

THE WESTERN  
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Faith that sticks Page 16

## Farewell to a shepherd

James Wells plays the organ at St. Stephen Cathedral on Jan. 5 during the Diocese of Owensboro's Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who died Dec. 31 at age 95. [Page 4](#)



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Pro-life demonstrators carry a banner past the U.S. Supreme Court during the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 20, 2023, for the first time since the high court overturned its 1973 Roe v. Wade abortion decision June 24, 2022. [Page 13](#)

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Front page main photo by Riley Greif.

## Submissions

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

**Photo guidelines:** The Western Kentucky Catholic will consider your high-resolution digital photos showing special moments and memories from within our diocese. Photos must be a JPEG format (ending in ".jpg") and sent via email. A photo description, date, and name of photographer must be included. Please email your articles or photos to [wkc.editor@pastoral.org](mailto:wkc.editor@pastoral.org) by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. Visit [westernkycatholic.com/submissions](http://westernkycatholic.com/submissions) for more information.

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## Surrendering to God through the prayer of Simeon

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It comes 40 days after Christmas and thus recalls the ancient Hebrew tradition of the ritual purification of a woman after childbirth. Until the liturgical reforms after the Second Vatican Council, the feast was called the Purification of Mary.

Coinciding with the tradition of ritual purification was a ritual dedication – this presentation – of a first-born male. In Luke’s Gospel it is recorded: “When the days were completed for the purification, according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,’ and to offer the sacrifice of ‘a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons,’ in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.”

Thus, the Church has chosen to highlight the dedication of the newborn Jesus on the fortieth day after his birth.

Only Luke recounts this story of the Presentation. In his rendering he presents a character who sort of steals the show. An elderly man named Simeon was in the temple. Luke describes him as holy and devout, in whom the Holy Spirit was present. He goes on to say that Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the promised Messiah of Israel.

When Mary and Joseph brought the child

into the temple, Simeon recognized that God’s promise to him had been fulfilled. He took the child into his arms to praise God. We might only imagine how Mary and Joseph must have been startled by this experience, as they were when angels, shepherds, and magi had found their way to Bethlehem.

The show was stolen by Simeon’s prayer: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

February 2 has also traditionally been observed as Candlemas Day, a day to bless the candles used in liturgy and home devotion for the year. The tie-in also comes from Simeon’s Canticle, “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” There is a tradition that people would light a blessed candle in their homes during extreme weather as a quiet prayer of confidence in God’s protection.

The Church has memorialized Simeon’s prayer as the canticle prayed at Compline, the Church’s official night prayer, in the Liturgy of the Hours.

When I was first introduced to this formal night prayer as a young man, I cherished the words “let your servant go in peace,” seeing it as the final words of the day before one would rest for the night. As I read those words now, I more readily hear them as Simeon surely meant them, a surrender to God at the end of a long life celebrating that God’s promises had been

### BISHOP MEDLEY'S FEBRUARY 2023 CALENDAR

<b>FEB. 1</b>	10:30 a.m.   <b>School Mass and Installation in the Ministry of Acolyte for seminarian Conrad Jaconette</b> – Owensboro Catholic High School, Owensboro
<b>FEB. 2</b>	9 a.m.   <b>School Mass</b> – St. Romuald Interparochial School, Hardinsburg
<b>FEB. 5</b>	10 a.m.   <b>Confirmation</b> – Immaculate Parish, Owensboro
<b>FEB. 8</b>	10 a.m.   <b>Staff Meeting</b> – McRaith Catholic Center
<b>FEB. 11</b>	4:30 p.m.   <b>Confirmation</b> – Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro
<b>FEB. 12</b>	10 a.m.   <b>Confirmation</b> – St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown 6 p.m.   <b>Mass with Students</b> – Newman House Catholic Campus Ministry, Murray State University
<b>FEB. 14-16</b>	<b>Bishops of the Province Meeting</b> – Louisville
<b>FEB. 18</b>	5 p.m.   <b>Confirmation</b> – St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah
<b>FEB. 19</b>	9:30 a.m.   <b>Confirmation</b> – St. Mary Parish, LaCenter 2 p.m.   <b>Rite of Election</b> – St. Leo Parish, Murray
<b>FEB. 20</b>	10 a.m.   <b>Priest Personnel Meeting</b> – McRaith Catholic Center
<b>FEB. 22</b>	12 noon   <b>Ash Wednesday Mass</b> – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
<b>FEB. 26</b>	2 p.m.   <b>Rite of Election</b> – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro 6 p.m.   <b>Rite of Election</b> – St. Stephen
<b>FEB. 28</b>	10 a.m.   <b>School Mass</b> – St. Mary Middle School, Paducah

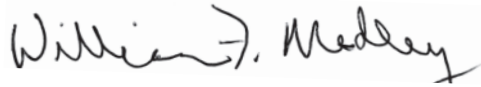
*Continues on page 5*

*Bishop Medley continued from page 3*

fulfilled in his life.

So whether we read these words as a young person for whom death is presumed to be far off, or as a person of advancing years, the words are comforting: “Dismiss your servant in peace.”

Sincerely in Christ,



**Most Reverend William F. Medley**  
Diocese of Owensboro

*Happy anniversary  
to our priests!*

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## Firm in faith, constant in love

*Diocese remembers Pope Benedict XVI*

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE  
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Serving as homilist for the Diocese of Owensboro’s Jan. 5 Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Fr. Richard Meredith quoted the spiritual testament of the retired pope, who had died on Dec. 31, 2022.

Fr. Meredith said the testament, written while Benedict reigned as pope but only released upon his death, included the declaration that, “I say to all who have been entrusted to my service: stand firm in faith.”

The Mass, which was attended by many faithful of the diocese, was held at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro and presided over by Bishop William F. Medley. Multiple



FILE PHOTO

Bishop William F. Medley meets Pope Benedict XVI during a visit to Rome in September 2010.

priests from across western Kentucky came to concelebrate the liturgy as well, including Fr. Meredith, who is the pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville.

A framed portrait of the late pope was dis-

played in the cathedral sanctuary, and Bishop Medley wore a red chasuble, per the Church’s tradition that red is worn at papal funerals in reference to St. Peter, the first pope and a martyr.

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# ‘God will make a crooked road straight’

*Son of Rosary Chapel reflects on path to the priesthood*

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fr. John C. McVoy, Jr., a son of Rosary Chapel in Paducah, received his call to the priesthood “at the worst time in my life.”

His beloved wife, Bethlhem Kebede, had died suddenly of a heart attack at age 50 in 2004. Spending some time alone by her casket before the funeral liturgy, he heard a voice telling him to become a priest.

“There are no coincidences in our lives,” said Fr. McVoy told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* in a recent interview. “We just have to keep ourselves open.”

Nineteen years later, serving as the first – and so far, only – African American priest ordained in the Diocese of Wilmington, Del., Fr. McVoy said you will never be able to predict “the connections that lead you to this journey – that, only God knows.”

“That’s the ironic thing about a call,” he said.

Growing up at Rosary Chapel was “foundational” for Fr. McVoy.

As a child, Fr. McVoy lived a block away from Rosary Chapel, which was one of two historical-



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Fr. John C. McVoy proclaims the Gospel during the 75th anniversary Mass of Rosary Chapel in Paducah, Ky., on Oct. 16, 2022. Fr. McVoy grew up at Rosary Chapel and today is a priest of the Diocese of Wilmington, Del.

ly Black churches in the Diocese of Owensboro. Being nearby, “I was always there,” he said of the “tight-knit community” at Rosary Chapel, where he attended elementary school as well.

His father, John C. McVoy, Sr., was influential in the local community as the leader who started the process of integrating the local school system. Sadly, Fr. McVoy’s father died when he was a junior in high school, which led the teen to “ask why these things happened.”

At the same time, Fr. McVoy “always continued to practice my faith – even in college,” he said, describing his Catholicism as “an umbilical cord connected to me.”

He had no intention of becoming a priest

when growing up. Instead, like many young people, he planned on finding someone to marry and having a family – which is exactly what he did.

Marrying Bethlhem, with whom he had fallen in love “the first day I met her” while studying at Howard University, they together raised three children.

Fr. McVoy earned his chemistry degree from Howard University in 1979 and studied environmental toxicology at Florida A&M University. He also studied personnel and human resources management at University of La Verne, voice at Florida State University and business at Univer-

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sity of the District of Columbia.

Settling with the family in Wilmington, Del., he became a senior chemist and senior project manager for DuPont. At the same time, they began supporting the Ministry of Caring, a Capuchin-run ministry to the city's poor and homeless.

He felt a call to become a permanent deacon and started the process of discernment and formation.

Then Bethlehem suffered the fatal heart attack during a stress test in the doctor's office.

After the stunning revelation at his wife'sasket, the future Fr. McVoy met with Br. Ronald Giannone, OFM Cap., the leader of Ministry of Caring, to sort out what was happening spiritually. He also met with Bishop Michael Saltarelli of Wilmington.

"When I went to see him, I sat in his office

- he started crying, I started crying," said Fr. McVoy of his meeting with the bishop. "He said, 'God will make a crooked road straight.' He knew where this would ultimately lead."

This path "was tough, but it was good," said Fr. McVoy, reflecting on the process of discerning the priesthood as an African American and a single dad with three kids.

"It sent shockwaves through the presbyterate," he said, but said he received great support from many priests, close friends, and the bishop himself.

He studied at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Massachusetts, which he credited as "the best formation for me - they understood my role and how that fit into the Church's life."

Fr. McVoy was ordained in 2010.

Today, he visits Rosary Chapel when possible, such as concelebrating the parish's 75th anniversary Mass this past October with Bishop William

F. Medley. He also proudly has four grandsons.

After his ordination Fr. McVoy became a chaplain at a Class A trauma center in the ChristianaCare hospital system - a role he has served for the last 13 years.

Early on he learned that he has a special calling within his priestly calling: "I didn't realize I had this gift of caring for the sick and dying."

Having inherited polycystic kidney disease, he had a kidney transplant in December 2022 at the same healthcare system where he serves - which he considers significant, having experienced a similar "depth of pain" as those he serves.

