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Español

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Mornings with Jesus Page 11



‘If not for my adoption... there is no way I would be a priest today...’

Fr. Chris Kight, ordained in May 2023 and pictured here blessing his mother, Vicki Kight, shares his family’s story during Adoption Awareness Month. **Page 8**

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A pilgrim prays on the steps outside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem's Old City Oct. 10, 2023. Pilgrims who were in Israel following a surprise terrorist attack by Hamas against civilian communities in southern Israel Oct. 7 lit candles and said prayers of peace at the church as fighting continued in southern Israel. More than ever, people of different faiths need to unite for the peace and security of all, say experts.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL | OSV NEWS



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Front page main photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

## Submissions

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

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

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# A Word From Bishop Medley

## Bishop Medley's pastoral visit to Nigeria

For the past few years, Bishop Medley has made it his mission to travel to the home countries of international priests serving in the Diocese of Owensboro to express his gratitude to their families, their communities, and their bishops and superiors. His travels have included Mexico, Guatemala, Myanmar, India, and most recently, Nigeria.

Bishop Medley and Fr. Jerry Riney landed in Abuja, Nigeria early in the morning (4:30 a.m. Abuja time) of Oct. 11, 2023. While in there, he visited the major seminary of the Missionaries of St. Paul, a religious community out of Nigeria. He journeyed to several major cities to make pastoral visits, celebrated several three-hour-long Masses and the ordinations of several transitional deacons, while also visiting the families of Fr. Emmanuel Udoh and Fr. Uwem Enoh. He also visited with the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, several of whom serve in the Diocese of Owensboro. ■



COURTESY OF BISHOP MEDLEY  
Bishop William F. Medley takes a picture with Fr. Emmanuel Udoh's family during his pastoral visit to Nigeria.



COURTESY OF FR. JERRY RINEY  
Following Mass during his pastoral visit to Nigeria, Bishop William F. Medley greets children of the community.

BISHOP MEDLEY'S NOVEMBER 2023 CALENDAR	
NOV. 1	12:05 p.m.   Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
NOV. 4	11:30 a.m.   Mass & Luncheon for Black Catholic History Month – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
NOV. 6	10:30 a.m.   Mass – Owensboro Catholic High School
NOV. 7	9:30 a.m.   Mass – St. Mary Elementary School, Paducah
NOV. 8	8:30 a.m.   Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center 5 p.m. (ET)   Confirmation – Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington
NOV. 9	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.   Presbyteral Day – McRaith Catholic Center
NOV. 11	7 p.m.   Owensboro Catholic Schools Dinner & Auction
NOV. 12-16	USCCB Meeting – Baltimore
NOV. 17-18	NCYC – Indianapolis
NOV. 20	10 a.m.   Priest Personnel Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center 12:05 p.m.   Memorial Mass for Fr. Joe Mills – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro 1:30 PM   Priests' Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center
NOV. 21	10 a.m.   Catholic Conference of Kentucky Meeting – Louisville

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# VOCATIONS

BISHOP MEDLEY'S NOVEMBER 2023 CALENDAR CONTINUED	
NOV. 22	10 a.m.   McRaith Catholic Center Staff Meeting
NOV. 23	8 a.m.   Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
NOV. 28-29	Bishops of the Province Meeting – Knoxville
NOV. 30	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.   Eucharistic Revival Gathering – Convention Center, Owensboro



COURTESY OF FR. JERRY RINEY

On Oct. 12, 2023, Bishop William F. Medley smiles for a photo with some of the 107 seminarians and faculty members of the Missionaries of St. Paul major seminary, following morning prayer and Mass.



COURTESY OF FR. JERRY RINEY

Bishop William F. Medley and Fr. Jerry Riney take a photo with Fr. Uwem Enoh and his parents during Bishop Medley's pastoral visit to Nigeria.



COURTESY OF BISHOP MEDLEY

(Above photo) Bishop Medley and Fr. Jerry Riney smile for a picture with several Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Two of the sisters, Sr. Anthonia Asayoma and Sr. Anne Marie Joshua, currently serve in the Diocese of Owensboro.



COURTESY OF FR. JERRY RINEY

(Lower left photo) Fr. Raymond Aina, MSP, rector of the Missionaries of St. Paul major seminary, walks with Bishop William F. Medley and Fr. Jerry Riney as the two visit the seminary on Oct. 12, 2023.



