

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

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Into the Deep

Page 9



Español

Página 30



Three big questions Page 15



Living Rosary

On Jan. 30, the students of St. Romuald Interparochial School in Hardinsburg participate in a Living Rosary – with each student taking turns saying one of the prayers – in celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2023. **Page 16**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Students of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in Henderson pray the Our Father during the school's Jan. 30 Mass for Catholic Schools Week 2023. *Page 16*

ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

- 5** 'God will make a crooked road straight'
An overview of women religious in the diocese
- 7** A new home in Kentucky
Catholic community welcomes siblings who fled the Taliban
- 9** Into the Deep
Founder sees 'God's fingerprints' across new Catholic homeschool resource

Front page main photo by Riley Greif | WKC

Submissions

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

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

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

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- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 Features | 20 Obituaries |
| 10 Nation & World | 22 Around the Diocese |
| 14 Evangelization | 25 Anniversaries |
| 15 Youth | 26 Upcoming Events |
| 19 Archives | 30 Español |

A Word From Bishop Medley

A silent witness

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When it comes to the Church's liturgy and practice, most of us associate the month of March with Lent. Ash Wednesday has usually fallen in February, so by March we are well-practiced in our pledges of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. And, after all, apart from our religious life, March usually begins to show us some sustaining glimpses of winter's end and spring's beginning. The word "Lent" actually means "spring."

But no liturgical season is absolute. Just as the beginning of spring does not guarantee that cold weather or even snow and ice are behind us, so Lent does not preclude other celebration within its 40 days. There are three prominent non-Lenten feasts in the month of March: the 17th is the feast of St. Patrick, the 19th is the feast of St. Joseph, and the 25th is the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. If the latter two of these should fall in Holy Week, the feasts are transferred to after Easter. (In United States culture today, the feast of St. Patrick has become more of a civil celebration than a religious one, though the story of St. Patrick remains compelling.)

For this month's column I wish to share some reflections on St. Joseph. Anything we truly know about St. Joseph comes from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, and even there the references are few. Legend and tradition have passed along other stories, but often centuries after Joseph actually lived.

Matthew relates Mary's virginal conception of Jesus and notes that St. Joseph "being a man of honor and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally." Then Joseph experienced the first of several dreams in which God directed him in his role of father and in salvation history. Later dreams led Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt and later to Nazareth.

Luke explains that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which was Joseph's ancestral home, and that they had traveled there because Caesar Augustus had ordered a census that took citizens to their homeland.

The final mention of Joseph in the Bible relates the story of Jesus found in the temple after being separated from his parents for several days. Mary is quoted as saying, "My son, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been looking for you."

After this incident the Gospel stories jump ahead to the public life of Jesus, and St. Joseph is not mentioned again. The assumption is that Joseph had died in those intervening years and thus grew the tradition that St. Joseph is the patron of a happy death as he presumably died with Mary and Jesus with him. The Gospels tell us as well that Jesus was "the son of a carpenter" and this speaks of him being a patron saint of workers. In fact, St. Joseph merits a second feast on May 1 celebrating his identity St. Joseph the Worker.

My reflection on St. Joseph flows from these

Continues on page 4

BISHOP MEDLEY'S MARCH 2023 CALENDAR

MARCH 1	10:30 a.m. School Mass and Installation into the Ministry of Acolyte for seminarian Conrad Jaconette – Owensboro Catholic High School, Owensboro 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg
MARCH 2-4	The Way Forward Conference for Bishops – Boston College
MARCH 5	2 p.m. Scouting Religious Emblems Mass – St. Anthony Parish, Browns Valley
MARCH 8	10 a.m. Diocesan Staff Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
MARCH 11	4 p.m. Confirmation – St. Peter & Sacred Heart Parishes at St. Peter Parish, Waverly 6:30 p.m. Grace Marriage Date Night – Kentucky Wesleyan College, Owensboro
MARCH 12	10:30 a.m. Confirmation – St. Martin Parish, Rome 6 p.m. Mass with Murray State University Catholic Campus – St. Leo Parish, Murray
MARCH 14-15	Visit to Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary to Meet with Seminarian – Indianapolis, Ind.
MARCH 19	10:45 a.m. Closing Mass for YOUTH 2000 – Brescia University, Owensboro

Continues on page 4

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

A Word From Bishop continued from page 3

limited Bible stories and what is not told us about Joseph. Neither Matthew nor Luke report anything that Joseph ever says. We can see his frame of mind, his faithfulness, his humility – but the evangelists do not report his words.

Does this mean that Joseph never spoke, perhaps like Zechariah who was mute before the birth of John the Baptist? Certainly not. No one really knows why the evangelists found no reason to attribute words to St. Joseph. But perhaps his “silence” speaks to an adage with which we are familiar: “Actions speak louder than words.”

As the Gospels portray St. Joseph, we learn all we need to know about him as a man of faith who

trusted God and accepted his role in salvation history. Let the feast of St. Joseph provide a respite from the themes of Lent, all the while acknowledging he is indeed a figure of Lent.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/yzyvs8k9> for a message from Bishop Medley regarding this year's St. Patrick's Day observance.



Want to win a handmade quilt?

The Ursuline Sisters' 2023-2024 Quilt Club tickets are now available!

For the purchase of one \$25 ticket, you get 12 chances to win a handmade quilt from April 2023-March 2024. Drawings take place at noon on the first Friday of each month. (The April drawing is on a Thursday, due to Good Friday.)

Watch the drawings live on our Facebook page!

Sign up by April 5 to be entered into all 12 drawings

Only 2,500 tickets will be sold, so don't delay!

Contact Carol Braden-Clarke: 270-229-2008
carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org

Sign up online: ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-club

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!


Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph
8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356
License #0290

BISHOP MEDLEY'S MARCH 2023 CALENDAR CONTINUED

MARCH 20	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro 1:30 p.m. Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro 4:30 p.m. Vespers – Passionist Monastery, Whitesville
MARCH 21	8:45 a.m. Senior Conversations – Owensboro Catholic High School, Owensboro
MARCH 22	8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro 4:30 p.m. Diocesan Foundation Board Meeting – Owensboro
MARCH 25	5:30 p.m. Confirmation – St. Ambrose Parish, Henshaw
MARCH 26	11 a.m. Confirmation – St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
MARCH 28	10 a.m. – noon Paducah Office 6 p.m. Serra Club Meeting – Owensboro
MARCH 29	9:45 a.m. School Mass – St. Joseph School, Bowling Green
MARCH 30	Visit to Saint Meinrad Seminary to Meet with Diocese of Owensboro Seminarians – Saint Meinrad, Ind.

Called to serve: An overview of women religious in the diocese

BY WKC STAFF

Editor's note: Since the beginning of the Diocese of Owensboro, women religious have played a significant role in spreading the Good News and building up the Catholic Church through their ministries of prayer, sacrifice and service. In honor of Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14), The Western Kentucky Catholic is printing an overview of all communities of women religious currently serving in the diocese. To learn more about vocations within the diocese, visit owensborodiocese.org/vocations.

Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus

Motherhouse: 10341 Manchester Road, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122

Impelled by our love for the Divine Heart of Jesus in the spirit and zeal of the Carmelites of old, we seek to win all souls for Christ by our contemplative and apostolic works of charity. Learn more at www.carmelitedcj.org.

Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy

Motherhouse: 109-26 130th Street, South Ozone Park, Queens, New York 11420

The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy (DMMM) congregation is an Institute of Apostolic religious life with a Pontifical Right, whose members take the three evangelical vows of Obedience, Poverty, and Chastity. Our Charism is to bear witness to the Mercy of God by following the footsteps of Christ, the Merciful Savior, and that of Mary, the Mother of Mercy. This Mercy is expressed as Compassion, Forgiveness and Kindness. Learn more at www.dmmmsisters-usa.org/index.htm.

Home Mission Sisters of America

Motherhouse: 405 W. Parrish Avenue, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

The Glenmary Sisters are a community of Catholic Sisters who live and minister in the midst of the people we serve. Our presence and ministry are special in that we may be the first Catholics the people have ever met. Through our compassionate outreach we want all to realize that God's presence is everywhere. Learn more at <https://glenmarysisters.org>.

Misioneras del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus ad Gentes

Motherhouse: Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez #109 Oriente, Huamantla Tlaxca, Mexico CP 90500

The Misioneras del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus ad Gentes were founded to announce the Gospel in nations that do not know Christ and to preserve it in those that do know Him. Learn more at <http://adgenteshuamantla.blogspot.com>.

Passionist Nuns

Convent: 8564 Crisp Rd., Whitesville, KY 42378-9782

Within the Church, the Passionist Nuns are called to be a sign of the love of Jesus Crucified for the Father and for mankind. By their unceasing contemplation of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, the



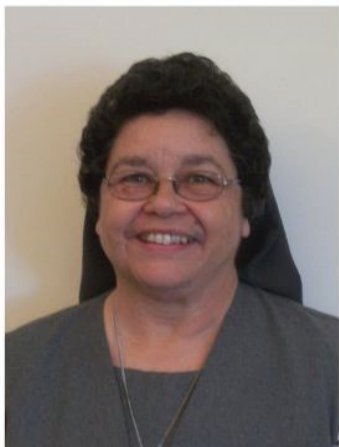
COURTESY OF PASSIONIST NUNS

The Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery (Whitesville, Ky.) in an October 2022 community photo. Front row (seated): Sr. Mary Veronica McKimmy, Sr. Cecilia Maria Wynn, Mother John Mary Read, Sr. Mary Magdalen Wurth. Second row: Kristin Marie Abbate (aspirant), Sr. Frances Marie Wenke, Sr. Maria Faustina Carmichael, Sr. Mary Agnes Higgs, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Sauer, Emma DeLong (aspirant). Back row: Christie Swanson (affiliate), Hannah Bland (postulant), Sr. Miriam Esther Krauskopf, Sr. Mary Andrea Niehaus, Sr. Mary Therese Seitz, Holly Vietas (now a postulant). Not pictured: Mother Catherine Marie Schuhmann and Elizabeth Mahoney (aspirant).

greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love, they are certain of contributing to the fullness of the Church's presence to mankind... Convinced of the absolute necessity of God's grace for the fruitfulness of the apostolate, they offer their unceasing prayer and joyful penance that God send zealous workers into His harvest, convert sinners and open the minds of non-Christians to hear the Gospel...The Passionist Nuns seek to imitate Mary who devoted herself totally to the Person and work of her Son, serving the mystery of redemption. Learn more at www.passionistnuns.org.