"You can't go to school and just be a chaplain," he said. "It is a gift that God places on your heart to empathize with the person and their family."



COURTESY OF GLENMARY HOME MISSIONERS  
Fr. Aaron Wessman, GHM.

## Glenmary priest 'fondly' recalls years of formation in western Kentucky

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Missionary life "is an adventure," according to Fr. Aaron Wessman, GHM, who spent several years of his Glenmary formation within the Diocese of Owensboro, where he was able to engage with rural communities and participate in Hispanic/Latino ministry for the first time ever.

"I felt such a profound welcome from the people of the diocese," said Fr. Wessman, who today serves as the vicar general and first vice president for the Glenmary Home Missioners. "It was a great

formative experience."

He recently spoke with The Western Kentucky Catholic about the diocese's impact on his path to becoming a Glenmary priest.

Fr. Wessman said he spent his pre-novitiate year in Hartford and Beaver Dam from 2005-2006, where he was involved in ministry in Ohio County and with Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam. He also took classes at Brescia University.

At the time, Glenmary had a House of Forma-

**Continues on page 8**

## Benedict continued from page 4

Continuing to quote Benedict's spiritual testament, Fr. Meredith read the following, "I saw and see how out of the tangled assumptions, the reasonableness of faith emerged and emerges again. Jesus Christ is truly the way, the truth and the life. And the Church, with all its insufficiencies, is truly his body."

Fr. Meredith told the faithful that Pope Benedict's first encyclical, issued Christmas 2005, was "unexpectedly about love." It was titled "Deus caritas est," that is, "God is love."

"According to those attending him when he died, Benedict's last distinct words were - in Italian - 'Lord, I love you,'" said Fr. Meredith. "I think we all need to practice that," he said.

Bishop Medley offered a few words of reflection at the end of Mass.

Pointing out that this has been an historic papacy, in that for the first time in 600 years a pope resigned while in office, Bishop Medley said Pope Benedict had lived longer as a retired pope at almost 10 years, than he did as a reigning pope, at seven years.

"I suspect that there is probably a lot yet to be published because he was a scholar to the end," said Bishop Medley. "It wouldn't surprise me if we came to recognize that his greatest service to the Church was in these last 10 years of almost a monastic life of prayer for the Church. And that's as inspiring as all the wonderful things and all the wonderful writings he did before he was pope, and during his papacy." ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Priests from around the diocese concelebrate the Jan. 5 Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI at St. Stephen Cathedral.



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NOTE: The quilts pictured are from LAST year's Quilt Club. We wanted you to see that there is a unique beauty in each quilt!

  
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# God speaks to the soul

*Father, daughter reflect on religious calling*



COURTESY OF MATTINGLY FAMILY  
Growing up, Madeline Mattingly enthusiastically raised her own chickens.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

When describing his daughter’s religious vocation, David Mattingly likes to say that “God chose a rose – Madeline Rose – from our family garden.”

On July 16, 2022, his daughter, under her new religious name, Sr. Mary Thomas, received the habit of her religious community, the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word in Irondale, Ala.

“It is a sacrifice, but we make it because we know it’s God’s will and we will all be blessed for it,” said David, whose family belongs to St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville.

The Western Kentucky Catholic recently interviewed father and daughter ahead of World Day for Consecrated Life taking place on Feb. 2.

Sr. Mary Thomas, SsEW, told the WKC that she was in seventh grade when the thought “first entered

my mind” about a possible religious vocation – but she did not take it seriously at first.

Her parents raised Madeline and her four siblings to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, did family prayers each night, celebrated the feast days of each child’s patron saint, “and tried to instill a love of Our Lady,” said David.

When the kids were younger and attending public school, David supplemented their religious formation with resources from the Seton Home Study program. Later, when the children transferred to the Owensboro Catholic School system, he and his wife, Monica, continued to foster an environment of faith at home.

“Even when they were going to Catholic school, I tried to supplement their formation by having conversations about faith at the supper table,” said David.

As a high schooler, Madeline, along with her sisters, worked at the Carmel Home in Owensboro, a nursing home run by the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus.

It was during her junior year, when most students were discussing colleges and scholarships, that Madeline felt prompted to reflect on what she was really meant to do with her life.

“Mainly, I started going to Confession more often,” said Sr. Mary Thomas,

adding that she would drive to the Carmel Home before school to attend their daily Mass, and spent her work breaks in their Adoration chapel.

Her junior year was also when revelations first broke about then-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick as multiple men came forward to accuse the prelate of sexual abuse. (McCarrick was later laicized by Pope Francis.)

This, along with the onslaught of further investigations into clerical sexual abuse cover-ups



COURTESY OF MATTINGLY FAMILY  
A family visit to Casa Maria in Irondale, Ala., motherhouse of the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word, in September 2022. Back row left to right: David Mattingly, Monica Mattingly, Andrew Mattingly, and brother-in-law Nicholas McGehee. Front row left to right: Jacqueline Mattingly, Sr. Mary Thomas, Theresa Mattingly, and Elizabeth McGehee (née Mattingly).



## FEATURES

across the Catholic Church, prompted Madeline to start praying a 54-day novena “to make up for the sins and to pray for those affected.”

“I also started to pray the rosary on my own” for abuse survivors and all those suffering amid the sex abuse scandals, said Sr. Mary Thomas.

Around the same time, there was a cluster of school shootings across the nation. Madeline reflected that “these were kids my age,” and realized she should not postpone listening for God’s plan for her life.

“It opened my eyes to realize that you are called to be holy no matter what state you’re in,” she said.

David said they had sought to expose their children to the possibility of religious and priestly vocations, but “I didn’t push my children in any direction because that can backfire.”

“God speaks to the soul,” he said. “But my wife had an inkling. She said, ‘Do you think Madeline might have a vocation to religious life?’”

When Madeline knew for sure that she was called to discern religious life, she first told her father, when the two were on a walk together.

“I really looked up to my dad, and he explained that it must be God’s will for this to work,” she said with gratitude that her parents have supported her vocational journey.

After one final Christmas with the family in 2020, she entered the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word in January 2021.

David described “a mixed bag of feelings” as their family naturally misses her a great deal: “You feel honored, that God is truly blessing your family. But with any vocation, there will be joy and the cross. But she’s doing God’s will.”

Yet, he is proud of his daughter’s dedication to her call.

“From a very young age she was always very determined,” he said. “The Lent before she entered the convent, she tried to get five people who’d been away from the sacraments to attend Confession!”

During this phase of the novitiate, which lasts about two years, Sr. Mary Thomas will study the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, as she learns about “virtue, prayer, and understanding what it means to live in community – understanding your weaknesses and struggles,” she said.

After that, she is expected to make her first vows and switch from her white veil to a brown veil. Those vows will then be renewed for five consecutive years, followed by her final vows.

Sr. Mary Thomas believes she was readied for this vocation through her family’s faith-filled upbringing.

“If we want more strong vocations to religious life, the priesthood, and strong marriages, it’s necessary to have that,” she said. “It’s important if



COURTESY OF SISTERS SERVANTS OF THE ETERNAL WORD  
Sr. Mary Thomas, SsEW, on the day she received the habit, July 16, 2022.

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## Glenmary continued from page 6



COURTESY OF GLENMARY HOME MISSIONERS

Mission priests sometimes have many responsibilities. Here Fr. Aaron Wessman celebrates Mass, music and all, in a house serving as the church in Windsor, North Carolina.

House of Formation in Hartford, where Fr. Wessman lived with several other men discerning their vocations: “We also were constantly doing ministry, meeting the people in the community,” he said.

Sometimes they would be visited by Bishop John J. McRaith, who would join them for dinner at the house.

“I remember that fondly,” said Fr. Wessman.

One fellow discerner was the future Deacon Chris Gutiérrez, who was at the time considering a Glenmary vocation. (Deacon Gutiérrez ultimately determined that he was called to the married life; Fr. Wessman served as the best man at his wedding.)

“That was through (Deacon Gutiérrez) and being

in this diocese that I came to do Hispanic ministry for the first time in my life,” said Fr. Wessman. The two remain good friends to this day.

The following year, Fr. Wessman spent his novitiate spiritual year while residing at Maple Mount, the home of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

“This consisted of a lot of prayer, quiet, and appropriating and learning about the Glenmary charism through classes and study,” he said.

There, he learned just how impactful the Ursuline Sisters had been on the Owensboro diocese, and on the rural community overall. During that time he played music and helped with youth ministry at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, providing

him another opportunity to participate in parish ministry.

Even after his time concluded in the diocese, Fr. Wessman continued to encounter the diocese’s seminarians. This included the future Fr. Julio Barrera, who today is the pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Beaver Dam and Holy Trinity Parish in Morgantown – which have blossomed into active Hispanic/Latino ministry parishes.

He was ordained in 2012 by Bishop William F. Medley. (Bishop McRaith had retired in 2009.)

“I recall Bishop Medley gave this great homily full of historical insights on the history of the diocese and Glenmary, and how those two were intermingled,” said Fr. Wessman. “The diocese grew up around the same time that Glenmary did. That helped prepare me to do Glenmary’s ministry.”

Even Fr. Wessman’s first encounter with Glenmary has a distant connection to western Kentucky. He met a Glenmary priest, Fr. Gerald (Jerry) Dorn, GHM, while a student at St. John’s University in Minnesota – launching the young man onto the process of discernment.

Fr. Dorn, as a matter of fact, had served at Holy Redeemer from 1968-1972 while still a religious brother, known there by his birth name as Br. Jim Dorn.

Fr. Wessman said he always wanted to have a missionary charism as part of his vocation.

“In my heart there was a sense of going to a place where Catholicism is not very established,” he said, adding that “the Church is missionary by her very nature. She’s always been pushing out to places where she’s never been before.”