COURTESY OF FR. JERRY RINEY

(Left to right) Namso Enoh, Fr. Jerry Riney, Fr. Emmanuel Udoh, and Fr. Uwem Enoh eat dinner together. Namso Enoh is Fr. Uwem Enoh's brother.

# Hayden: The work that earned her the 2023 WellCare award was ‘a team effort’ by entire staff

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Listening to the stories of her fellow nominees, Katina Hayden did not think she would have even voted for herself, “because they were all incredible” – and yet she was the one chosen as the overall winner of WellCare’s Community Health Champions 2023.

Hayden, who serves as the disaster operations director for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, was shocked when she heard her name read at the end of the list of winners during WellCare of Kentucky’s fourth annual Community Health Champions Awards on Sept. 20.

“It was humbling,” she told The Western Kentucky Catholic the day after the ceremony.

WellCare of Kentucky provides government-sponsored managed care services for families, children, seniors, and individuals with complex needs primarily through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and Medicare prescription drug plans across the state.

The Sept. 20 event, held at Churchill Downs in Louisville, was an opportunity to honor nine winners from among 295 nominations across Kentucky. Each regional winner received \$3,000.

Hayden, as the statewide winner, received \$5,000 for Catholic Charities.

Hayden had been nominated separately –

and unbeknownst to each other – by two of her co-workers, Susan Montalvo-Gesser (Catholic Charities’ director) and Tina Hawley (Catholic Charities’ administrative assistant). The two described Hayden as the person who played a crucial role in managing recovery efforts from the December 2021 tornadoes that devastated western Kentucky, helping the marginalized in their recovery process.

During the award presentation, Hayden was commended for having built a team of case managers across areas like Dawson Springs, Hopkinsville, Bremen, Ohio County, Princeton, Bowling Green, and the Lakes in order to provide assistance to more than 4,000 tornado survivors.

She told the WKC that when her name was read at the conclusion of the presentation, she realized that though “I had not really prepared a speech, I had to go up and speak.”

“I felt bad when I was onstage, alone – when it was all these people,” she said of her fellow Catholic Charities staff who have worked alongside her since the 2021 tornadoes. “It’s a team effort. It’s not me.”

Hayden said her Catholic Charities team is “like a family.”

“I couldn’t have done it if it wasn’t for all the case managers,” she said. “All those case managers, and Catholic Charities staff, and Susan, and the pastoral center, and Bishop Medley... it was like a puzzle and together, it made one picture.” ■



COURTESY OF KAITLIN KEANE, WELLCARE  
Katina Hayden smiles for a photo with Darren Levitz, senior director of member experience and health equity for WellCare, after Hayden was named the overall winner of WellCare’s Community Health Champions 2023 on Sept. 20, 2023. The event was held at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

**To learn more about the work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, visit [owensborodiocese.org/catholic-charities](https://www.owensborodiocese.org/catholic-charities), [facebook.com/catholiccharitiesowensboro](https://www.facebook.com/catholiccharitiesowensboro), or call them at (270) 683-1545.**

# A home for moms in need

## *St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home looks forward to opening in Bowling Green*



COURTESY OF ST. GIANNA HOME  
Missy Monroe, co-house director, cleans the fireplace in the future St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home on Sept. 8, 2023.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE  
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Missy Monroe had always felt the Catholic Church needed to do more to help mothers experiencing unexpected pregnancies – “and then I realized, we are the Church.”

Monroe is one of the many volunteers working to bring about a place of sanctuary and refuge for unhoused pregnant women in the Bowling Green area – a place they will call St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home.

Operating under the auspices of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, and located on the campus of Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, the St. Gianna team anticipates opening the home in 2024.

St. Gianna Beretta Molla was an Italian pediatrician in the 1960s who refused to have an abortion after doctors discovered a uterine tumor during her pregnancy with her fourth child. She delivered a healthy baby and died several days later. She was canonized in 2004.

Monroe, who will work with fellow volunteer Katharyn Byrne to screen prospective residents, said “there are so many people who are excited about this. It’s definitely a need for the area.”

“I’ve never been involved with something that is so obviously God-sanctioned,” Monroe added, saying the process has been infused with prayer since the beginning.

Byrne said the future St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home will be in a house that had previously been used as a rental property.