Continues on page 6

Women religious continued from page 5



COURTESY OF GLENMARY SISTERS

The Home Mission Sisters of America, also known as the Glenmary Sisters, are based in Owensboro. Left to right: Sr. Aida Badillo Lorenzo, Sr. Kathleen Mulchrone, Sr. Catherine Schoenborn, Sr. Darlene Presley, and Sr. Patricia Leighton.

School Sisters of Notre Dame

Motherhouse: 320 E. Ripa Ave., St. Louis, MO 63125

The School Sisters of Notre Dame are members of an international congregation of women religious founded by Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger in Bavaria in 1833. Their mission is to proclaim the good news, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent for which God calls all. As Jesus was sent to show God's love to the world, we are sent to make Christ, to make God, visible by our very being, by sharing our love, faith, and hope. Learn more at www.ssndcentralpacific.org.

Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Glasgow, Scotland, Nigeria Province

Motherhouse: 90 Saracen Street, Glasgow, G22 5AD, Scotland

As Sisters in the Franciscan penitential tradition, we commit ourselves to live out our public profession of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience, in community ever striving for a fuller expression of

our baptismal call to conversion. As members we strive to dedicate ourselves to a life of mission and evangelization as we seek new and different ways to spread the Good News of the Gospel. Learn more at <https://franciscan-sisters.org.uk/>.

Sisters of Saint Francis of Tiffin, Ohio

Motherhouse: 200 St. Francis Avenue, Tiffin, Ohio 44883

Originally founded after the Civil War to care for orphans and the elderly, the Sisters of St. Francis today serve in a variety of ministries including care of the elderly, parish ministry, health care, education, retreat work, home mission outreach, and ministry in our foreign mission in Chiapas and Cuernavaca, Mexico. Never large in number but always vibrant in spirit, the Sisters of St. Francis continue to minister to the needs of the Church, discerning the needs of the times and the gifts they bring to the people of God. Learn more at www.tiffin-franciscans.org.

Sisters of the Lamb of God



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Several Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Ky.) gathered at a celebration Mass for Sister Rosanne Spalding's 60th jubilee of religious life at Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro, in August 2021. Pictured, left to right: Sisters Betsy Moyer, Ann McGrew, Amelia Stenger, Laurita Spalding (Sister Rosanne's sister), Rosanne, Monica Seaton, Margaret Ann Aull, Judith Nell Riney, Cheryl Clemons, Barbara Jean Head, Suzanne Sims, Nancy Murphy, Julia Head and Mary Timothy Bland.

Continues on page 7

Women religious continued from page 6

Our vocation is a consent-active and personal-to follow Jesus Christ, SERVANT, who came to free his people. We commit ourselves to his way of servant. We learn from him because he is meek and humble of heart. Witnesses of the

Lamb of God, this is our mission.

Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph

Motherhouse: 8001 Cummings Road, Owensboro KY 42301

We, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Jo-

seph, sustained by prayer and vowed life in community, proclaim Jesus through education and Christian formation in the spirit of our founder, St. Angela Merici. Learn more at <https://ursulinesmsj.org>.

A new home in Kentucky

Catholic community welcomes siblings who fled Taliban

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

After a harrowing escape out of Afghanistan, a young adult and his two teenage siblings have restarted their lives in Owensboro, Ky., with the support of St. Stephen Cathedral and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro.

Shahram, whose last name has been withheld for security reasons, has even started volunteering with Catholic Charities to help other Afghan families resettle in the local area.

“We have been so happy,” said Shahram, who arrived with his siblings in Owensboro in 2021.

A lot of credit goes to the parish community of St. Stephen Cathedral, which opened its youth house – normally utilized for youth ministry activities – to temporarily repurpose it as a home for Shahram and his siblings.

“The cathedral community was eager to assist our Afghan family from the moment we announced our plan for the youth house,” said Karina Romero, the cathedral’s director of youth and young adult ministry. “Many people reached out asking how

they can donate their time or belongings so the family would have what they needed.”

Today, Shahram and his siblings have made many local friends, attend Owensboro High School and are involved in the soccer, track and bowling teams. (Shahram’s sister has become a particularly talented bowler.)

Last summer they were able to have the experience of many local teens: working at Holiday World & Splashin’ Safari theme park in southern Indiana. The two boys had jobs as lifeguards, and their sister worked in food service.

Last semester Shahram’s brother was named junior student of the month, and this February, Shahram was named senior student of the month. Shahram was also selected to attend his high school’s trip to Washington, D.C., where they visited numerous historic sites such as the White House, the Martin Luther King



CNS PHOTO/U.S. NAVY, MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS KAILA V. PETERS, HANDOUT VIA REUTERS
Evacuees from Afghanistan board a Boeing 777 bound for the United States from Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, Aug. 28, 2021.

Jr. Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and the many war memorials.

While the three siblings have since left the youth house to move into more permanent housing, their bond with the cathedral community remains.

“It was such a joy to get to know the family,” said

Continues on page 8

A new home continued from page 7

Romero, adding that many cathedral parishioners have kept in contact with Shahram and his siblings to this day.

Reaching their safe and happy new home in Owensboro, however, was not easy or simple.

In 2021, the Taliban began targeting Afghans who supported the United States' anti-terrorism efforts within their country after U.S. troops pulled out that year. Shahram's father received an email from the United States embassy that their family could receive help to get out of the country.

"I was 18, my brother was 16, and my sister was 15," said Shahram. "When we left our country, we didn't take anything. Most everyone left everything. I took my cellphone, backpack, ID card, and one pair of shoes."

Shahram's parents sent the children ahead and told them "We will follow behind you."

To date, their parents have not yet gotten out.

Shahram said that in traveling through several countries, the siblings encountered many kind people who helped them, including American soldiers.

When they landed in the U.S., "the officers there checked on us, they took care of us, they protected my siblings because they were minors," he said. "They helped us find food, drinks, restrooms."

The siblings were asked if they wished to be resettled in any particular state. They said they had no preference, and so the City of Owensboro was chosen for them. Soon they flew into the Evansville Regional Airport, the closest airport to Owensboro.

Shahram said they were picked up by volunteers with the International Center of Kentucky, who took them to an Owensboro hotel where many other Afghan arrivals were staying.

He remembers their first day – when Susan Montalvo-Gesser arrived at the hotel to meet everyone.

Montalvo-Gesser, the director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, had been coordinating with the International Center from early on to help resettle Afghans locally.

"We met Miss Susan; she came over, she asked about us," said Shahram. The teens got to know her a bit as she explained what she does to help people.

Montalvo-Gesser had been doing groundwork to prepare for the Afghan arrivals. Not long after the U.S. began welcoming Afghan asylum-seekers, Montalvo-Gesser had reached out to the priests in the Owensboro area about the need for housing for Afghans arriving in western Kentucky.

She requested that if anyone had extra space or rental properties, Catholic Charities invited them to provide temporary housing to these individuals and families.

Fr. John Thomas, the rector of St. Stephen Cathedral, shared the message with the cathedral staff, "suggesting we offer our youth house," said Romero. "I immediately knew it was the right thing for our parish to do."

Romero worked to transition the youth house from a meeting space into a functional living space, with the help of multiple volunteers from the parish, "who gave everything from their time to household necessities."

After coordinating with Catholic Charities and moving in some beds and dressers, the house was ready for Shahram and his siblings.

Romero said a team of volunteers signed up to take the young people to the grocery store regularly, and one person even helped them get clothes for

job interviews.

Romero herself had the "awesome role" of being the contact person for Shahram and his siblings, introducing them to volunteers, checking on them regularly, and being a resource for any questions.

"Many of our volunteers formed a bond with the family, and it became much more than just driving them to the store," said Romero.

She added that Fr. Thomas and the parochial vicar, Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN, got to know the family well, bringing them food and helping them become acquainted with their new city. Once the siblings moved to their new residence, Fr. Thomas and several cathedral parishioners regularly checked on them to make sure they were getting settled.

"We have continued working with Catholic Charities to make sure they have what they need in their new home," said Romero.

Montalvo-Gesser and her team have remained dedicated as they help the three young people process their cases.

Shahram, whose case was an asylum case, recently received the good news that his asylum application had been approved. He has taken on the challenge of applying for asylum so that his siblings could use the easier immigration process called Special Immigrant Juvenile Status – which does not include the difficult, invasive asylum interview that Shahram and other asylum-seekers have endured.

Shahram is glad that he and his siblings came to Owensboro over a year ago.

"It's a small city, it has more grass and more beautiful places than other states I have seen," he said. "It's the place for me!"

Into the Deep: *Founder sees ‘God’s fingerprints’ across new Catholic homeschool resource*

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The team behind Into the Deep, a Catholic homeschool catechetical resource, is “passionate about getting it right,” according to founder Olivia Spears.

“I wanted it to be doable and encouraging and an opportunity for kids, parents and teachers to come together in prayer,” she said. “We want to be able to facilitate opportunities for the child to encounter the person of Christ.”

Spears, who with her husband, David, and four children belong to St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, said Into the Deep always teaches “from some form of beauty – poetry, sacred art, hymns, a hands-on activity.”