He is grateful for his time in western Kentucky, crediting it for who he has become as a Glenmary priest. ■

## Black Americans on the road to sainthood: Venerable Henriette Delille



CNS PHOTO/PETER FINNEY JR., CLARION HERALD

Cardinal Peter Turkson, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, poses for a photo with Sister Alicia Costa, congregational leader of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans Sept. 28, 2022. He met with the sisters to discuss the sainthood cause for Mother Henriette Delille, the free woman of color who founded the congregation in 1842 to educate the enslaved and care for the elderly. She has been declared “venerable” and her cause rests with the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE OF  
BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

Henriette Delille was born in 1813 in New Orleans to a French father and a “free woman of color” who were united in a “legal” common-law marriage which was typical at the time in New

Orleans whereby a European man contracted with a Creole woman, pledging support and education for their children. Once the men were more established financially, they would often leave their common-law wives for a white, American woman. As a Creole, Henriette was a qualified “candidate” for the same such marriage, and her mother resolved to see her do so. Henriette, however, was not so inclined. In fact, her resistance brings to mind the theme this year for Black History Month.

Although prepared for such a life and often in attendance at “quadroon balls,” Henriette, because of her deep love of God and faith in the teachings of the Church became outspoken and openly resistant to this system because it was in violation of the sacrament of matrimony. This caused a rift with her mother who later became ill when Henriette was 22 years old and subsequently became her “ward.” After arranging for her

mother’s care, Henriette sold her mother’s remaining assets and founded a small order of nuns consisting of seven young Creole women and one French woman who called themselves the Sisters of the Presentation.

This group began ministering to elderly women in need of care and shelter; Having made a commitment

to her ministry she had, in fact, opened the first Catholic home for the elderly. This was in 1836, the same year that a French woman Jeanne Jugan started the little Sisters of the Poor, whose ministry was also caring for the elderly. Henriette wrote “I wish to live and die for God.” The nursing ministry expanded to teaching enslaved and free men, women and children, and supporting St. Claude school for young women of color.

Henriette dealt with many obstacles to her ministry, but she persisted despite lack of finances, taunts and often hostility from the Church, civil authorities, and the ruling population. The lack of support and often opposition to the idea of a Black religious congregation did not deter the sisters who were forbidden to wear habits or to take public vows because of their race.

In 1837 Henriette’s new order received recognition from the Holy See and five years later the congregation changed their name to Sisters of the Holy Family. Currently there are more than 200 members who continue their ministry in nursing and education in Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, California, and Belize. The Mother house and St. Mary’s Academy are worth a visit if you visit New Orleans.

Henriette DeLille died at the age of 49 in 1862. On March 27, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI declared the Creole woman from New Orleans “Venerable.”

For more information on Henriette Delille, “The Courage to Love” movie starring Vanessa Williams is available on video and free on YouTube. ■

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

## ‘SEEK23: You Are Called’ featured tributes to Pope Emeritus Benedict XIV and inspiration from ‘The Chosen’ actor Jonathan Roumie

BY LESLIE PREVISH, FELLOWSHIP OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Founded in 1998, FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) continues to inspire hope for the future of the Church and confirm that zeal for Jesus is flourishing on college campuses and beyond. SEEK23: You Are Called at the America’s Center Convention Complex in St. Louis Jan. 2-6 brought together souls from around the world seeking Him, including groups from Ireland, Austria, Germany, Mexico and other countries.

Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus in the hit series *The Chosen*, surprised the SEEK23 audience by playing trivia with students and speakers on stage and then sharing his testimony. He encouraged attendees, “If you feel like you need some sort of breakthrough in your life, if you need some sort of opportunity to go further and something’s holding you back, ask yourself: Have you completely surrendered to God?”

FOCUS kicked off its 25th anniversary celebration at SEEK23. From 25 students at the inaugural FOCUS event in 1999 to nearly 19,000 people registered for SEEK23, FOCUS conferences continue to change lives and encourage tens of thousands of people to “Fear not; rise, He is calling you” (Mk 10:49).

Over the past 25 years, the Holy Spirit has worked through FOCUS to invite thousands of people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. Building upon its foundation of campus ministry and parish outreach, FOCUS will

galvanize hundreds of thousands more souls as missionary disciples striving towards heaven together.

An advance showing of the “Thirst for Souls: The Michelle Duppong Story” documentary aired at SEEK23, detailing the remarkable life of Servant of God Michelle Duppong, a former FOCUS missionary who passed away from cancer in 2015 at the age of 31. The film explored the many ways Duppong inspired others with her courageous spirit and missionary zeal. In 2022, Bishop David Kagan, Diocese of Bismarck, N.D., announced the opening of the diocesan investigation, which could lead to Duppong’s beatification and canonization.

SEEK23 included several tributes to Pope Emeritus Benedict XIV, including a memorial at the Adoration Chapel all week and a Requiem Mass on Thursday, Jan. 5. FOCUS Founder and CEO Curtis Martin led a rosary before the Mass in honor of Benedict XVI, who in 2011 appointed Martin as a Consulter to the Pontifical Council of



COURTESY OF FOCUS SEEK23

Students kneel in prayer during Mass at SEEK23, which was held in St. Louis, Mo., from Jan. 2-6, 2023.

the New Evangelization.

During his homily, Archbishop Timothy Broglio (Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA) reflected, “The passing of Pope Benedict is a reminder of God’s divine love for us and the opportunity to respond to the Lord.” Broglio, who was recently elected to lead the USCCB, urged SEEK23 attendees to “not leave SEEK without recognizing the immense love of God for you and the amazing opportunities to witness to His name in our daily lives.” ■

*FOCUS will return to St. Louis for next year’s SEEK24 Jan 1-5, 2024. Registration is open at [seek.focus.org/seek24](https://seek.focus.org/seek24).*

## Young people focus on the personal, not political, at 50th March for Life

BY KURT JENSEN, OSV NEWS

WASHINGTON (OSV News) ~ With the Supreme Court this past June overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that asserted that abortion was a constitutional right, many efforts of pro-life leaders turned to obtaining either a federal abortion ban through Congress or putting restrictions on the practice in the states.

But political analyses about a national abortion ban or even much commentary on the Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe* were not at the forefront for many of the young people OSV News spoke with at the March for Life. They preferred to talk about the personal: a friend or family member who considered abortion and found support through either a pregnancy resource center or the prayers of others.

People who are from their actual lives.

For Marjorie Dannenfelser, 57, who heads SBA Pro-Life America, the new post-Roe goal is “to win back the states” and “to win back the presidency,” as she said on a Jan. 18 press call, but Lauren McCann, who heads Collegians for Life at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, doesn't think in those terms.

“I guess I don't hold fast to one party, because things change in politics,” she told OSV News, while acknowledging that “a national ban on abortion is something we can pray for and look forward to.”

Cecilia McFadden, a student at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia, where she heads Crusaders for Life, said, “I actually do not really follow politics at all.”

McFadden preferred to discuss a relative with

an unexpected pregnancy for whom abortion had been made a clear option, and how she saw what that person had to go through to keep the baby.

“I was able to see her strength in that,” McFadden told OSV News. She sees the post-Roe future as “not just praying about it,” but to “make adoption centers more well known.”

The emphasis on the personal in young women's stories doesn't surprise Christen Pollo, who heads Pro-Life Michigan. Pollo's own mother had considered abortion while pregnant with her, she said.

She thinks a personal account “brings their faith to the issue. These are real human beings who are living that way.”

As for the post-Roe future, “I think we should do everything we can to help someone in an unplanned pregnancy,” she said. “Killing babies ~ that's not how a civilized society responds to a problem.”

Holliann Geike, who heads the Students for Life chapter at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and was at her second March for Life, also said she's not political, since “abortion isn't a political issue; it's a social issue.”

She added, “I have a lot of friends right now who have children,” including one who had to fend off



OSV NEWS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ  
Pro-life advocates gather for the 50th annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 20, 2023.

pressure to have an abortion. “She chose life and has the support of her grandmother.”

Morgan Ehlis, another University of Mary student, told OSV News, “It's an overwhelming experience for someone from a rural area like me, being in a place like D.C. with like-minded people for a cause.”

The young people among the tens of thousands of pro-life advocates at this year's 50th March for Life demonstrated without serious delay and their marching ended, as it always has, in front of the Supreme Court.

“I'm grateful to be pro-life,” said Ehlis. “It's swimming upstream for sure, but there's this big support group we have.” ■

*Kurt Jensen writes for OSV News from Washington.*

# The gift of a small group experience

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF  
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

My wife and I were blessed to meet after college as we served on the National Evangelization Teams (NET) based in St. Paul, Minn. As a Catholic ministry, we worked with parishes around the U.S. hosting parish retreats and leading small groups with teens. Throughout our marriage, we have witnessed the power of small groups in working with young people and have participated in an adult small group in two different parishes where we were members in Illinois and Michigan. These experiences have been the source of incredible blessings.

Young people thrive in a community where they

feel loved and supported and small faith groups provide amazing opportunities for facilitators and group members to express care and grow in friendship with one another. It is what we call “relational ministry,” and it works! Additionally, adult small groups are one of the best ways for adults to grow in expressing and understanding their faith. These groups foster a sense of belonging and connectedness that sadly many Catholics never experience. Through no fault of our own, many Catholics learn that faith is very personal and often adult Catholics feel ill-equipped to explain or defend their faith, and are rather timid about faith conversations for a

fear of looking dumb or being corrected.

Adults learn best in dialogue. This is a principle of adult education and adults need space to talk about their experiences and hear the stories of others. They need safe places where they can share their understanding, talk about faith issues, and learn from the wisdom of the group and our Church.

Have you ever participated in a small faith group in your Church? Perhaps you went on a Cursillo weekend and formed a small group that continues to meet 20 years later. Maybe you participated in Renew or Arise through

**Continues on page 15**

## Office of Communications welcomes new director



FILE PHOTO  
Rachel Hall.

BY WKC STAFF

Rachel Hall assumed the role of director of the Office of Communications for the Diocese of Owensboro on Dec. 27, 2022, replacing Tina Kasey who resigned to pursue a new opportunity.

“I am thrilled to have been given this opportunity and thankful for a great team helping acclimate me,” said Hall. “This was the career I had always

envisioned for myself way back when in my college years. Then being able to celebrate my Catholic faith here, makes it feel like home.”