“It was such a blessing not to have to buy a house” in the current housing market, said Byrne.

She said almost all renovations in the main part of the house are completed. Now, they are working on an addition that will serve a twofold purpose as a classroom space and as an area for communal meals for residents.

“We want them to learn family-style eating,” said Byrne of the future moms who will live at St. Gianna’s.

That is just one aspect of the overall goal of St. Gianna’s, which is “not just to house them for their pregnancy – but to help them learn how to care for their families,” said Byrne.

To this purpose, they plan to let the moms reside at the home for up to eight months after the birth of their baby. They hope this extensive period of time will provide the women with healthy lifestyle habits and structures they can continue after graduating from St. Gianna’s.

“Every woman who comes will be assigned a one-on-one mentor to help her figure out her life goals,” Byrne added.

The house has four bedrooms, and one will be designated for one of the two “house mothers” they plan to hire to care for and oversee the home. (Having two house mothers who can share responsibilities will ensure that someone will be at the house with residents 24/7.)

St. Gianna’s will be able to house up to six moms; the three double-occupancy bedrooms will have space for two residents each.

Byrne said they had “over 40 people come to our meeting for volunteers, and even more have signed up since then. Everyone has different skills to offer.”

She and Monroe said people have approached them about volunteering their time to teach financial literacy, exercises classes, nutrition, simple sewing skills, how to use WIC, Theology of the Body classes, and more. Others have offered to do house maintenance and lawn care for the home.

Monroe said they are in conversation with a local

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## FEATURES

### A home for moms continued from page 6

Baptist church, which is interested in partnering with them and helping St. Gianna's with resources. St. Teresa Ministries, a local community-assistance nonprofit, also looks forward to helping.

Right now, St. Gianna's primary need is monetary donations so they can purchase what future residents will need on a case-by-case basis. Donations will also help pay the salaries of the house mothers, who will be classified as diocesan employees; all other roles are volunteer.

"Later, as women are graduating, we will announce their specific needs" and be open to those items being donated, said Byrne.

She said the home will be open to anyone, even if they are not Catholic or Christian, but St. Gianna's will encourage the women to consider making spirituality a part of their lives so they can grow in body, mind, and spirit.

Down the road, Byrne said they would like to add a deck to the house so that when the weather is nice, "women can go outside and pray or meditate or rock their baby."

They would also like to establish a raised garden for residents who are interested in learning gardening skills.

Monroe said that her entire adult life, she has felt the mentality of many people has been, "please don't have an abortion... but good luck to you."

Byrne agreed: "The whole idea is that we as Catholics say, 'Don't have an abortion, don't have an abortion,' but we want to actually do something more for these women in crisis."

Now, they can be involved with something that will truly save lives - of babies, and moms as well. ■

To learn more, visit [www.stgiannacph.org](http://www.stgiannacph.org).

1ST ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION  
benefiting  
ST. GIANNA CRISIS PREGNANCY HOME

## SAVE the DATE

04.20.2024



An Evening In Italy

Join us in supporting unhoused, pregnant women in our region. St. Gianna Crisis Pregnancy Home will be a turning point in a woman's life. We are asking you to commit to a \$180 annual donation for three years to help these pregnant women "Do a 180" turnaround in their lives, as they work toward independent living with their new babies. Will you join us?

St. Gianna  
CRISIS PREGNANCY HOME

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 1000 FOUNDING PARTNERS

## DO A '180'

**BECOME A FOUNDING PARTNER TODAY!**  
Scan QR code now to get started.  
St. Gianna CPH operates under Catholic Charities, a 501(c)(3).  
All donations are tax deductible.






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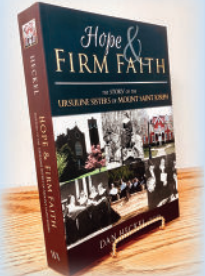

<https://ursulinesmsj.org/mount-brick/>



### Have you read the new Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph "Hope & Firm Faith" book?

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The cost is \$37.10 which includes sales tax. If you need it shipped, add \$10.

Brick and book proceeds benefit the Ursuline mission and ministries.

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# Fr. Chris Kight's adoption paved the way for his vocation



COURTESY OF FR. CHRIS KIGHT  
Fr. Chris Kight's mother, Vicki Kight; his brother, Ion Kight; and Fr. Kight after he celebrated his first Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, Ky., on May 21, 2023.