As a homeschooling mother, Spears designed the content in a way that she herself would use while educating her children. She is delightfully surprised at how broadly received Into the Deep has been, with even non-homeschooling families tapping into the resources.

She said a good friend, whose children attend public school, uses the resources for her children’s faith formation a few times a week. Spears also knows a family whose children attend Catholic school, and who study the resources together as a family on Sundays.

Some families have started utilizing it as a supplemental resource over Christmas or summer break to “touch base” while school isn’t in session.

“One of our goals is to help parents in their role as primary catechists – no matter how their children

are educated,” she said.

Spears considers this entirely the work of the Holy Spirit, and that she is just along for the ride.

“I got the idea in summer 2020,” she said. “A year before, my husband and I had felt the Lord was prepping to ask something of us.”

The two prayed and fasted, and one day, while Spears was deep in prayer, “it popped into my head. I brought (the idea) to David and he was really convicted too – in a way only the Holy Spirit can do.”

A theology and catechetics graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, Spears decided to start with writing a year’s worth of curriculum, focused on first through third graders – “but it can kind of flex,” she said, noting that parents would know their children’s needs.

“Even if no one was interested, we could use it in our own family!” said Spears.

They released Level One in summer 2021 – and were blown away by the positive response. Besides fellow homeschool families, Spears said several parishes and schools started using Into the Deep.

They released Level Two in summer 2022, broadly aimed for fourth through sixth graders, and were amazed at even more interest.

Beyond Kentucky itself, Spears said families in multiple states like California, Washington state, Texas and New York have ordered materials, and an international customer base is growing with families in Canada and on U.S. Army bases around the world.

Aware of their international customers, Into the Deep started offering digital download options to avoid the headache of international shipping.

“It’s more far-reaching than we ever expected,”



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Olivia Spears shows some of the Into the Deep Catholic homeschool catechesis materials – including an instructive poster with the seven sacraments depicted as various flora – on Feb. 9, 2023.

she said. “That’s just the Lord. That’s what he does. God’s left his fingerprints everywhere.”

Working with her team, which includes artist/graphic designer Mary Claire Scholl, and theological editors Grace Bellon and Derek Driskill, Spears said they “have a blast” together.

Spears said Into the Deep uses a lot of science and nature themes in their resources, and for good reason: “Jesus constantly pointed to nature and to the natural order, constantly using those as metaphors.”

“Teaching through a nature study is so accessible,” she said.

The resources include ample parents references to

Continues on page 10

Into the Deep continued from page 9

the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and provide an optional reading list to supplement each lesson.

“We encourage them to always start with a family prayer, which could include reading the scriptures, singing hymns, or reading a story,” said Spears.

The lessons are scripted to make it convenient for busy parents, though she encourages them to read ahead when possible. Each lesson concludes with a closing prayer and the option of a “deep dive,” which Spears explained as being for children who really absorb a particular lesson, “so this is an optional way to go deeper if there is more interest on the child’s part.”

Spears said the content is not dated, leaving it flexible according to each family’s needs. It is set up to use two lessons a week for an average 36-week schedule, “but you know your family best.”

In late 2022, *Into the Deep* was thrilled to receive an imprimatur from Bishop William F. Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro.

“It was such a gift,” said Spears. “People are reassured

by that stamp of approval from the bishop.”

Besides these two levels, *Into the Deep* has also released a unit study on the Mass and picture studies around themes, “using a vast array of sacred art from across the centuries,” said Spears.

This summer they are taking a break before releasing the next level, but still have big plans: they hope to release a Catholic liturgical planner for kids.

Spears said the planner will have an emphasis on the parables, will walk children through *Lectio Divina*, and will have a place to write prayer intentions and what they learn about a chosen saint of the month if desired.

She said *Into the Deep* is the fruit of “our feeble efforts to introduce Jesus over and over again to our



COURTESY OF SPEARS FAMILY
Olivia Spears with her husband, David, and their children.

children.”

Her hope for all families who utilize these resources is that they learn “that life with the Lord is the best way to live!”

Learn more at <https://intothedeep.co/>.

Sr. Mimi Ballard’s ministry continues to evolve at Casa Ursulina in Chile

BY DAN HECKEL, MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Mimi Ballard, OSU, has been organizing fiber arts classes for 26 years at Casa Ursulina, the Ursuline ministry in Chillán, Chile. And yet she never knows when she will be called to minister in a different way to people who come to her door.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, Casa Ursulina had to adjust its mission to care for people

who were hungry, and then offer a listening ear for those struggling with isolation. As 2023 began, Sr. Mimi found herself immersed in helping an immigrant couple find their footing and reunite their family.

“It’s been the most lifegiving and most stressful thing in my life,” Sr. Mimi said on Jan. 23, 2023, a week after she arrived back at Maple Mount for a two-month break. January and February are when children are out of school for summer in Chile.

“It’s interesting how the dynamic has changed,” Sr.

Mimi said. “When we began, we scheduled our classes around the school year so the mothers could come. Now we schedule around the school year because that’s when the grandmothers are free.”

As Sr. Mimi prepares for the first “normal” year at Casa Ursulina since 2019, her heart is lighter knowing a Haitian refugee couple she has been helping are finally on the road to stability.

Prior to Covid, many Haitian refugees arrived in Chillán, and faced the first winter of their lives. Casa

Continues on page 11

Casa Ursulina continued from page 10

Ursulina helped these refugees with blankets and clothing, but the cold weather prompted many of them to move north, where it is warmer.

In April 2022, a young Haitian couple approached Sr. Mimi to help them learn Spanish. He was a lawyer in Haiti and his wife owned a store. They fled their homeland not because they were poor, but due to the rising violence. Haiti's president was assassinated in 2021, and gangs have resorted to violence to take control of the country.

Lawyers were told if they went to work, they'd be killed, Sr. Mimi said. The gangs demanded protection money from retailers – like the old mafia days in America – and when the couple didn't pay, the woman's store was burned down. The couple left their baby with a relative and escaped to Chile via the Dominican Republic and Bolivia, but had to enter Chile illegally.

They have been trying to follow the correct steps to become legal residents, but were given inaccurate information from an immigration official that stalled their progress. All this has prevented them with being reunited with their child, now 2.

"They got into my heart," Sr. Mimi said. She began calling people she knew in the Chilean government, and finally this month, progress has begun on fulfilling their legal status. The man worked in the fruit exporting business in Chile, but it was a bad year for fruit. He is now working on repairs at Casa Ursulina, which had been ignored during Covid, Sister Mimi said. His wife is learning how to crochet at Casa Ursulina.

"God is good," Sr. Mimi said. "They are faith-filled people. It's taken my work in a different way, but it was well worth it. That's our mission, to help people who need help."

When Sr. Mimi returns to Chillán in March, she will begin registration for classes, which begin March 20 and last until mid-December.

Casa Ursulina reopened in March 2022, but Chile's

mask mandate was not lifted until September. Before Covid, there were usually 15 groups of women using the facility a week, Sister Mimi said.

"We had enough room to host three groups at a time. But since Covid, they needed to spread out more, so we could only have one group at a time," she said. "We ended up with seven groups of women, five days a week. Some meet in the morning, others in the afternoon."

"It was mostly women who had been to Casa Ursulina before, which was good," Sr. Mimi said. "Not all of my teachers could return, due to family situations. I think we will do better this March."

Some of the classes beginning in March teach crochet, knitting, weaving, painting and sewing. There is an exercise program done in conjunction with the public health service. Another course is called Volunteer Workshop, in which participants take leftover clothing or material, cut out squares and make comforters.

"We give them to people who are bedfast," Sr. Mimi said. Only a handful of women in the group do any sewing.

"Some people may just take the buttons off of old shirts. They just want to have a group to talk to," Sr. Mimi said. There is also a prayer group for Ursuline Associates, but everyone is invited, she said. Afterward, they have tea.

Sr. Mimi is excited about some of the new classes being taught this year.

"A lady is teaching a class on turning garbage into beautiful, useful things for your home. We also have a yoga class."

The biggest classes will have 15 women. For sewing classes, which need more room to spread out, only seven or eight women can participate. Weavers or spinners can handle 12 to 15.

There are no longer external markets to sell the craft items that the women of Casa Ursulina make, but for those who want to sell, there are local craft fairs organized by the government. Some of the women have learned to

sell their items online, Sr. Mimi said.

"Not everyone wants to sell, it's more for their mental health," Sr. Mimi said. The easing of Covid restrictions has helped a lot with the emotional difficulties many people suffered due to the isolation, she said.

"Some people died of Covid without ever having Covid," Sr. Mimi said. "They were depressed, they couldn't handle the change in lifestyle."

While the Chilean government did well in protecting people from Covid, some of the policies were still harmful, she said. One rule prohibited people older than 75 from leaving their yard.

"You can't tell older people not to move for two years," she said.

Another change affecting Casa Ursulina is the rising crime rate in Chillán since Covid began.

"There is so much drug using and trafficking, there has been an increase in purse snatching, or breaking into homes to steal what's easily sellable," Sr. Mimi said. "Now, public transportation won't come into the area after dark."

Catechetical meetings at the nearby parish have always been held at night, after people get off work about 7 p.m., Sr. Mimi said.

"We've always had our coordinators meeting at night, but now we don't do that anymore," she said. "I don't see a plan to change. There are no programs for addicts to get any help."

Sr. Mimi is now in her 56th year as a Sister and her 33rd consecutive year serving in Chile, with the last 26 as director of Casa Ursulina. The ministry is now set up independently from the Ursuline Sisters, with a board of directors. Still, Sr. Mimi looks forward to beginning a new year of classes soon.

"I'm not ready to throw in the towel just yet."

This story was originally published on ursulinesmsj.org and has been reprinted with permission.

Black Americans on the road to sainthood: Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE,
OFFICE OF BLACK
CATHOLIC MINISTRY

This month we examine the life of a 20th century contemporary saint.