Hall joins the diocese from Sysco, where she served as a sales consultant working with food service operators in a consultative partnership. During that time, she focused on retaining and bringing on new customers and documented market trends and problem-solving while ensuring customers’ needs were met. Prior to that, Hall served as a sales/marketing coordinator with Edward Utley Jr.

A graduate of Owensboro Catholic High School, Hall holds a bachelor’s in fine art and a minor in communications from Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro. She has a background in creative writing and graphic design. ■

Hall can be reached at [rachel.hall@pastoral.org](mailto:rachel.hall@pastoral.org).

Coming to your parish or a parish near you!

**ENCOUNTER LOVE**  
*Encounter Jesus*

Join other parishioners for an experience of community, prayer and God’s love. This three-hour seminar will introduce you the Pope Francis’s call to Living as Missionary Disciples and the USCCB document of the same name. The day will include:

1. Laughter
2. Music
3. Prayer
4. Refreshment
5. Inspiration
6. Scripture
7. An experience of God!
8. And a new understanding of God’s plan for your life!

To learn more, email [jeff.andrini@pastoral.org](mailto:jeff.andrini@pastoral.org)

# Can we listen to God in the silence?



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

A man prays during eucharistic adoration at St. Matthew Church in Dix Hills, N.Y., Dec. 8, 2022. The service was celebrated in observance of the 33rd annual National Night of Prayer for Life, a four-hour vigil that begins at 9 p.m. Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and ends Dec. 9, the day in 1531 when Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico.

BY DEACON JAY W. VANHOOSIER, OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

For many Catholics, silent prayer can be rather difficult. Many are so used to reciting from the treasury of wonderful prayers handed down by Sacred Tradition, that it becomes difficult to not rely on them. We become dependent on them

and lack ability to speak from the heart.

The great wisdom of Sacred Tradition gives a wonderful tool to help us speak to God in the silence of our hearts – repetition. Since the time of the Church Fathers, it has been known that the quiet repetition of a single word or phrase can help us to descend with the mind into the heart. This was not a new concept – even during the time of the Church Fathers. The practitioners of the great eastern religions have known this for a very long time with their use of mantras. This repetition has nothing to do with magic. It’s not meant to cast a spell on God or to force him into hearing us. Quite the opposite, a word or sentence repeated frequently can help us to concentrate, to focus, to create stillness within ourselves, and thereby listen to the voice of God. When we simply try to sit silently and wait for

God to speak to us, we find ourselves bombarded with endless conflicting thoughts and ideas. But when we use a very simple sentence such as “O God, come to my assistance,” or “Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner” or “Hail Mary, full of Grace...,” or a simple word such as “Lord” or “Jesus,” it is easier to let the many distractions pass by without being misled by them. Such a simple, easily repeated prayer can slowly empty out our cluttered and crowded inner-self, shut down all of the useless noise, and create the quiet space where we can dwell with God.

*Dcn. Jay W. VanHoosier is the Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Owensboro. For more information visit [owensborodiocese.org/faith-formation](http://owensborodiocese.org/faith-formation), email [jay.vanhoosier@pastoral.org](mailto:jay.vanhoosier@pastoral.org) or call (270) 852-8324. ■*

## Small group continued from page 14

diocese. Many Catholics have never been in a small faith group.

All adult Catholics in our diocese are invited to participate in the Acts 2:42 Small Groups that are forming across the diocese as an effort of the Eucharistic Revival in the United States. These groups will meet monthly September 2023 through May 2024 and Bishop Medley will be the primary teacher for each session!

Ideally, these groups will meet in parishioners’ homes and be facilitated by a Host Team, which can be a married couple or two friends. These groups will be non-threatening, enjoyable gatherings with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and the opportunity to end with dessert. There will be time to share stories of faith, read an excerpt from Scripture or Church teaching, listen to a reflection by Bishop Medley and discuss the material. We will end with prayer and social time. As you

learn more about this opportunity in your parish, please prayerfully consider opening your home and/or facilitating a group. Join us in prayer for this effort.

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](mailto:jeff.andrini@pastoral.org).*

## Faith that sticks: *How parents' faith lived at home influences the faith lives of young people*



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A father and daughter receive the holy oils from Bishop William F. Medley during Christm Mass on April 12, 2022.

BY DANNY MAY AND CHARLIE HARDESTY,  
SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY  
CATHOLIC

During the recent synod listening sessions, one of the most consistently mentioned issues was the deep concern of parents whose adult children are no longer practicing their faith. A similar concern was the lack of young people in our pews. When we see stark realities like this in the Church, we might feel a sense of failure as parents and grandparents. But what we want to do with this article is focus on the positive because it's never too late to make a difference in the faith lives of our children, adult children, and grandchildren.

In an article published on the USCCB website, John Roberto of the Center for Ministry Development summarized decades of research

into a few practical ways parents can most effectively influence the faith of their kids. Study after study confirms that parents are the most significant indicator of spiritual outcomes of young people, rather than Catholic schools, youth ministry, or Mass attendance. That might be hard to hear as parents/grandparents, but instead of feeling defeated or looking back to ask what went wrong, what we're suggesting is to see this research as encouraging news and opportunity. (Editor's note: If you're interested in learning more about this research, please reach out to Danny May or Charlie Hardesty.)

Roberto offers some practical ways parents can pass on their faith that "sticks" to their children. For example, Roberto says, "The primary way by which Catholic Identity becomes rooted in children's lives are the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities." In other words, it's not just talking "about" faith or repeating memorized prayers. Parents/grandparents should also discuss faith with our kids regularly and why it matters to us. And more importantly, modeling our faith by how we live our lives during the week, not

just on Sundays at Mass.

Do they see us pray? Or read Scripture? Do they ever hear us pray? Do they see that attending Mass is a priority to us? Do we treat others like Jesus teaches us to?

Roberto also says the quality of our parental relationship with our kids matters. We've heard that a family that prays together stays together. Another way to summarize what the research reveals is a family that not only prays together, but also plays together, worships together, and serves together reinforces the "sticky" kind of faith that children absorb over time when they experience parents sharing faith with them in their day-to-day lives.

How can parents do that? John Roberto recommends these simple but effective ways:

- Reading the Bible as a family and encouraging young people to read the Bible regularly

- Praying together as a family and encouraging young people to pray personally

- Serving people in need as a family and supporting service activities by young people

- Eating together as a family

- Having family conversations about faith

- Talking about faith, religious issues, and questions and doubts

- Ritualizing important family moments and milestone experiences

- Celebrating holidays and church year seasons at home

- Providing moral instruction

- Being involved in a faith community and participating regularly in Sunday worship as a family

- Another practical idea we suggest is using the

**Continues on page 17**



**Faith that sticks continued from page 16**

parent “take homes” from ODYC, NCYC, and Gasper River camp for follow up discussions at home after the event.

Lastly, a friendly reminder that when we rely only on our own merits, we will all know failure as parents. However, as Christians, we don’t parent alone. God fills in those places where we are weak. God loves our children more than we do and our prayers for our children/grandchildren never go unheard. ■

*Charlie Hardesty is the director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry](http://owensborodiocese.org/youth-ministry). Danny May is the director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life. Learn more at [owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life](http://owensborodiocese.org/office-of-marriage-family-life).*

## Youth ring in the new year at Gasper River

BY WKC STAFF

Approximately 60 youth attended Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center’s Christmas/New Year’s Camp from Dec. 29-Jan. 1. The annual camp featured outdoor and indoor activities, prayer time, Mass, Adoration, Confession, and the chance to ring in the new year with fellow young people and the staff of Gasper River. The priests who assisted with Confessions included Fr. Jason McClure, Fr. Corey Bruns, Fr. Ryan Harpole, Fr. Ken Mikulcik, Fr. Al Bremer, Fr. Daniel Dillard, and Fr. Mike Williams.

Registration is now open for the 2023 summer camps. Visit [www.gasperrivercatholicretreatcenter.org](http://www.gasperrivercatholicretreatcenter.org) to learn more and register. ■



COURTESY OF GASPER RIVER  
Campers, assisted by staff, climb the Jacob’s Ladder during Dec. 29-Jan. 1 Christmas/New Year’s Camp.



COURTESY OF GASPER RIVER  
Youth, staff, and camp director Ben Warrell (center, with baseball cap) celebrate the new year 2023.

# Lazarus Retreat

February 17-19, 2023

Gasper 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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Schedule of 2023 fish fries in the Diocese of Owensboro

*Editor's note:* Canons 1250 and 1251 state that all Fridays are days of penance in the Catholic Church. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requests that Catholics abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent, and practice some form of penance on the other Fridays throughout the year. Due to fish being a popular Lenten Friday option in this part of the world, the tradition of Friday fish fries has become a common activity for many communities. Below is information for the 2023 fish fries offered within the Diocese of Owensboro, provided by the parishes and local community organizations. All questions about the individual fish fries should be directed to the parishes and organizations.

**Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro**  
Address: 602 Sycamore St., Owensboro  
Date: March 31  
Format: Dine-in and drive-thru  
Serving time: 5-7 p.m.  
Contact: Parish office at (270) 926-4741

**Holy Name of Jesus School, Henderson**  
Address: 628 2nd St., Henderson  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 5:30 p.m.  
Contact: Holy Name School at (270) 827-3425

**Holy Spirit Parish, Bowling Green**  
Address: 4754 Smallhouse Rd., Bowling Green  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 4:30-7 p.m.  
Contact: Parish office at (270) 842-7777

**Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council 15181**  
Address: 813 S. Jefferson St., Princeton  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Carryout and drive-thru  
Serving time: 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Contact: Barry Whitledge at (812) 480-4298  
\*Final fish fry on March 31 to be held at the DAPS (Dawson Area Personal Services), 206 E Railroad Ave. Dawson Springs\*

**Knights of Columbus Council 817**  
Address: Fr. Rhoades Hall, 3540 East 10th St., Owensboro  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time 5-7 p.m.  
Contact: Steve Boarman at (270) 302-3908

**Knights of Columbus Council 11132**  
Address: 1600 Kingsway Dr., Madisonville

Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in, carryout, drive-thru  
Serving time: 5-7 p.m.  
Contact: Jim Donley at (270) 339-7244 and Ryan Burden at (270) 871-1032

**Knights of Columbus Fr. Carroll White Council 6743**  
Address: 1219 St. Anthony Rd., Clarkson  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 4:30-7 p.m.  
Contact: (270) 242-7955

**Knights of Columbus Fr. Connor Council 6101**  
Address: 7042 Hwy. 56, Sorgho  
Date: March 10  
Format: Dine-in  
Serving time: 5 p.m.  
Contact: Joey Smith at (270) 903-8986

**Knights of Columbus Fr. Emil Kapaun Council 12965**  
Address: 448 State Line Rd., Oak Grove  
Dates: Feb. 22 (Ash Wednesday); March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 6-7 p.m.  
Contact: Bruce Caccia at (931) 401-7332

**Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council 1055**  
Address: 3028 Jefferson St., Paducah  
Dates: Feb. 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Drive-thru only  
Serving time: 4-7 p.m.  
Contact: Jeff Warren at (270) 519-9990 for questions; (270) 443-3480 for location of hall

**Mary Carrico Catholic School, Daviess County**  
Address: 9546 Hwy. 144, Philpot (school gym)  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 4:30-6 p.m.  
Contact: Candice Schwartz at (270) 314-0221

**Our Lady of Lourdes Knights of Columbus, Owensboro**  
Address: 4029 Frederica St., Owensboro  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in, carryout and drive-thru  
Serving time: 5-7 p.m.  
Contact: (270) 684-5369

**Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro**  
Address: 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 5 p.m.  
Contact: (270) 684-6888

**St. Ann Parish, Morganfield**  
Address: 304 Church St., Morganfield  
Dates: March 3, 17, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 5-7 p.m.  
Contact: Parish office at (270) 389-2287

**St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown**  
Address: 504 Mulberry St., Uniontown  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 10, 24  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 5 p.m.  
Contact: Parish office at (270) 822-4416

**St. Columba Parish, Lewisport**  
Address: 815 Pell St., Lewisport  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 4-7 p.m.  
Contact: (270) 295-3682

**St. Francis Borgia Parish, Sturgis**  
Address: 9355 US Hwy. 60 West, Sturgis  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout; no drive-thru but parking lot pickup available  
Serving time: 4-7 p.m.  
Contact: Andrew Arnold at (270) 333-0280

**St. John the Evangelist Knights of Columbus**  
Address: 6705 Old US Hwy. 45 S, Paducah  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in, drive-thru and carryout  
Serving time: 4-7 p.m.  
Contact: Tim Stewart at (270) 554-0700

**Continues on page 19**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fish fries continued from page 18**

**St. Leo Parish Knights of Columbus**  
Address: 401 N 12th St., Murray  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Contact: Parish office at (270) 753-3876

**St. Martin Parish, Rome**  
Address: 5856 KY 81; Owensboro  
Dates: Feb. 17; March 17  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 5 p.m.  
Contact: Parish office at (270) 685-0339

**St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley**  
Address: 81 Church St., Owensboro  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 5:30 p.m.  
Contact: Parish office at (270) 764-1983

**Sts. Peter and Paul Knights of Columbus**  
Address: 902 E. 9th St., Hopkinsville  
Dates: Feb. 24; March 10, 24  
Format: Dine-in, carryout and drive-thru  
Serving time: 5-7 p.m.  
Contact: Rich Hornbeak at (270) 839-3134

**St. Pius X Knights of Columbus, Calvert City**  
Address: 777 E. 5th Ave, Calvert City  
Dates: Feb. 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Contact: (270) 395-5747

**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**  
Address: 610 Locust St., Owensboro  
Date: March 24  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 5 p.m.  
Contact: Parish office at (270) 683-6525

**Whitesville Lions Club, Whitesville**  
Address: Whitesville Senior Citizen Center, 10345 Hwy. 54, Whitesville  
Dates: Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7  
Format: Dine-in and carryout  
Serving time: 5 p.m.  
Contact: For to-go orders, call (270) 233-4332

## FEBRUARY 2023 BULLETIN BOARD

### **Mass and confession times in the Diocese of Owensboro**

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

### **House of worship safety/security training session planned**

Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary and School of Theology are hosting a safety and security training session for leaders and staff of houses of worship on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, on the Archabbey campus. The training session is sponsored by the Ohio Crime Prevention Association (OCPA), and it will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Central Time at the Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center. Houses of worship can be vulnerable to various crimes, including active shooter incidents, burglary, arson, theft and vandalism, often due to the forgiving culture, open-door policies, and easy-access environment. This training session will help clergy and faith leaders, safety/security teams, church staff, volunteers, and law enforcement officers learn how to avoid, prevent, and control various risks associated with operating a house of worship. The presentations will cover topics such as protecting people and property; preventing accidents, injuries and neglect; safeguarding against loss from crime and theft of funds; and protecting staff and members from abuse, liability, false claims and lawsuits. For more information and to register, visit [www.ocpa-oh.org/event-5105135](http://www.ocpa-oh.org/event-5105135). The fee is \$40 for OCPA members and \$50 for non-members, which includes lunch.

### **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, Feb. 9 from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CST. To register to receive the link, email [doreen.abbott@maplemount.org](mailto:doreen.abbott@maplemount.org) or sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/>

### **Elementary principal, Immaculate Conception School, Clarksville**

Immaculate Conception School (ICS), a diocesan parish school located in Clarksville, TN, a suburb just northwest of Nashville, seeks a dynamic, visionary principal for the 2023-24 school year. This parish school community is rich in history, serving parishioners and families from nearby Fort Campbell and the city of Clarksville, which has received several recognitions for its desirability and comfort of living in the last few years. The school faculty consists of experienced and certified teachers serving approximately 140 children in Kindergarten through 8th grades. Students enjoy a full complement of courses, including core subjects, the Fine Arts, physical education, and computer instruction/device management. ICS is fully accredited through Cognia district-wide accreditation. The school principal has direct oversight of all aspects of the school's operation with the support of the Parish Pastor, a school advisory council, and the Superintendent of Schools. Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of effective school operations and management, communicate effectively, and employ collaborative practices to engage all stakeholders in the mission of the

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Continued from page 20

## FEBRUARY 2023 BULLETIN BOARD

school. Successful candidates are practicing Catholics in good standing with the Catholic Church and possess a master's degree in Educational Leadership or related area. Successful experience as a chief administrator in a Catholic school is preferred. Qualified candidates are invited to send a letter of interest and resume to Dr. Rebecca Hammel, Superintendent of Schools, at [rebecca.hammel@dioceseofnashville.com](mailto:rebecca.hammel@dioceseofnashville.com) no later than Feb. 17, 2023. Start date July 1, 2023.

### All invited to celebrate St. Francis de Sales Parish anniversary

St. Francis de Sales in Paducah will celebrate our 175th anniversary with a year of celebrations. A quilt/wall hanging is being made with signatures of present members and deceased members. For more information contact Patti Sanders at [pattisanders50@gmail.com](mailto:pattisanders50@gmail.com).

Feb. 21: Youth present by age groups of drawings and essays of St. Francis de Sales.

Pizza and potluck Fat Tuesday celebration.

March 19: After Mass, potluck will be held and at 2 p.m. youth and adults present a play on history of parish.

April 22: 8-10 a.m. 5k fun run at Noble Park. Registration required.

June 7: 5 p.m. homecoming Mass and dinner for former pastors and associate pastors with Bishop Medley.

July 9: 6 p.m. patriotic music concert from choir members followed by finger foods.

August 4: 6 p.m. family movie night with burgers, hot dogs, popcorn and snacks.

Sept. 17: Parish family picnic

Oct. 28: Truck and Treat after 5 p.m. Mass. Chili cookoff will be held.

Nov. 18: History trivia; doors open 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 17: Christmas caroling to nursing homes and cookie exchange.

Jan. 24, 2024: Closing Mass on feast day

### You can help your marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue... or have you just stopped talking to each other?

Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the February program beginning with a weekend on Feb. 24-26, 2023, call the Diocese of Owensboro's Marriage and Family Life office at (270) 683-1545, Felicia at (270) 929-1524 or visit the website at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

### Practicing Prayer This Lent – Join our Feb. 25th program

Do you seek the still, quiet voice of God? Come explore the gifts of contemplative prayer and discover more deeply God's presence and action in your life and within you. This prayer, often called Centering Prayer, has been part of our Christian heritage for centuries - and now you have the opportunity to participate in a Centering Prayer Introductory Program that will be offered at Precious Blood Church on Saturday, February 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The prayer will be presented by an experienced practitioner of Centering prayer who has been commissioned to present the program by Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. It will include time for presentation, discussion, prayer and lunch. The program and lunch are offered at no cost to you, thanks to the sponsorship of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and Precious Blood Parish, 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro. Please register in advance by contacting parishioner and Ursuline Associate Maryann Joyce at 812-867-7507, [maryannjoyce@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryannjoyce@sbcglobal.net) or Michelle in the parish office at 270-684-6888.

### Sausage sale

Knights of Columbus, 7038 Hwy. 56, Sorgho. Saturday, March 4, 2023. Pick-up at 1 p.m. 2-pound roll \$8. Your choice: Fresh and/or smoked sausage. Pre-order by Feb. 26 by calling or texting: Chris Kluck at (270) 993-9455 or Joey Smith at (270) 903-8986.

### Lenten program: Discerning God's will in daily life

The Office of Vocations is offering a program on discerning the will of God on the five Mondays of Lent from Feb. 27-March 27, from 6:30-8 p.m. The program is being offered online and in-person at the undercroft of St. Stephen's Cathedral. The program will use the book: "Discerning the Will of God – An Ignatian Guide" by Fr. Timothy Gallagher. The book is available at St. Maximilian Kolbe Bookstore in Owensboro, and online. The book presents principles of discernment provided by St. Ignatius of Loyola and provides examples and stories of discernment – both for a life-vocation and for the everyday calls. Each evening will cover principles of discernment and offer a vocation story from a priest, sister, permanent deacon, married or single person. For more information, contact Fr. Ray Clark at (270) 231-1705.

