momentos a lo largo del día y estaban dirigidos a grupos de edades específicos, como adultos, jóvenes adultos y adolescentes.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JULIO BARRERA
Werner David Acabal Sequen (izquierda), el P. Julio Barrera (centro) y Cristian Aguilera (derecha) se paran dentro de la Parroquia Santo Redentor en Beaver Dam. Los dos jóvenes pertenecen a la comunidad Misioneros Servidores de la Palabra, que envía misioneros alrededor del mundo para compartir el Evangelio con los demás, incluso yendo de puerta en puerta para invitar a la gente a la Misa.

Y no todo era seriedad todo el tiempo: decían que además de dirigir estudios bíblicos, les gustaba mostrar películas religiosas y jugar para enseñar a los jóvenes que ser católico no es aburrido.

Los dos misioneros dijeron que están agradecidos con el P. Barrera por invitar a su comunidad a servir en sus parroquias.

“El P. Julio es una buena persona y un buen sacerdote”, dijo Sequen del P. Barrera, quien espera invitar a más misioneros a servir en sus parroquias en el futuro.

Aguilera y Sequen dijeron que han visto cómo “ver a los jóvenes recarga las baterías” de los feligreses mayores que no están acostumbrados a ver a los jóvenes predicando el Evangelio. ■

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Eucharistic processions call us to mission for they help us recall what happens at Mass (missa) – we are dismissed to love and serve the Lord.

The next time you go to Mass, pay close attention to the Concluding Rite. At the end, the deacon or priest may use one of the following dismissal statements: “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord,” or “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.” Both speak to the job we have as disciples of Christ. It does not end at the church. The Body and Blood of Jesus Christ gives

us the grace and the strength to be those disciples. Will you allow the very Real Presence of Jesus to transform you? To become holy? To become Him for everyone you meet? I pray that you will. Go, you are dismissed!

Data from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/05/transubstantiation-eucharist-u-s-catholics/>.

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. ■

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and care about individual young people within your parish and community. I’m asking you to join me in being an adult who cares!

Here's what you can do:

1) Pray for young people. And do this in as specific a way as possible. Ask young people how you can pray for them and tell them you are praying for them. Know and use their name.

2) Know young people. What are their names? What are they into? What makes them come alive? What are they passionate about? What are their concerns?

3) Share with the young people about Jesus and what He has done in your life. Young people are asking why Church matters. They need to know the person of Jesus Christ and what is offered in a relationship with Him. Your story perhaps matters more than your teaching. Help young people see the relevance of faith in everyday life.

4) Include them. Young people aren’t the Church of tomorrow, they are the Church now. They are busy, but often willing to get involved

in things that really matter. Help connect them to ministries and experiences that speak to their gifts and passions. My own son refused to be an alter server until an adult other than me asked him to consider it.

In the book “Sticky Faith, Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids,” Dr. Kara Powell shares about the importance of a 5:1 ratio. She states that rather than 1 adult to every 5 youth, we actually need each young person to be able to identify 5 adults (outside of their home) that care about their faith.

I’m inviting you to be one of the five adults a young person will name in their parish community that’s cares about them, knows them, and walks them to Jesus.

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is available to help any adult in the diocese discern how to better come alongside young people. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at charlie.hardesty@pastoral.org.

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