Bertha Elizabeth Bowman was born Dec. 29, 1937, the only child of a middle-aged physician father, Dr. Theon Bowman, and a teacher mother, Mary Esther Bowman in Yazoo, Miss. Although raised in a Methodist home in Canton, Miss., like many Black children whose parents wanted the “best” education for their children in those times, Bertha attended Catholic schools which were run by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Impressed with “how Catholics put their faith into action,” she converted to Catholicism as a child and joined the order at the age of 15, becoming the only Black member of her religious community. In her religious profession, she was given the name, “Sr. Mary Thea” in honor of the Blessed Mother and her father, Theon. Her name in religious life, Thea, literally means “God.”

Sr. Thea was an educator. She earned her



MICHAEL HOYT, CATHOLIC STANDARD

Sr. Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, is shown during a talk she gave at St. Augustine Church in Washington in 1986. Sr. Bowman, who died in 1990, is one of six African American Catholics whose causes for canonization are being considered by the Catholic Church. Her sainthood cause was opened in 2018 and she has the title “Servant of God.”

degrees in education and English, culminating in a PhD in English in 1972 from Catholic University of America. She taught at the middle school and high school levels, eventually becoming a college professor of English and linguistics at Viterbo College, Catholic University of America, and Xavier University in New Orleans. In his book “Eleven Modern Mystics,” Victor M. Parachi notes Sr. Thea’s impact

upon Catholic liturgical music in providing an intellectual, spiritual, historical, and cultural foundation for developing and legitimizing a distinct worship form for Black Catholics. Sr. Thea explained: “When we understand our history and culture, then we can develop the ritual, the music and the devotional expression that satisfy us in the Church.” Sr. Thea became instrumental in the 1987 publication of a new Catholic hymnal, “Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal,” the first such work directed to the Black community. Auxiliary

Bishop James P. Lyke of Cleveland also coordinated the hymnal project, saying it was born of the needs and aspirations of Black Catholics. Sr. Thea was actively involved in selecting hymns to be included and wrote the essay titled “The Gift of African American Sacred Song,” stating that “Black sacred song is soulful song” and described it in five ways:

1. Holistic: challenging the full engagement

Continues on page 13

Sr. Thea continued from page 12

of mind, imagination, memory, feeling, emotion, voice, and body;

2. Participatory: inviting the worshiping community to join in contemplation, in celebration and in prayer;

3. Real: celebrating the immediate concrete reality of the worshiping community – grief or separation, struggle or oppression, determination or joy – bringing that reality to prayer within the community of believers;

4. Spirit-filled: energetic, engrossing, intense;

5. Life-giving: refreshing, encouraging, consoling, invigorating, sustaining.

Blessed with extraordinary gifts, Sr. Thea was a singer, poet, preacher, master teacher, evangelist, and an African American catalyst/advocate who also participated in the establishment of The Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, which provides certification, continuing education and a graduate degree in Black Catholic Ministry. In her role as a Black Catholic consultant, Sr. Thea gave presentations across the country; lively gatherings that combined singing, Gospel preaching, prayer and storytelling. Her programs were directed to break down racial and cultural barriers. She encouraged people to communicate with one another so that they could understand other cultures and races.

Sr. Thea returned to her home state of Mississippi and served as Director of Intercultural Awareness for the Diocese of Jackson. Just months before her death from cancer, she spoke to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1989 from her wheelchair, and the bishops “powerfully and visibly moved,” applauded her. When she finished,

they stood linking arms and singing as Thea led them in the spiritual, “We Shall Overcome.”

A cause for canonization was opened for Sr. Thea by the Diocese of Jackson in mid-2018, gaining her an official designation as a Servant of God, the first of the four steps toward sainthood.

She shared her culture and spirituality by preaching and with prayer at more than 100 venues across the nation per year. In the early 1980s she said that, “I want people to remember that I tried to love the Lord and that I tried to love them.”

Her tombstone holds the simple yet profound inscription, “She tried.”

The 25th anniversary of her death brought forth numerous tributes. Her 1988 albums, “Songs of My People” and “Round the Glory Manger,” released on stereo audiocassette by the Daughters of St. Paul, were re-released in 2020 for the 30th anniversary of her death under the title, “Songs of My People: The Complete Collection.”

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

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Evangelize by sharing your faith story: A Lenten challenge



CNS PHOTO/LISA JOHNSTON, ST. LOUIS REVIEW
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults candidates, team members and sponsors talk in groups Jan. 31, 2012, at Washington University's Catholic Student Center in St. Louis.

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

The United States bishops have stated that, “Whether you were baptized as a child, or joined the Church as an adult, you have a story of faith. Whether you sincerely live your faith in quiet or have a great public ministry, you have a story of faith. Whether you have a grade school knowledge of the catechism or have a theological degree, you have a story of faith. We all have – and are – stories of faith! We can understand evangelization in light of these stories of faith; namely, how we have been changed by the power of Christ’s word and sacraments and how we have an essential role in sharing faith through our daily lives as believers” (USCCB, *Go and Make Disciples*, 1993).

Pope Paul VI, in his historic document, “Evangelization in the Modern World,” said, “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” Our personal witness is one of the greatest resources we have to share

about God’s love and care for humanity. Why is this?

First, it enflashes the Gospel. You can read the Bible about how God worked miracles and provided for people, but that was a long time ago. When you share from your own life about the miracles you have seen in your own family or ways that God has provided for you, unlike the Bible stories, these illustrate in the present how God can work.

Second, stories grab attention. I once had a pastor that occasionally said, “Let me share a story” in his homily. It seemed like the whole Church sat up straighter and listened. People enjoy real-life stories, and honest stories about our lives and how God has worked are a powerful way to witness to the truth of God’s love.

Third, stories communicate non-offensively. We could say to someone struggling with alcohol, “You know what the Bible says about drunkenness” or we could say, “when I had a drinking problem, I found grace from God to quit” and share some of the circumstances that lead to me being sober. Of course, do not make stuff up, we all have our little stories of how God has helped us through tough things.

Fourth, stories are difficult to

dispute. If I am honest and share ways I have experienced God working, people will not respond, “That never happened.”

Finally, stories express concrete effects that lead to interest in applying it to one’s own life. Meaning, if God did that in your life, maybe God could do that in mine? As we go through Lent this year, take 15 minutes of quiet time each morning to sit with the Lord and write down the story of your life. Then like the early Christians after the Resurrection, share your story with the people that God puts in your life!

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.

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Pray for protection and healing for all impacted by child abuse.

The three big questions that matter to young people

BY CHARLIE HARDESTY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Traveling around the diocese I often hear ministry leaders sharing the frustrations they feel in engaging this current generation of youth. I don't believe for a second that it simply comes down to a lack of effort. What if, instead, this is a matter of missing the mark, of presenting information that leave the young people wondering how does this connect to my lived experience, how is this truly relevant to my life?

In the past couple issues of The Western Kentucky Catholic, we have been discussing the problem of young people leaving the Catholic Church and how we can begin to address those concerns in our parishes and families. (Those articles can be found at westernkycatholic.com/2023/01/01/we-need-adults-who-care/ and westernkycatholic.com/2023/02/01/faith-that-sticks/.) For the purposes of this article, I want to take a look at the kinds of questions that matter to young people and how we can present our faith in a more relevant way.

As I get older, it's becoming more and more difficult for me to understand the motivations and experiences of generations that are younger, even as a self-proclaimed "youth ministry guy." In my ministry it is necessary to stay on top of generational changes and trends that shape the culture of young people we work with. The Fuller Youth Institute, an organization working diligently to understand what shapes and forms the faith experiences of younger generations, recently published a book called "3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager: Making the

Most of Your Conversations and Connections." In the book, Dr. Kara Powell suggests, "One of the reasons young people are drifting from faith is that churches aren't focused on the questions they care about most. Instead, we're pitching answers to questions that aren't anywhere near their strike zone." As a response to research done with young people before and during the recent pandemic, Powell suggests that it really boils down to three big questions: Who am I? Where do I fit? What difference can I make? In other words, young people are concerned with questions of identity, belonging, and purpose.

If you are like me, you also feel a connection to these three questions. That is because "They aren't just young people questions; they are people questions," states Powell.

The Church is not the only space providing answers to the deep questions of identity, belonging, and purpose. But if the Church wishes to be relevant in the lives of young people, it needs to intentionally begin doing so. Brad Griffin, who co-wrote the book, suggests the effort to engage these questions starts with empathy and listening, but quickly needs to lead to the good news of Jesus Christ. He suggests that if we know these are the important questions for youth, the next step is to ask, "What does the good news of Jesus Christ say in response?"



COURTESY OF MICHELE LINN

Matt Knight, the youth minister at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro, washes teens' feet during the Eucharistic Life Mission, held in the Owensboro area during summer 2022.

The role then of the Church, more specifically, adults who are willing to engage youth, is to share a Christ-centered response to the big three questions. This is how that can look.

Who am I? (Identity) – A young person might be answering this question by saying I am what others expect, I am not ___ enough, I am my image, etc. However, we want them to hear they are enough because of Jesus; that they are adopted sons and daughters of God (Ephesians 1:5).

Where do I fit? (Belonging) – A young person might say I fit where I feel safe, where I share a common activity, where I feel needed. We want to lead them to an understanding that they belong with God's people, in His one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We want them to see themselves

Continued on page 17

Catholic Schools Week 2023

BY WKC STAFF

Catholic Schools Week took place during Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 2023, which is an annual week celebrating Catholic education. Despite a severe ice storm that closed school for most of the week, the Diocese's of Owensboro's schools managed to squeeze in some festivities before the bad weather arrived, or hold some postponed activities after schools reopened. Here are a few highlights. Learn more at owensbordiocese.org/catholic-schools.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

(Above photo) Laura Cecil, right, principal of Mary Carrico Memorial School in Knottsville, helps the students get ready to sing songs to the staff of the McRaith Catholic Center during the school's Jan. 30 visit to the diocese's central offices as part of Catholic Schools Week.