### Blessed Sacrament's Italian dinner March 4

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 602 Sycamore St., Owensboro, will again have their Italian dinner. Mark your calendar for March 4 at 6:30 p.m. If you want to purchase a table for a fun evening or want more information, please contact Blessed Sacrament Chapel at (270) 926-4741.

### The Ursuline Sisters' prayers are a source of strength year round

We could all use prayers. The Ursuline Sisters want everyone to know that they take your requests for prayers seriously. Prayer cards are completed and put in a basket in the Mount Saint Joseph Chapel, then prayed with throughout the year. The Sisters pray for the intentions during daily Mass, and some Sisters will take a stack of cards to sit and pray with. The Ursuline Sisters consider it an honor to be entrusted with these prayers. To submit a prayer request, visit [ursulinesmsj.org](http://ursulinesmsj.org) and click on Prayer Requests.

### Need a meeting space? Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium is available

## Black History Month 2023

### *Activism, faith, education, the press, and joy*

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

#### **A Scout is Reverent**

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/](https://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/>.



FILE PHOTO  
F. Veronica Wilhite.

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

The theme for Black History Month in 2023 is “Black Resistance.” The historic framework of this theme is rooted in the persistence of Black Americans to survive/thrive in the face of oppression in the forms of racial terrorism, lynching, segregation, discrimination, killings by law enforcement, the KKK and other racial terrorists, voter suppression and unjust incarceration, to identify a few.

ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History), the founder of Black History Month, identifies five historic pillars of “Black Resistance”: Traditions of Activism; Foundations of Faith; the Value of Education; The Black Press and Black Joy which represent “Black efforts to advocate for a dignified self-determined life in a just democratic society in the United States and beyond the United States political jurisdiction.”

**Activism:** In an effort to live, maintain and protect economic success Black people have organized/planned and armed themselves against murderous white mobs as seen in Memphis, Tenn., (1892); Rosewood, Fla., (1923); and New Orleans, La., (1900). Some Blacks sought self-liberation as in

the mass exodus from plantation to the West led by Henry Adams and Benjamin “Pap” Singleton, in 1879 and the organized emigration to Liberia led by Bishop Henry McNeal Turner of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Many have employed non-violent protests, marching and litigation in pursuit of their rights and the truth that Black lives matter. The NAACP, founded in 1909, continues this quest today as well as other groups.

**Faith:** Black churches have been spaces where Black communities met to organize resistance efforts, inspired folk to participate in the movements, and offered sanctuary during times of crisis in addition to being a source of inspiration, endurance promotion of equal rights, voter participation and mutual support. It is not by chance that many leaders in the Civil Rights movement were and are ministers. Of note and seldom acknowledged are the Black Catholic churches throughout the U.S. While products of segregation, many of these institutions were viable support systems in the Black communities where they served and often enhanced available educational options in their communities. While many in the Catholic Church practiced institutional racism, there were many individual priests and sisters who actively supported the Civil Rights Movement.

**Education:** Education from elementary to higher education has been a major pathway for Black progress. Even during slavery and through the Jim Crow era when it was illegal or unavailable, Blacks resisted and pursued education despite the

*Continues on page 22*

stereotype of inferior intelligence. It was in search for a better education that many Blacks enrolled in the Black Catholic schools in their neighborhoods rather than the notably inferior public schools. “When Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week (NHW) in 1926, he saw it as a way to provide a space and resources to critically educate students about their history. The grassroots network of Black teachers used this week not only to lionize individuals and narratives, but also to teach students about racial progress, and as well as shared and collective responsibility. They developed assignments and curriculum to provide students with the tools to succeed.” While many Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), were developed by Northern white philanthropists, they provided an opportunity for activists, artists, business owners, educators and professionals to develop leadership and ownership of the collective progress of Blacks.

**Black Press:** Historically, the mainstream press has not served the Black community as reports of atrocities committed against Blacks was often suppressed and information on viable issues and gatherings was not published. Ida B. Wells used publications to contest the scourge of lynching. These outlets were pivotal in sharing the successes and challenges of resistance movements. Black newspapers such as: Chicago Defender, Chicago Bee, the Afro, The California Eagle, Omaha Star etc. have long been the source of information for the black community along with Johnson Publishing magazines Ebony and Jet.

**Black Joy:** From slavery times to the present Black people have utilized music, folklore, poetry, and movement to express

emotions. Spiritual music stands out as it messages hope, love, sorrow, and joy; a connection, empathy and yes, even resistance, as in Billie Holliday’s “Strange Fruit” and Marvin Gaye’s “What’s Going On.” “The Black artists, writers, photographers, and musicians who participated in the Black Arts Movement, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Chicago Black Renaissance... created art that supported the resistance movements, but also provided a space for Black people to express love and joy. Creatives used poetry, fiction, short stories, plays, films, and television to counter stereotypes and to imagine a present and future with Black people in it.”

“Black people have sought ways to nurture and protect Black lives, and for autonomy of their physical and intellectual bodies through armed resistance, voluntary emigration, nonviolence, education, literature, sports, media, and legislation/politics... Nearly 179 years ago, the Rev. Henry Highland Garnett proposed that the only path to freedom, justice, and equality; self-determination; and/or social transformation is resistance. In thunder tones, Garnett shouted, “Let your motto be resistance! resistance! RESISTANCE!” ■

*Quotes taken from ASALAH website:  
<https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>*

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

Diocese of Owensboro Marian Shrine Committee Presents



Mary Mother of the Eucharist Retreat Day

Saturday, March 11, 2023  
St. Pius X Catholic Church  
3419 Highway 144  
Owensboro, KY 42303



Featuring Fr. James Blount, SOLT

Register online only at  
[https://owensborodiocese.org/  
event/eucharist-retreat/](https://owensborodiocese.org/event/eucharist-retreat/)

Registration opens February 1  
\$25 registration fee, seating is limited

For additional information:  
270-315-8434

# December Wedding Anniversaries

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

**Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

Bob & Marian Davis, 55  
 Joe & Janet Hardy, 40  
 John & Mary Medley, 62  
 Ralph & Rose Bemboom, 54  
 Vince & Joan Frey, 64

**Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro**

Burnell & Mabel Hamilton, 53

**Christ the King, Scottsville**

Ronald & Betty Dickens, 40

**Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

Bernard & Betty Feltrop, 68  
 Darryl & Nancy Goolsby, 10  
 Fred & Michaelene Guillerman, 57  
 John & Carlene Gabe, 60  
 John & Kathy Prough, 51  
 Kenneth & Harriett Hite, 56  
 Lawrence & Darlene Smithhart, 52  
 Michael & Tiffany Jones, 25  
 Mike & Bobbie Willett, 60  
 Norman & Mary Anne Williams, 58  
 Richard & Doris Market, 60  
 Shayne & Shanon Greenwell, 25  
 Walter & Gail Clancy, 52

**Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**

Donald & Janet Mott, 55  
 James & Patricia Signorello, 56  
 Joe & Betty Kunkel, 50  
 Peter & Kaye Buser, 56  
 Toby & Nancy Church, 55

**Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

Charles & Patricia Hagman, 52  
 Denis & Martha Wheatley, 63

**Immaculate, Owensboro**

Benjamin & Melissa Kamuf, 10  
 Bob & Mary Ramage, 58  
 Danny & Francele Warren, 53  
 Fred & Gloria Zinobile, 68  
 Gary & Pat Satterwhite, 63  
 Tony & Becky Dant, 51  
 William & Lynda Maddox, 56

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

George & Brenda Hardesty, 55

Michael & Shelia Fulton, 53  
 Quincy & Andrea Moorman, 10

**Precious Blood, Owensboro**

Dennis & Joni Blair, 53  
 Frank & Rita Cecil, 62  
 Guy & Linda Connor, 62  
 Wayne & Linda Winfield, 54  
 Rosary Chapel, Paducah  
 Johnny & Loretta Hollis, 57

**St. Agnes, Uniontown**

Donnie & Becky Ervin, 55  
 Jack & Sue Miller, 58  
 Robert & Carolyn Mills, 56  
 Wayne & Loretta Nally, 62

**St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**

Paul & Beverly Smith, 58

**St. Ann, Morganfield**

Kenny & Rosie Holt, 54

**St. Anthony, Axtel**

Homer & JoAnn Mattingly, 55

**St. Augustine, Grayson Springs**

James & Faye Johnston, 61

**St. Benedict, Wax**

Dwight & Brenda Johnston, 57  
 Ruel & Louise Patterson, 55  
 Tom & Judy Croghan, 56

**St. Charles, Bardwell**

Mike & Ruth Elder, 55

**St. Columba, Lewisport**

Dwayne & Joyce Duncan, 53

**St. Denis, Fancy Farm**

David & Sandy Hayden, 54

**St. Edward, Fulton**

Rick & Marie Smith, 51

**St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis**

Cletus & Peggy Russelburg, 56  
 Jimmy & Cecilia Curtis, 51

**St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**

Larry & Becky Hopper, 50  
 Paul & Terry House, 55

**St. Francis of Assisi**

Sheril & Virginia Howard, 55

**St. Henry, Aurora**

Philip & Dianna Alvey, 53

**St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**

Jim & Ann Munsell, 50

**St. John the Baptist, Fordsville**

Jim & Dorothy Roberts, 55  
 Lee & Connie Roberts, 53

**St. John the Evangelist, Paducah**

John & Anna Drury, 54  
 Kenny & Jeannie Spraggs, 52

**St. Joseph, Bowling Green**

Carroll & Sue Hughes, 57  
 Gerald & Norma Jenkins, 56  
 Tom & Pat Volk, 55

**St. Joseph, Central City**

David & Jean Simpson, 61

**St. Joseph, Leitchfield**

Bob & Joanne Deweese, 56  
 David & Daniella Gary, 10

**St. Joseph, Mayfield**

Charles & Dorothy Harris, 56  
 Jerry & Norma Erwin, 57  
 Randy & Sandy Gossum, 55  
 Robert & Rose Coplen, 72

**St. Leo, Murray**

Joe & Linda Ohnemus, 53

**St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**

Eddie & Alo Byrne, 54  
 Jim & Barbara Schwartz, 50  
 Sam & Sherry Holinde, 54

**St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville**

Adam & Jo Beth Grigsby, 10  
 Bob & Sue Henderson, 5

Bryce & Sue Roberts, 50  
David & Peggy Morris, 53  
Fred & Sharon Coomes, 52  
Jimmy & Marty Johnson, 29  
Lou & Veda Mattingly, 40  
Marvin & Mary Ann Bickwermert, 55

**St. Mary, Franklin**  
Lew & Helen Garst, 62  
Richard & Elizabeth Gardner, 54

**St. Mary, LaCenter**  
Jim & Marie Funk, 56

**St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove**  
Charles & Barbara Peltier, 60  
Gary & Cheryl Heim, 52

**St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly**  
John & Judy Moore, 52

**St. Pius X, Owensboro**  
David & Pat Jones, 55  
Frankie & Betty Clark, 68  
Joshua & Sarah Sullivan, 10  
Martin & Stacey Chesney, 25  
Mike & Janet Schwartz, 52

**St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**  
Doug & Mona Hinton, 50  
Ken & Michaelanne James, 61  
Larry & Mary Edward Henning

**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**  
Audie & Lana Chaney, 53  
Robert & Vurble Mahoney, 66  
Tom & Lucy Neal, 62

**St. Stephen, Cadiz**  
Hong & Cathy Khang, 54  
Jim & Kathleen Ariagno, 58  
Tom & Patricia Fritsch, 58

**St. Thomas More, Paducah**  
Al & Mary McKeown, 60  
Larry & Phyllis Stovesand, 53

**St. William, Knottsville**  
Robert & Rebecca Greenwell, 5  
Stanley & Barbara Roberts, 51

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**  
John & Angela Scheithe, 25  
Randy & Elizabeth Belcher, 56  
Ron & Martha Hardesty, 25  
Vincent & Linda Cecil, 55

## With new tri-parish conference, western Kentucky St. Vincent de Paul expands to serve neighbors in need

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Under the guidance of Fr. John Okoro, three parishes in western Kentucky have established the Diocesan Council's 23rd Society of St. Vincent de Paul conference: St. Francis Borgia, St. Ambrose, and St. William. President Rebecca Woodall said, "Fr. John Okoro is truly at the heart of this endeavor. He has started SVDP Conferences at many of his parishes. At his request and encouragement, Holli Jo Corley, secretary at St. Francis, researched what it would take to start a conference. She took off with the idea and really got the ball rolling. When she told me about it, I was very excited because working in human services I see all the needs that are too often not met, especially in Crittenden County. Fr. Okoro feels strongly that all three parishes be represented on the council."

Members are still being recruited and the conference is in the middle of getting organized to serve Union, Crittenden, and Webster counties. Next steps are to build relationships with agencies within the communities served and to find out what the needs are in the counties.

"We are not truly serving the community if we are not meeting the needs. We want to help in meaningful ways. So, it is vital that we make sure we know the needs," said Woodall. Funding is a big job at the beginning and the tri-parish conference is fortunate to have received seed funds from the SVDP-Diocesan Council, a grant from the United Way of the Ohio Valley, plus donations from area parishioners totaling more than \$10,000.

"Money will come because we are doing God's work," said Fr. Okoro. At the same time, we need to take St. Augustine's advice as he said, "Pray as though everything depended on God; act as though everything depended on you." Continued funding plans include asking the three parishes to have a fifth



COURTESY OF SVDP

Newly-formed St. Vincent de Paul tri-parish conference receives seed monies to begin serving neighbors in need. Left to right: Anna Conn, Charlie Mendoza, Lisa Jones, Diane Henshaw, Holli Jo Corley, Rebecca Woodall, and Richard Remp-Morris, CEO/executive director of SVDP-Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Inc.

Sunday envelope to collect money for the tri-parish conference.

According to Woodall, determining who the neighbors in need are will be somewhat of a challenge: "That is something we are still working on as well. I do believe that they will find us more often than we will find them. We have already been able to help one person. A woman called St. William one day while I was in the office. She needed to move out of a bad situation. She could afford the rent on a new place but couldn't afford a deposit and rent. We were able to cover the deposit so she could get away from her situation."

Serving in the conference so far are: St. Francis Borgia – Charlie Mendoza (spiritual adviser), Anna Conn (spiritual adviser), Lisa Jones (treasurer), Tony Pfingston, Gloria Mendoza; St. Ambrose – Carol Martin, Stephanie Dossett, Marilyn Day, Holli Jo Corley (interim secretary), Joe Corley, Bobbie Mackey, Diane Henshaw (vice president); St. William – Rebecca Woodall (president), Melanie Walker, Monica Wessel, Lynann Woodall, Michelle Crider (cantor for all parishes). ■

For more information, contact Rebecca Woodall through the St. William parish office at (270) 965-2750 or visit [svdpuky.org](http://svdpuky.org)



# A snapshot of history to be found in the Mount's inaugural school newspaper

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

School newspapers can be very mundane. This is so true that many schools did away with theirs long ago. Their loss is a detriment not only to the school but also to history. The creation and preservation of these relics establishes a culture and history that is sacred and unique to that individual school. However, we are fortunate that Mount Saint Joseph has preserved its academy newspaper “The Mount” which ran continuously for over 20 years. Today we will take a look at this snapshot of history by reviewing the first issue.

“The Mount” first released in April 1923 and ran through June 1946. There are few more ideal periods of time that could have been chronicled. We not only see our final years as a part of the Diocese of Louisville but also see our establishment and first years as the Diocese of Owensboro. On the grander stage we also see the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression, the Second World War and the Rise and Fall of the Third Reich. Wow, what a time to be alive or at least to read about it.

The first issue is beautifully written and interesting. One of the best articles is a travel piece written by an unnamed but well-traveled member of the Mount's faculty. It details a day in Stratford-upon-Avon, the birth and burial place of William Shakespeare. The author chronicles visiting various places relating to



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ARCHIVES  
Pictured is the first issue of “The Mount” school newspaper, dated April 1923.

the famed playwright. The style is beautiful and captivating, near poetic. Contemporary, ardent Catholic pride shines throughout the piece. The author not only proposes the notion that perhaps Shakespeare was a “fervent Catholic,” a thesis that is currently seriously discussed by academics, but also admires the Catholic grandeur and origins of the ancient churches, mournfully noting they

were “mutilated by the destroying hands of schism.”

Daily happenings and celebrations are also covered. Visiting actors, performers and musicians get a fair amount of attention. The number of national acts that ventured through is remarkable. Easter nest hunts, Forty Hours devotions and sisters taking vows are also included.

The paper is supplemented with humorous stories with the names of academy girls and MSJ Sisters inserted, spiritual quotes, prose, and even a Mount ghost story. This is all characteristic of the period, and it is truly a joy to read. It transports the audience to a much simpler, more wholesome time.

The insights contained in these papers is enough to make a history enthusiast's heart race. Though this article only briefly examined the first issue a review of the entire run would be fruitful and will perhaps be forthcoming. The historic names mentioned on the local level as well as the world stage would make these a fascinating read. How incredible it is to think that the unknowing academy girls and sisters at the Mount were doing so much for our history without even a passing thought. ■

*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](mailto:edward.wilson@pastoral.org).*

# Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

## *Entregarse a Dios a través de la oración de Simeón*

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

El 2 de febrero es la Fiesta de la Presentación del Señor. Este día llega 40 días después de Navidad y nos recuerda así la antigua tradición hebrea del rito de purificación de la mujer después del parto. Hasta las reformas litúrgicas posteriores al Concilio Vaticano II, la fiesta se llamaba la Purificación de María.

Coincidiendo con la tradición de la purificación ritual había un rito de dedicación – esta presentación – de un varón primogénito. En el Evangelio de Lucas está escrito: “Transcurrido el tiempo de la purificación de María, según la ley de Moisés, ella y José llevaron al niño a Jerusalén para presentarlo al Señor, de acuerdo con lo escrito en la ley: ‘Todo primogénito varón será consagrado al Señor,’ y también para ofrecer, como dice la ley, ‘un par de tórtolas o dos pichones’”.

Así, la Iglesia ha querido destacar la dedicación de Jesús recién nacido a los cuarenta días de su nacimiento.

Sólo Lucas cuenta esta historia de la Presentación. En su interpretación, presenta un personaje que se hace protagonista. Un anciano llamado Simeón estaba en el templo. Lucas lo describe como santo y piadoso, en quien estaba presente el Espíritu Santo. Continúa diciendo que el Espíritu Santo le había prometido a Simeón que no vería la muerte antes de haber visto al Mesías prometido de Israel.

Cuando María y José llevaron al niño al

templo, Simeón reconoció que la promesa que Dios le había hecho se había cumplido. Tomó al niño en sus brazos para alabar a Dios. Solo podemos imaginar cómo María y José debieron sorprenderse por esta experiencia, como se habían sorprendido cuando los ángeles, los pastores y los magos llegaron a Belén.

La oración de Simeón nos llama la atención: “Señor, ya puedes dejar morir en paz a tu siervo, según lo que me habías prometido, porque mis ojos han visto a tu Salvador, al que has preparado para bien de todos los pueblos; luz que alumbr a las naciones y gloria de tu pueblo, Israel”.

El 2 de febrero también se ha observado tradicionalmente como el Día de la Candelaria, un día para bendecir las velas utilizadas en la liturgia y la devoción del hogar durante el año. El vínculo también proviene del Cántico de Simeón, “luz que alumbr a las naciones y gloria de tu pueblo, Israel”. Existe la tradición de que las personas enciendan una vela bendecida en sus hogares durante condiciones climáticas extremas como una oración silenciosa de confianza en la protección de Dios.

La Iglesia ha recordado la oración de Simeón como el cántico rezado en Completas, la oración nocturna oficial de la Iglesia, en la Liturgia de las Horas.