COURTESY OF TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

(Left photo) Students of Trinity High School in Whitesville participate in an activity for Catholic Schools Week 2023. Trinity gathered for their CSW kickoff assembly on Jan. 30, starting both the school day and the assembly with prayer. Their tagline this year was "Godfirst," and at the assembly, principal Emily Hernandez gave a message on the importance of Catholic education.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley receives the gifts from several Holy Name of Jesus School students during the offertory at Mass in honor of Catholic Schools Week on Jan. 30, 2023.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A student wears a "Catholic Schools Week" hat at John Paul II School in Morganfield on Jan. 30, 2023.

Continued on page 17

Catholic Schools Week continued from page 16



RACHEL HALL | WKC

Students participate in a school spirit pep rally at the Owensboro Catholic Schools K-3 Campus in Owensboro on Feb. 3, in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Students of St. Joseph Interparochial School in Bowling Green show the items collected in their food drive for Catholic Schools Week 2023.

Three big questions continued from page 15

as fitting within the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12).

What difference can I make? (Purpose) – A young person might say I make a difference by being helpful, by doing what I’m asked, by working towards a good future. We want to lead them to an awareness that they are invited into God’s greater story. That through the Eucharist, they are invited to be broken open in service to others as a disciple of Jesus (Matthew 28: 19-20).

I believe it is fair to say that any of our efforts to reach and teach youth in this current generation must have these three big questions as guiding principles.

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

Discover the unique story of the Ursuline Sisters who arrived in Daviess County in 1874...



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need it shipped, add \$10. Make check payable to "Ursuline Sisters" and mail your check and information to: **Book Order, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.**

Questions? Call Dan Heckel at 270-229-2007.



A teaching legacy

BY DAN HECKEL, MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

Editor's note: The following are excerpts from a story that originally ran in the Winter 2021 issue of Ursulines Alive. These excerpts have been reprinted with permission.

In their 109 years of existence, bringing quality education to the “country” schools in Kentucky and other states has been a hallmark of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner is still serving in a rural Catholic school, Mary

Carrico in the Daviess County community of Knottsville. The school has about 100 students, K-8. Her first 22 years as a Sister were served in rural schools.

“The benefits I experienced in the rural schools was the great faith community, and most of the people claiming the school as theirs with a commitment to keep it going for future generations,” Sister Mary Celine said. “Since I grew up in St. Teresa’s School in Glennonville, Mo., the rural school was more of a home for me. I believe I can do the best ministry when I am at home and included in the joys and sorrows.”



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Ursuline Sister Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU, helps one of her eighth-grade Mary Carrico Catholic School students during a history class on Oct. 21, 2021. The student was working on the causes of World War II. The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, based out of Maple Mount, Ky., have taught in Knottsville for 110 years.

St. Romuald’s academic team members state bound

BY LORI CARWILE, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Romuald Interparochial School’s academic team had an outstanding performance at the recent Third Region KAAC Governor’s Cup Competition. Third Region competitors included teams from 14 surrounding county and city middle schools. St. Romuald’s team placed 3rd overall, 3rd in Quick Recall and was voted to receive the Katherine Hume Sportsmanship Award. Gabriel Frank, the son of Rebecca and Ben Frank, placed 1st in Science and 6th in Arts & Humanities and will compete in both events at the KAAC State Tournament on March 18th in Louisville.

Eli Priest, the son of Brandon and Ashley Priest, placed 2nd in Social Studies and also advanced to the KAAC State Tournament.

Governor’s Cup 12th District competition opened the door for regional successes and state qualification. St. Romuald’s stellar team was named Governor’s Cup District Champions placing 1st overall, 2nd in Quick Recall, 2nd in Future Problem Solving, again received the Katherine Hume Sportsmanship award and brought home a record total 25 individual medals!

Lori Carwile is the administrative assistance for St. Romuald Interparochial School in Hardinsburg, Ky.



COURTESY OF ST. ROMUALD INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL
The St. Romuald Middle School academic team: (Left to right) Aaron Frank, Eli Priest, Walker O’Donoghue, Noah Burnett, Grant Barr, Kayden Dunn, Gabriel Frank, Slade Lucas, Lucas Pate, Savannah Glasscock and Caroline Davison.

The first U.S.-born bishop of Los Angeles was born in Daviess County?

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

God has blessed western Kentucky with many holy souls who have been called to religious life. Some become priest, some brothers, some nuns, and some religious sisters. Many of these remain and serve God in the land upon which they were born. Some are called elsewhere. There have been many great stories of holy souls in our diocese that have been lost to history – but history whispers. If one listens closely enough, they can make out the words.

Very little seemed remarkable about George Thomas Montgomery on the day of his baptism, a January day in 1848. Cradled in his mother's loving arms, beneath his father's proud gaze, not even the holy pastor had any idea what a great plan God had in store for the little baby in St. Lawrence Catholic Church on the outskirts of Daviess County.

As George grew older, like many Kentucky boys of this time, he farmed. However, he felt a deeper calling. According to a family history, at age 19 he attended Cecilian College near Elizabethtown for three years. Deciding that the priesthood was his true vocation, he attended Charles College in Maryland, finishing his studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He spent about five years at each college and was ordained a priest at the age of 32 on Dec. 18, 1879. After this, Fr. Montgomery moved to California.

The California that Fr. Montgomery arrived in was the wild west and remained so for more than a decade. A good amount of people didn't take



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ARCHIVES
Coadjunct Archbishop of San Francisco, George Thomas Montgomery, born in Daviess County (1847-1907).

too kindly to religion, especially Catholicism. Fr. Montgomery tried to act as a mediator between the people of California and the ritualistic Catholic faith. A publication of his survives in which he tries to make peace and explain the purpose of the 5:30 a.m. Angelus bell on Sunday. Many of the local people demanded an elimination of the custom, preferring to sleep off their Saturday night libations.

After several years of laboring for Christ, Fr. Montgomery was rewarded for his holy grit. In 1894 he became the coadjunct Bishop of Mon-

terey-Los Angeles, succeeding in 1896. He continued to be an influential presence and in 1903 was given the position of coadjunct Archbishop of San Francisco. He won the hearts of many for his crucial work in helping lead the rebuilding efforts after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the deadliest earthquake in the country's history which destroyed over 80% of the city. However, he died shortly after, in 1907, following an emergency surgery. "He was perfectly oblivious of himself when there was a question of service to others," read one tribute after his passing; a perfect quality for a frontier priest.

This article was prompted by a single photograph in Mount Saint Joseph's old museum. I didn't recognize him or his name and wondered why his photograph was sitting behind a stack of others. God calls all of us to be great saints; even those of us from little western Kentucky. We have to keep these tales in our hearts to remind us of God's call to a profoundly holy life. We cannot let these stories of our great legacy fall into oblivion. History will always remember, but it is up to us to never forget.

Note: The Archives would like to offer a word of appreciate for Connie Lemmons, the bookkeeper at St. Lawrence, for providing Archbishop Montgomery's baptismal date.

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.

‘Joyful, generous and kind’

Fr. Richard Powers, 90, missed for his ‘humility’ and ‘deep love’



FILE PHOTO

Fr. Richard Powers greets seminarian Matt Millay and the future Fr. Martin Ma Na Ling, then a seminarian, at the Vocare vocations celebration on Sept. 20, 2019. Fr. Powers served as one of the guest speakers that evening.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds, in offering the homily at the Feb. 20 funeral of Fr. Richard Powers, referenced an experience shared by most people who ever met Fr. Powers – be they 15 or 85.

“Child of God, where have you been?” Fr. Powers would ask.

Fr. Reynolds called Fr. Powers “an exemplary role model as a priest,” citing the several hours per day spent before Our Lord in the Eucharist.

Fr. Reynolds said the rosary and breviary were

two “best friends” of Fr. Powers, who passed away on Feb. 13 at age 90.

“He showed all of us what must take place in our own spiritual lives and journeys – that (God) must increase and I must decrease,” said Fr. Reynolds, referencing the Gospel read at the liturgy.

Fr. Powers born Oct. 6, 1932, in Curdsville, to the late Joseph Hubert and Teresa M. (McCarty) Powers. One of 12 children, Fr. Powers received his early education at St. Elizabeth Parish and School in Curdsville.

Remembering her brother, whom she always called “my buddy,” one of Maddalena Leach’s favorite childhood memories of Fr. Powers is when their mother asked if he had said his bedtime prayers.

While the boy said yes, their mother wisely followed up with “When?”

“When I was going up the stairs!” replied the precocious future priest – foreshadowing the humor-loving yet faithful nature that would touch countless souls in his vocation for the Diocese of Owensboro.

Following his seminary studies at St. Meinrad College in St. Meinrad, IN, and St. Maur’s Seminary in South Union, Ky., he was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis R. Cotton on May 1, 1959. He had the distinction of being the third son in his family of 12 children to become a priest.

After his ordination he was the associate pastor at St. Stephen Cathedral for one year, then the associate

pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah for one year. In 1961, he was made the associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson where he remained for four years. Fr. Powers then became the associate pastor of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in 1965, where he served for two years. From 1967 until 1970, he served as pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Calvert City, then in 1970 became pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green. In 1972, he became pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Calhoun, until 1974 when he became pastor of St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Stanley. Fr. Powers was also the vocations director for the Diocese of Owensboro from 1972 until 1976. In 1976, Fr. Powers became the pastor of Precious Blood Parish where he remained for six years.

In 1982 he entered the United States Navy as a chaplain and served in the position until 1989. In 1990, he became the pastor of Immaculate Parish in Owensboro for five years, and in 1995 was made the pastor of St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville. Fr. Powers became the pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, then retired from active ministry in 2007. He lived at St. Alphonsus Parish and served the Diocese of Owensboro when requested.

Fr. Powers loved his family and celebrating Christmas in July with his siblings.

Robbie Knott, one of Fr. Powers’ many nieces and nephews, said that Fr. Powers changed the trajectory of Knott’s life in 2005, when he encouraged Knott

Continued on page 21

Continued on page 21



FILE PHOTO

Charlie Hardesty, director of the diocese's youth and young adult ministry office, looks up as Fr. Richard Powers speaks at a Theology on Tap young adult gathering at Fetta Pizza in Owensboro on April 9, 2018.

to assist on a youth mission trip.

"I'm a youth minister now, really involved with the Church, and have gone on multiple mission trips around the United States," said Knott, who most recently led a mission trip to Guatemala. "He was a great mentor to me."

Knott said he was one of the family members present during Fr. Powers' last moments, and had the blessing of praying the rosary for him.

"I felt so honored to say the rosary for the last time for him; there's no knowing how many thousands of rosaries he's prayed for our family over his life," said Knott.

Sr. Maria Carmelita Navarro Carmel, DCJ, local superior for the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus, who operate the Carmel Home where

Fr. Powers resided in his final years, said that when someone would ask, "How are you doing, Father?" he would "almost always feigning distress," answer, "Terrible, terrible! Poor Father!"

"And laughter would ensue," said Sr. Navarro.

She said Fr. Powers "loved and lived among friends" at the Carmel Home and that "he was a great priest and confessor."

"He was joyful, generous and kind," said Sr. Navarro. "I knew he was loved by the sisters, residents, staff, family members, and visitors but I am just now realizing the extent of how much he touched our lives by the expressions of grief since his death. We miss him at Holy Mass, we miss him in the Chapel spending time with our Lord, we miss him at our 3:30 p.m. Rosary, we miss him hanging out at the reception desk, we miss him chatting with everyone, we miss his smiling face as he walked the hallways, we miss the sound of his voice and laughter... we miss our friend and are thankful to the Lord for the time we had with Fr. Richard. He was a joy!"

Fr. Powers was known for his love of nature, especially flowers, and for spending time at his log cabin, boating, and going on mission trips. He often donated to the missions in Haiti, having led trips there in his earlier years, and was an inspiration to youth ministry leaders.

"I was always moved by Fr. Richard's humility," said Charlie Hardesty, director of the diocese's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. "The night we asked him to speak at a Theology on Tap, he was so nervous and said he wasn't sure what he had to offer. He then proceeded to break open his deep love of the Eucharist, priesthood, and the Church. We paid him that night with a Red Lobster gift card and he promptly took me out to eat with it.

I will deeply miss his presence in our diocese."

In addition to his parents, Fr. Powers was preceded in death by his sisters, Mary Agnes Powers, Patricia Garvin, Elizabeth M. Lattus, and Celine M. Kahalley; and his brothers, Joseph H. Powers Jr., Fr. Aloysius F. Powers, and Robert A. Powers.

He is survived by his siblings, Msgr. Bernard A. Powers, Martha M. Taylor, Mary Teresa Hayden (Don), and Maddalena Leach.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Feb. 20 at St. Stephen Cathedral with Fr. Freddie Byrd as presider. Burial followed in Mount Saint Joseph Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to the Carmel Home, 2501 Old Hartford Road, Owensboro, KY, 42303.



COURTESY OF CARMEL HOME

Fr. Richard Powers at the Carmel Home, with a statue of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.



COURTESY OF PATTI SANDERS
Pictured are Mayor George Bray; Pam Matlock, parish council chair; and Patti Sanders, 175th celebration committee chair.

St. Francis de Sales kicks off anniversary with proclamation

BY PATTI SANDERS, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, Ky., kicked off their 175th Anniversary with a feast day Mass and potluck on Jan. 24, 2023. Paducah mayor, George Bray, proclaimed Jan. 24, 2023, until Jan. 24, 2024 as the year to celebrate this welcoming place of worship.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
The youngest and oldest members of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph community: Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU, and Sr. Marie Montgomery, OSU, visited together during Sr. Marie's 100th birthday party on Jan. 27.

Catholic Charities honored as nonprofit of the year

BY WKC STAFF

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro has been busy as they continue serving the people of western Kentucky. On Jan. 20, they were named the Nonprofit of the Year (Human Services) by the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce. On Jan. 26, during a diocesan staff day, in further recognition of this award, Bishop William F. Medley and the diocesan staff presented Catholic Charities with a statue of Jesus washing a person's feet.



COURTESY OF SUSAN MONTALVO-GESSER
Several staff members of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro receive the Nonprofit of the Year (Human Services) from the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 20.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
The staff of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro during a staff day on Jan. 26, 2023.

Ursuline sister celebrates 100th birthday

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

On Jan. 27, Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Marie Montgomery, OSU, celebrated her 100th birthday with a party in the Rainbow Room at Saint Joseph Villa, Maple Mount. Many Ursuline Sisters and some employees and family members joined in the festivities, as well as Bishop William F. Medley, who had come to the Mount to celebrate Mass for the feast day of St. Angela Merici, the foundress of the Ursuline Sisters.

Sr. Marie is the oldest sister in the community, and has been an Ursuline for 79 years. She was a teacher for most of those years, with a few years in Kentucky and Missouri, but mostly in her beloved New Mexico for 40 years.

It's about more than a building

Trinity, St. Mary's, begin rebuilding campaign



COURTESY OF ST. MARY OF THE WOODS PARISH
The architect's rendition of the new building.

BY TERRA KNIGHT, SPECIAL TO THE WEST-ERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

You may have recently heard some exciting news for St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville – a new school building for St. Mary of the Woods School and Trinity High School! While the prospect of a new building is exciting, ask anyone at St. Mary of the Woods Parish and they'll tell you that this is about so much more than just a building.

You only realize how important the building is once you think about what goes on inside the building. Students get a quality education to prepare them for whatever they want to do in life. But students also have time for prayer, self-reflection, and spiritual growth. Students start every single day in prayer. They go to Mass every week. They have opportunities for adoration, confession, prayer days, retreats. These things simply don't happen in a public school setting. Inside the building, students learn and grow, all in a faith-filled environment.

These schools are making disciples of Christ, and future servant-leaders of the community.

You only realize how important the building is once you know what comes out of the building. If you know anyone who has been a student at either of these schools, then you know firsthand what comes out of these schools. As an employer myself or while serving on boards with other business leaders, anytime Trinity or St. Mary's is mentioned, only positive comments follow about the quality work ethic and character exhibited by alumni of these schools. Students at these schools participate in a wide variety of sports and extracurricular activities. Our student athletes compete, but also show good sportsmanship and represent their school well.

You only realize how important the building is once you realize how important these schools are to this parish and community. Catholic education has been the mission of our parish for almost 150 years! I can't even begin to think what our parish or the surrounding community would look like without these schools. These schools are our mission and our legacy, and they are about so much more than

just a building.

The reality, however, is that we have to have a building! We need the physical structure in place to house everyone and everything it takes to carry out the mission. Our current buildings are aging with the maintenance becoming economically unfeasible. We are out of room to meet increasing enrollment. A feasibility study conducted with the parish showed overwhelming support for building the new school. Many generous donors have pledged over \$9 million toward the project that is estimated to cost \$12-\$15 million. We have made great strides to achieve our goal but need more help to make it a reality.

If you would be willing to support the construction of our new school building, please contact the St. Mary of the Woods Parish office at (270) 233-4196, or scan the QR code with this article, for online giving options. Please know that if you support this project, you are supporting so much more than just a building.

Terra Knight belongs to St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville.



Scan this code for online giving options for St. Mary of the Woods School and Trinity High School's rebuilding campaign.

St. Vincent de Paul names first emeritus member

BY BELINDA ABELL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Feb. 17, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Inc. bestowed its first Emeritus Board Membership to Vincentian Juanita Faye May. The acknowledgment was in recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding servant leadership as a past district president. This honor recognized the personal and faithful commitment demonstrated towards the mission, programs, activities, and special ministry of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Faye is no stranger to servant leadership; she ministered to the sick of our community as a registered nurse for 47 years, first at Mercy Hospital then at Owensboro Health. During those years she sustained her other roles of service as a wife and a mother to five children. She also was an active parishioner at St. Sebastian Parish in Calhoun, Ky. In 2012, St. Sebastian’s pastor, Fr. John Okoro, brought SVDP Central District president Murray McLaughlin to the parish to present the idea of forming an SVDP parish conference. Before Faye could turn around, she had not only attended the meeting but was St. Sebastian’s first conference president.

When asked what her motivation was Faye responded, “I saw the need people had for what St. Vincent de Paul offered. People ask for very little, but when you go for a home visit you can see they need so much more. I remember one family where we made a home visit, I forgot what they asked for, but mom and dad and all three kids were sleeping in one bed. We got them beds for their kids and saw they needed so much more – food, clothes. That happens a lot. I’ve always served in some capacity, and being a Vincentian is another way to serve especially since I’ve retired.”



COURTESY OF DUANE HARRIS (Left to right) The first Emeritus Board Member, Juanita Faye May, of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky, Inc. and Diocesan Council President, Nancy Harris. May is a parishioner at St. Sebastian Parish in Calhoun and a member of its SVDP Conference.

Faye served as conference president for five years and in 2017 became the first female president of the SVDP Central District. She ended her second three-year term as Central District president in 2022. Those who have worked with her know she truly has a servant heart. Diocesan Council president, Nancy Harris, says, “Faye is a true example of Vincentian and servant leadership. I know of no one more deserving of this special recognition.”

CEO and Executive Director Richard Remp-Morris says, “Faye has certainly been a friend and mentor to me, I have truly enjoyed her leadership and wisdom on the Diocesan Council.”

If you are interested in deepening your relationship with Christ while serving others and would like to learn more about a Vincentian vocation through St. Vincent de Paul you can contact Richard Remp-Morris at (270) 315-5747, visit your parish conference or visit our website at svdppwky.org.