Cuando me presentaron por primera vez esta oración formal de Completas cuando era joven, atesoraba las palabras “puedes dejar a tu siervo irse en paz”, viéndolas como las últimas palabras

### BISHOP MEDLEY'S FEBRUARY 2023 CALENDAR

<b>1 DE FEB.</b>	10:30 a.m.   Misa escolar e Instalación en el Ministerio de Acólito para el seminarista Conrad Jaconette – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro, Owensboro
<b>2 DE FEB.</b>	9 a.m.   Misa escolar – Escuela Interparroquial San Romualdo, Hardinsburg
<b>5 DE FEB.</b>	10 a.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia Inmaculada, Owensboro
<b>8 DE FEB.</b>	10 a.m.   Reunión de personal – Centro Católico McRaith (MCC), Owensboro
<b>11 DE FEB.</b>	4:30 p.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Owensboro
<b>12 DE FEB.</b>	10 a.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia Santa Inés, Uniontown 6 p.m.   Misa con Estudiantes – Ministerio del Campus Católico de Newman House, Universidad Estatal de Murray
<b>14-16 DE</b>	Reunión de Obispos de la Provincia – Louisville
<b>18 DE FEB.</b>	5 p.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia San Francisco de Sales, Paducah
<b>19 DE FEB.</b>	9:30 a.m.   Confirmación – Parroquia Santa María, LaCenter 2 p.m.   Rito de Elección – Parroquia San León, Murray
<b>20 DE FEB.</b>	10 a.m.   Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – MCC, Owensboro
<b>22 DE FEB.</b>	12 p.m.   Misa de Miércoles de Ceniza – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
<b>26 DE FEB.</b>	2 p.m.   Rito de Elección – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro 6 p.m.   Rito de Elección – Catedral de San
<b>28 DE FEB.</b>	10 a.m.   Misa escolar – Escuela Secundaria Santa María, Paducah

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del día antes de que uno descansa por la noche. Mientras leo esas palabras ahora, las escucho con mayor facilidad en el sentido que Simeón seguramente quiso decir, una entrega total a Dios al final de una larga vida celebrando que las promesas de Dios se habían cumplido en su vida.

Por lo tanto, ya sea que leamos estas palabras como una persona joven para quien la muerte se presume lejana, o como una persona de edad ya avanzada, las palabras son reconfortantes: “Puedes dejar a tu siervo irse en paz”.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Obispo William F. Medley

## 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



# Jesús – Eucaristía – Pan de Vida



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

El primer Encuentro del año se llevó a cabo en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro el 7 de enero, que era para la Región de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ

El segundo Encuentro del año se llevó a cabo en la Parroquia San León en Murray el 14 de enero, y fue para la Región de Nuestra Señora de Fátima.

## POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

En enero, la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro ofreció varios Encuentros anuales en el oeste de Kentucky. Los encuentros estuvieron guiados por las reflexiones del P. Julio César Palarino, sacerdote visitante de Argentina.

El 7 de enero, la Región de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe tuvo el primer Encuentro en la Parroquia Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro. El 14 de enero de 2023, la Región de Nuestra Señora de Fátima tuvo el siguiente Encuentro en la Parroquia San León en Murray. El 21 de enero, la Región de Nuestra Señora del Rosario tuvo el siguiente Encuentro en la

Parroquia San José en Bowling Green. Y el 28 de enero, la Región de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo tuvo el último Encuentro en la Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo en Hopkinsville.

Para obtener más información sobre las próximas oportunidades de ministerio hispano/latino este año, comuníquese con el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez al (270) 880-8018 o envíe un correo electrónico a [chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org](mailto:chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org). ■

**Parroquias con  
misa en Español**





FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ  
Bailables durante el segundo Encuentro del año, que se llevó a cabo en la Parroquia San León en Murray el 14 de enero para la Región de Nuestra Señora de Fátima.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ  
Los participantes comparten una comida durante el Encuentro del 14 de enero para la Región de Nuestra Señora de Fátima.

## 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/](https://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](mailto:gutierreztherapy@gmail.com)

## Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

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

## La Oficina de Comunicaciones da la bienvenida a la nueva directora

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC



FOTO DE ARCHIVO  
Rachel Hall.

Rachel Hall asumió el cargo de directora de la Oficina de Comunicaciones de la Diócesis de Owensboro el 27 de diciembre de 2022, reemplazando a Tina Kasey, quien renunció para buscar una nueva oportunidad.

“Estoy encantada de haber tenido esta oportunidad y agradecida por un gran equipo que me está ayudando a adaptarme”, dijo Hall. “Esta era la carrera que siempre imaginé para mí cuando estaba en la universidad. Poder cele-

brar mi fe católica aquí, me hace sentir como en casa”.

Antes de trabajar para la diócesis, Hall trabajó para Sysco, donde se desempeñó como consultora de ventas trabajando con operadores de servicios de alimentos en una asociación consultiva. Durante ese tiempo, se centró en retener y atraer nuevos clientes y documentó las tendencias del mercado y la resolución de problemas mientras se aseguraba de que se cumplieran las necesidades de los clientes. Antes de eso, Hall se desempeñó como coordinadora de ventas/mercadeo con Edward Utley Jr.

Graduada de la Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro, Hall tiene una licenciatura en bellas artes y una especialización en comunicaciones del Kentucky Wesleyan College en Owensboro. Tiene experiencia en escritura creativa y diseño gráfico. ■

Se puede contactar a Hall en [rachel.hall@pastoral.org](mailto:rachel.hall@pastoral.org).



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE APRIL DICKENS

Varias damas de la comunidad hispana en la iglesia de Santos José y Pablo en Owensboro completaron una Consagración Mariana al asistir a Misa en la Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción el 8 de diciembre de 2023. ¡Felicitaciones a estas damas!

## YOUTH 2000

Un retiro centrado  
en la eucaristía

17-19 de marzo  
de 2023

Universidad de Brescia

Para más información:

[owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000](http://owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000)  
(270) 683-1545



Marian Shrine



Diocese of  
OWENSBORO

# Papa: Lleva a los demás hacia Jesús, no hacia ti mismo

POR CINDY WOODEN,  
CATHOLIC NEWS  
SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- San Juan Bautista es un modelo para el testimonio cristiano, que lleva a otros a Jesús y luego se aparta del camino para que sigan al Señor y no a la persona que los evangelizó, dijo el Papa Francisco.

“Pensemos en lo importante que es esto para un sacerdote, que está llamado a predicar y celebrar no por afán de protagonismo por interés, sino para acompañar a los demás hacia Jesús”, dijo el papa a unas 15,000 personas reunidas en la Plaza San Pedro el 15 de enero para rezar el Ángelus con él.

La lectura del Evangelio del día se centró en el testimonio de San Juan Bautista de que Jesús “se ha puesto delante de mí” y es “el Cordero de Dios, que quita el pecado del mundo”.

San Juan Bautista -- que había estado predicando y reuniendo seguidores -- “de ser profeta pasa a ser discípulo”, dijo el papa. Sin embargo, “no le interesa tener seguidores, en obtener prestigio y éxito, sino que presenta



FOTO CNS/REMO CASILLI, REUTERS

El papa Francisco se reúne con unos 1,300 invitados para almorzar en la sala de audiencias del Vaticano en la Jornada Mundial de los Pobres el 13 de noviembre de 2022.

su testimonio y luego da un paso atrás para que muchos tengan la alegría de encontrar a Jesús”.

En resumen, dijo el papa, San Juan Bautista “abre la puerta, luego se va”.

Los sacerdotes y otros evangelizadores deben hacer lo mismo, dijo el papa. De hecho, el desapego del propio ego es una parte clave del “espíritu de servicio”.

Los padres, por ejemplo, hacen muchos sacrificios por sus hijos, pero cuando crecen “deben dejarlos libres de emprender su propio

camino en el trabajo, en el matrimonio, en la vida”, dijo el papa. Los padres obviamente dejan claro que siempre estarán cerca, pero deben acompañar a sus hijos adultos “con discreción, sin intromisión”.

“Liberarse de los propios apegos y saber hacerse a un lado cuesta”, dijo, “pero es muy importante: es el paso decisivo para crecer en el espíritu de servicio sin pretender nada a cambio”.

El Papa Francisco pidió a las personas que piensen en qué tan buenos son para hacer espacio para los demás en sus amistades, en el trabajo y en su parroquia o comunidad escuchando y no siempre buscando el reconocimiento.

“¿Atraemos a los demás hacia Jesús o hacia nosotros mismos?” preguntó. “Y aún más, siguiendo el ejemplo de Juan: ¿sabemos alegrarnos de que las personas emprendan su propio camino y sigan su llamada, incluso si eso implica un poco de desapego respecto a nosotros? ¿Nos alegramos de sus logros, con sinceridad y sin envidia? Esto es dejar crecer a los demás”. ■



# God ‘suffers’ when believers injure, ignore those God loves, pope says



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis celebrates an ecumenical evening prayer service marking the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome Jan. 25, 2023.

BY CINDY WOODEN, CATHOLIC  
NEWS SERVICE

ROME (CNS) - God suffers and grieves when those who profess to believe in him do not love the people he loves and do not work for the justice he desires, Pope Francis said. “God suffers when we, who call ourselves his faithful ones, put our own ways of seeing things before his, when we follow the judgments of the world rather than those of heaven, when we are content with exterior rituals yet remain indifferent to those for whom he cares the most,” the pope said in his homily Jan. 25 at an ecumenical evening prayer service. Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant representatives joined the pope at Rome’s Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls for vespers closing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Members of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religions joined

the mostly Rome-based religious leaders for the service. The Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches entrusted the preparations of the 2023 week of prayer to a group convened by the Minnesota Council of Churches. Acknowledging “the injustices perpetrated in the past against native peoples and in our own day against African Americans,” Pope Francis said, the group chose as the theme for the week “Do good; seek justice” from Isaiah 1:17. In the face of “various forms of contempt and racism, before indifference, lack of understanding and sacrilegious violence, the word of God admonishes us: ‘Learn to do good, seek justice,’” the pope said. “It is not enough to denounce, we need also to renounce evil, to pass from evil to good.” ■