26th Annual YOUTH 2000

A Eucharistic-Centered Retreat

March 17-19, 2023

Brescia University
Owensboro, KY



For more information:
owensborodiocese.org/youth-2000
270.683.1545 | 270.993.3393

Marian
Shrine



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

March Wedding Anniversaries

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Joe & Jill Goetz, 25
John & Sharon Bell, 50
RC & Margaret Keith, 66

Christ the King, Madisonville

George & Belinda Hayden, 40
William & Bonnie Burns, 53

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Charles & Karen Nunley, 59
Jerry & Jewel Williams, 64
Lonnie & Dee Kennedy, 54
Paul & Mary Wilder, 54
Paul & Nina Drury, 64
Terry & Kimberly Duncan, 40

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Gregorio & Martina Cosey, 25
Harold & Joan Neighbors, 54
John Ling Thang & Treasar Pai, 10
Larry & Marie Wilson, 53
Law Reh & Pan Meh, 10
Lian Pau & Ciin Mang, 55

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Dennis & Gloria Ramage, 61
James & Marilyn Young, 55
Ryan & Megan Boarman, 10
William & Sarah Kemper, 61

Rosary Chapel, Paducah

Johnny & Loretta Hollis, 57

Sacred Heart, Russellville

James & Ruth Dauley, 54

St. Ann, Morganfield

Alvin & Mary Austin, 52

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Dan & Gail Dailey, 54

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Charles & Ann Hamilton, 58
Gary & Elaine Strain, 54

St. Augustine, Reed

Jason & Melissa Brann, 5

St. Benedict, Wax

Damon & Reva Stasel, 56

St. Denis, Fancy Farm

Jack & Rose Riggs, 66
Jerry & Barbara Hayden, 57

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Andrew & Cathy Arnold, 40
Tony & Lita Pfingston, 56

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

John & Lynda Oldham, 58
Pat & Betty Robinson, 58

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Marvin & Patricia Puryear, 50
Rick & Ashley Stubblefield, 10

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Aubrey & Monselle Willett, 52
George & Doreen Gates, 53
Kerry & Darlene Simmons, 51
Thomas & Helen Ellington, 70

St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish

Tom & Sherry Pohlman, 50

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Roger & Stella McClure, 52

St. Mark, Eddyville

Terence & Susan Carlin, 55

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Fred & Connie Greenwell, 50
Jim & Barbara Pinkston, 61

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Mike & Judy Howard, 50
Norman & Mary Lou Howard, 50
Vince & Barbara Brown, 61

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Todd & Angie Morris, 40

St. Pius X, Calvert City

David & Donna Carr, 53

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Michael & Martha Reynolds, 25

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Joe & Louise Doyle, 53

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Matt & Brenda Walters, 52
Michael & Christine Canella, 51
Terry & Barb Larbes, 51
Tom & Beverly Largent, 56

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

William & Donna McDaniel, 51

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Joe & Jennifer Chaudoin, 54

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Joe & Jennifer Chaudoin, 54

HOLY SPIRIT
CATHOLIC CHURCH

WITH
Francesca
LaRosa

Lenten Reflection Concert

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
MARCH 18th | 7:00 PM

MARCH 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.

Belonging to Love: Online Prayer and Conversations March 9

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

Join the Carmelite Sisters for a Lenten Mission

The Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus invite you to their 2023 Lenten Mission at the Carmel Home: "The Eucharist: Food for the Journey" with Fr. Don Willard, CSsR. Dates: Thursday, March 9-Sunday, March 12, 2023. Schedule is as follows.
Thursday, March 9 and Friday, March 10:
7 a.m. – Holy Mass
10 a.m. – Morning Conference followed by Confession
3:30 p.m. – Rosary, Conference, Benediction, Confession
Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12:
9:30 a.m. – Holy Mass followed by Confession
3:30 p.m. – Rosary, Conference, Benediction, Confession
The Carmel Home is located at 2501 Old Hartford Rd., Owensboro, KY 42303 and can be contacted at (270) 683-0227.

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.
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

Come and See weekends for men interested in a priestly vocation

The Office of Vocations will be holding two Come and See weekends. These are for men who are interested in a priestly vocation. They will spend a weekend visiting the seminary so that they can get a sense of what the life of a seminarian is like. For men who are high school juniors to college sophomores we will visit Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and Marian University in Indianapolis on March 23-26, 2023. For men who are juniors in college or older there will be a visit to St. Meinrad on April 20-23. For more information or to sign up contact vocations director, Fr. Daniel Dillard, at daniel.dillard@pastoral.org or (270) 421-7868.

'One Earth One Love' at Brescia University

The Project for the Study of Love in Religion at the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture, The Laudato Si Research Institute, Oxford, The Lane Center, University of San Francisco, and the Brescia University Caritas Center are hosting a two-day event, April 26th and 27th. Each event will take place on Zoom and participation is free. On April 26th, join in for One Earth, One Love, A symposium of Jewish, Christian and Muslim scholars. This will mark the publication of Loving the Planet. Interfaith Essays on Ecology, Love and Theology. Join multiple scholars from around the world starting at 8 AM CT. On April 27th, join in for One Earth, One Love' in theological conversations between Orthodox and Baptist scholars A symposium of the Centre for Baptist Studies, Regent's Park College, Oxford, and the House of St Gregory and St Macrina, Oxford. This event will start at 8 AM CT. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/one-earth-one-love-a-2-day-event-exploring-love-for-the-planet-others-tickets-506638107217>.

Mark your calendar for Sacred Heart's 150th anniversary celebrations

For the 150th anniversary of Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville, plans are underway for a few special days. The first date is April 27, the actual date of our anniversary. Some former priests will try to be present, Fr. Jojy, Fr. Masi, Fr. Peter, and Fr. Drury. There will be Mass at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 27 with a light meal following in the parish hall catered by Melanie Abney and her class at school. We will have a sign-up sheet at the back so we can have a good count. Invite members, past members, and friends by giving them a call to remind them. The next date to remember is Sunday, May 7, with Bishop Medley here to celebrate a bilingual Mass at 10 a.m.; only one Mass on this Sunday. Following will be a potluck, again with a sign-up sheet. To learn more contact the parish office at (270) 726-6963

Save the date for St. Paul School car show
Saturday, Sept. 9, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information please contact the school at (270) 242-7483.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Schedule of 2023 fish fries in the Diocese of Owensboro

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/>.

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 and click on Prayer Requests.

Need a meeting space? Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium is available

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

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 carryout
Serving time: 5-7 p.m.
Contact: Parish office at (270) 926-4741

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Address: 301 High St., Irvington
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Format: Dine-in and carryout
Serving time: 4-7 p.m. Eastern Time
Contact: Parish office at (270) 547-2132

Holy Name of Jesus School, Henderson

Address: 628 2nd St., Henderson
Dates: 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: 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: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Format: Carryout and drive-thru
Serving time: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Contact: Barry Whittedge 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
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

Continued on page 28

Fish fries continued from page 27

Address: 4029 Frederica St., Owensboro
 Dates: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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

St. Leo Parish Knights of Columbus
 Address: 401 N 12th St., Murray
 Dates: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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

An invitation to participate in a Eucharistic listening session

BY MIKE BOGDAN, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On March 24 of 1980, St. Oscar Romero ended his homily this way.

“This holy Mass, this Eucharist, is clearly an act of faith. This Body broken and Blood shed for human beings encourages us to give our body and blood up to suffering and pain, as Christ did—not for self, but to bring justice and peace to our people. Let us be intimately united in faith and hope at this moment.”

At this point, Archbishop Romero was shot to death.

For most of us, the practice of expressing our faith involves little risk. There is no rifle aimed at our heart or concentration camp chamber awaiting us if we utter words about a personal relationship with One who handles dirty disciples’ feet, heals one wound after another, meets us where we are and surprises us.

During the height of COVID, I was, like many physically “vulnerable” people, told not to come to work. With our office’s human resource di-



RILEY GREIF | WKC Eucharistic Revival- Convention Center-045.jpg: Bishop William F. Medley lifts up the Eucharist during the Dec. 6, 2022 Mass prior to the Diocese of Owensboro’s Eucharistic Convocation.

rector's permission, I was allowed to come to the pastoral center chapel to pray the Liturgy of the Hours in my usual chair before the other employees arrived.

Each day, when it came time for the Intercessions, I reached into the basket of petitions near the altar. The basket contained prayers sent in by people from all over the diocese as part of the Disciples Response Fund mailings.

Entering into that sort of intercessory prayer itself can be a risk. There is the petition (a joyous one) for the son who was able to return to the Table of the Lord because of an annulment. And one (also joyous) giving thanks for the daughter who returned to the Church after an absence of

20 years. And one for the developmentally disabled granddaughter who received her First Communion (more joy). And one that the Eucharist may strengthen a loved one in overcoming an oppressive addiction.

In the next couple of months, many of our parishes will offer an opportunity for faith sharing about the Eucharist. Part of our diocesan observance of the National Eucharistic Revival (eucharisticrevival.org), this session will include prayer, some small group sharing and some large group sharing. Notes will be taken and insights will be shared with Bishop Medley and some others.

Some participants may come intending to listen. They may or may not be inspired to share

their faith aloud. Some may come to witness about their encounters with the Real Presence of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar and their lives.

When your parish extends the invitation to participate in a Listening Session on the Eucharist this Lenten season, please prayerfully consider it. Whatever faith is shared there, whatever witness is offered, whatever truths are spoken aloud—we all need to hear it.

Mike Bogdan is the Director of Music for the Diocese of Owensboro and the chair of the diocese's National Eucharistic Revival planning committee. Learn more at eucharisticrevival.org or by emailing mike.bogdan@pastoral.org.

Vocations office to host Lenten discernment series

BY FR. RAY CLARK, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Twenty years ago I heard a young woman say: "I wish there was more help in discerning our vocation!" For the record she chose well. She married, has children and serves the Church with her gifts.

I have been abundantly fortunate. When I reached an impasse in seminary on being ordained, my spiritual director suggested that we pray for light. Peace followed and I proceeded to priesthood. Her direction was indispensable.

But frustration at the lack of resources available to all for discerning God's will is real. Several years ago I came across a book by Fr. Timothy Gallagher entitled: "Discerning God's Will for Your Life: An Ignatian Guide." Fr. Gallagher had served as my spiritual director on several priests' retreats. His di-

rection saved my priesthood.

The Catholic tradition is rich in spiritual guides. St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, provided spiritual exercises to discern whether the Holy Spirit or the Evil Spirit is speaking as I discern God's will. Both have a vested interest.

Fr. Gallaher has written extensively on the Ignatian tradition and here applies it to discerning God's will both in our life choices but also in daily matters. The book provides principles of discernment and examples of people who have applied those principles in their lives.

The Office of Vocations of the Diocese of Owensboro is sponsoring a program to discern God's will for your life. It will be held on the five Monday evenings of Lent, from Feb. 27 through March 27, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Undercroft of St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. The program is

free.

The first part of the session will examine principles of discernment from Fr. Gallagher's book. In the second half of the evening, a person will speak on the discernment of their vocation. Speakers include Fr. Will Thompson, Robert and Katie Edge, Deacon Gayle Rhodes and a religious sister. Each vocation is essential.

The gatherings will be livestreamed on St. Stephen Cathedral's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StStephenCathedral. The book "How to Discern God's will for Your Life: An Ignatian Guide" is available at St. Maximilian Kolbe Bookstore in Owensboro and elsewhere. Fr. Gallagher also presents the material on a YouTube series and the Discerning Hearts app. For more information call Fr. Ray Clark at (270) 231-1705 or Deacon Mike Marsili at (270) 875-0825.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Un testimonio silencioso

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Cuando se trata de la liturgia y la tradición de la Iglesia, la mayoría de nosotros asociamos el mes de marzo con la Cuaresma. El Miércoles de Ceniza por lo general cae en febrero, entonces en marzo ya estamos bien metidos en nuestros compromisos de oración, ayuno y caridad. Y, en términos de la vida cotidiana, en marzo normalmente podemos ver algunas señales de que ya va terminando el invierno y que comienza la primavera. De hecho, la palabra para la Cuaresma en inglés “Lent” significa “primavera”.

Pero ningún tiempo litúrgico es absoluto. Así como el comienzo de la primavera no garantiza que el clima frío o incluso la nieve y el hielo hayan quedado atrás, la Cuaresma no excluye otras celebraciones dentro de sus 40 días. Hay tres fiestas prominentes que no son de Cuaresma en el mes de marzo: el 17 es la fiesta de San Patricio, el 19 es la fiesta de San José y el 25 es la fiesta de la Anunciación del Señor. Si estas dos últimas caen en Semana Santa, las fiestas se trasladan después de la Pascua. (En la cultura actual de los Estados Unidos, la fiesta de San Patricio se ha convertido más en una celebración civil que religiosa, aunque la historia de San Patricio sigue siendo cautivadora).

Para mi artículo de este mes quiero compartir con ustedes algunas reflexiones sobre San José. Bueno pues, todo lo que realmente sabemos sobre San José proviene de los Evangelios de Mateo y Lucas, e incluso allí las referencias son pocas. La leyenda y la tradición han transmitido otros relatos, pero

muchos datan de siglos después de que José viviera.

El evangelio de Mateo relata como María concibió virginalmente a Jesús y señala que San José “era un hombre justo y no quería denunciarla públicamente, resolvió abandonarla en secreto”. Enseguida José experimentó el primero de varios sueños en los que Dios lo orientó en su papel de padre y en la historia de la salvación. Sueños posteriores mandaron a José a llevar a María y Jesús a Egipto y luego a Nazaret.

Lucas explica que Jesús nació en Belén, que era el origen ancestral de José, y que habían viajado allí porque César Augusto había ordenado un censo que exigía a todos los ciudadanos a regresar a su tierra natal.

La mención final de José en la Biblia relata la historia de cómo Jesús fue encontrado en el templo después de haber estado separado de sus padres durante varios días. Se cita a María diciendo: “Hijo mío, ¿por qué nos has hecho esto? Piensa que tu padre y yo te buscábamos angustiados”.

Después de este incidente, los relatos de los Evangelios saltan a la vida pública de Jesús, y no vuelven a mencionar a San José. La suposición es que José había muerto en esos años intermedios y, por lo tanto, creció la tradición de que San José es el patrón de una muerte feliz, ya que presumiblemente murió teniendo de lado a María y Jesús con él. Los Evangelios nos dicen también que Jesús era “el hijo de un carpintero” y por esto se habla de José como el santo patrón de los obreros. De hecho, San José merece una segunda fiesta el 1 de mayo celebrando su identidad como San José Obrero.

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MARZO DE 2023

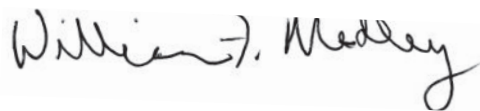
1 DE MARZO	10:30 a.m. Misa escolar e Instalación al Ministerio de Acólito para el seminarista Conrad Jaconette – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro, Owensboro 6 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Romualdo, Hardinsburg
2-4 DE MARZO	Conferencia para obispos “The Way Forward” - Boston College
5 DE MARZO	2 p.m. Misa de Emblemas Religiosos de los Scouts – Parroquia San Antonio, Browns Valley
8 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Reunión del personal – Centro Católico McRaith
11 DE MARZO	4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquias San Pedro y Sagrado Corazón en la Parroquia San Pedro, Waverly 6:30 p.m. Noche de Cita de Matrimonio de Gracia – Universidad Kentucky Wesleyan, Owensboro
12 DE MARZO	10:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Martín, Rome 6 p.m. Misa con los católicos en la Universidad Estatal de Murray - Parroquia San León, Murray
14-15 DE MARZO	Visita a los seminaristas en el Seminario Universitario llamado Obispo Simón Bruté – Indianápolis, Indiana
19 DE MARZO	10:45 a.m. Misa de clausura de Youth 2000 – Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro

20 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro 1:30 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro 4:30 p.m. Vísperas – Monasterio Pasionista, Whitesville
21 DE MARZO	8:45 a.m. Conversaciones con los "seniors" – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro, Owensboro
22 DE MARZO	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro 4:30 p.m. Reunión de la junta directiva de la Fundación diocesana – Owensboro
25 DE MARZO	5:30 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Ambrosio, Henshaw
26 DE MARZO	11 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah
28 DE MARZO	10 a.m. – mediodía Horas de Oficina en Paducah 6 p.m. Reunión del Club Serra – Owensboro
29 DE MARZO	9:45 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela San José, Bowling Green
30 DE MARZO	Visita con los seminaristas de la Diócesis de Owensboro en el Seminario San Meinrad – Saint

Zacarías quien estuvo mudo antes del nacimiento de Juan el Bautista? Ciertamente no. Nadie sabe realmente por qué los evangelistas no encontraron razón para atribuir palabras a San José. Pero tal vez su "silencio" habla de un dicho con el que estamos familiarizados: "Las acciones dicen más que las palabras".

Como los Evangelios retratan a San José, aprendemos todo lo que necesitamos saber sobre él como un hombre de fe que confió en Dios y aceptó su papel en la historia de la salvación. Que la fiesta de San José proporcione un respiro de los temas de la Cuaresma, reconociendo al mismo tiempo que él es de hecho una figura de la Cuaresma.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro



Más Encuentros realizados en Kentucky occidental



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ El 21 de enero, la Región de Nuestra Señora del Rosario tuvo el Encuentro regional en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ El 28 de enero, la Región de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo tuvo el Encuentro regional en la Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo en Hopkinsville.

El Obispo Medley dispensa a los católicos de la obligación en el Día de San Patricio

El 15 de febrero de 2023, el Obispo William F. Medley emitió la siguiente declaración:

Algunas personas han estado preguntando si permitiré que los católicos coman carne en el Día de San Patricio ya que el 17 de marzo cae en viernes de Cuaresma este año.

Después de mucha consideración, he decidido dispensar a los católicos de la Diócesis de Owensboro de la obligación de abstenerse de comer carne el viernes, 17 de marzo.

Sin embargo, hago un llamado a aquellos que elijan comer carne ese día a que hagan otro acto de sacrificio en

el espíritu de la temporada de Cuaresma con la mente y el corazón de San Patricio.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,
Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Continuado de la página 31



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE SUSAN MONTALVO-GESSER
Varios miembros del personal de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro reciben el reconocimiento de ser la Organización sin fines de lucro del año (Servicios Humanos) de la Cámara de Comercio del Área de Owensboro el 20 de enero.

Caridades Católicas honrada como la Organización sin fines de lucro del año

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro ha estado muy ocupada mientras continúa sirviendo a la gente de Kentucky occidental.

El 20 de enero, la Cámara de Comercio del Área de Owensboro la nombró la Organización sin fines de lucro del año (Servicios Humanos).

El 26 de enero, en reconocimiento adicional a este premio, el Obispo William F. Medley y el personal diocesano entregaron a Caridades Católicas una estatua de Jesús lavando los pies de una persona durante un día de trabajo del personal diocesano.



FOTO DE ARCHIVO
P. Richard Powers.

P. Richard Powers 1932-2023

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El Padre Richard Powers, sacerdote de la Diócesis de Owensboro, falleció el 13 de febrero de 2023 a la edad de 90 años.

Su funeral tuvo lugar el 20 de febrero en la Catedral de San Esteban y fue sepultado en el cementerio del Monte San José en Maple Mount.