COURTESY OF FR. CHRIS KIGHT  
Fr. Chris Kight (left) stands with his biological brother, Cam Jenkins, the day they met for the first time.

BY ROBERT ALAN GLOVER, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC.

“In you the orphan finds mercy.” – Hosea 14:3.  
“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord.” – Psalm 127.

And, should these words go unheeded, remember that November is National Adoption Month.

A multi-purpose campaign sponsored by the United States Children's Bureau, this observance seeks to raise awareness of adoption issues, appealing for more families to help teens in the foster care system, and emphasize the need for youth engagement.

Fr. Chris Kight is a newly-ordained priest in the Diocese of Owensboro, and one who knows about adoption and its positive side very well. Fr. Kight was adopted at six weeks of age by Jerry Kight (now deceased) and his wife, Vicki, of Paducah.

Since his ordination, Fr. Chris has become the parochial vicar/associate pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville, Ky. After his adoption, Fr. Chris was joined by a brother, Ion, whom his parents adopted from Romania.

“I was adopted at a very young age. My mother and father made it a point to make sure I knew I was loved, wanted, and cared for. They never hid the fact that I was adopted from me,” he said, adding that “my biological mother had some issues through which she was not able to care for me the way I would have needed.”

Recalling his adoption day, Jan. 31, 1993, Fr. Chris said it was celebrated “just like a birthday.”

When asked about his call to the priesthood, Fr. Chris said he “felt an attraction to the Mass and I always admired priests and the priesthood from a young age, by watching them, and I always thought that one day I might become one.”

So much so that – while pursuing a degree in music education from 2011 to 2015 – the sound

of music lost out to a higher calling. As Fr. Chris recalls, “I got burned out pursuing my degree, and lost interest in teaching music.”

Rediscovering his true purpose and calling – that of serving the Church as a priest – Fr. Chris spent six years of priestly formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in southern Indiana, and two years of pastoral ministry at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green.

Speaking on his adoption, Fr. Chris told the WKC, “(The adoption) gave me a forever family. It is a beautiful family that had a good and healthy marriage, and later a younger brother from Romania. On the whole, I was very blessed in this area and realized it as soon as I was old enough to understand the situation.”

“I never thought about being adopted unless the subject was brought up,” Fr. Chris said.

He added, however, that “I acquired many of my adopted father's mannerisms – or so I am told – and although I have never met my biological father, I did meet my biological brother.”

Locating his birthmother was not a strong desire, and even with his biological brother the eventual meeting followed much back-and-forth conversation.

“I recently went on vacation with my biological brother and his family. I was able to meet his newest son and reconnect with his older son. My biological brother and his wife live in South Carolina, about an eight-hour drive from Hopkinsville,” he said.

“If not for my adoption, and the way in which my parents raised me, there is no way I would be a priest today,” Fr. Chris observed.

He said that as a priest, he has met couples who

*Continues on page 9*



## Adoption continued from page 8

struggle with infertility – and has also met “women who have decided to give birth under very difficult circumstances when they could have terminated the pregnancy. This was very brave and noble of them because they chose life,” Fr. Chris said.

“All life is sacred, and love can come from adoption. I myself cannot fathom a life without having been adopted,” he said, suggesting that people who are struggling with infertility might consider adoption.

“It is a beautiful option because it gives a child a family in which they are loved as God loves them. I see how much infertility hurts many couples. It can be devastating, especially to the marriage. I would encourage couples who wish to have a family seriously consider adoption,” Fr. Chris said.

Vicki Kight is Fr. Chris’s adopted mother and a resident of Paducah for the past 43 years. Now retired, Vicki works part-time as a bookkeeper/accountant at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah.

She told the WKC that “my husband Jerry and I had been married for 13 years and were unable to have children. An organization called the Mary Kendall Foster Home did a home study and the adoption paperwork for our domestic situation.

“We did not care about the child’s origins; we wanted a baby and went to Charlotte, North Carolina for Chris; it was a closed adoption that was handled by Christian Adoption Services in Charlotte, and everything turned out wonderfully; there were no issues because what was done was done,” Vicki said.

She noted that Chris and his biological mother “are in contact; they stay in touch and there’s no tension between them because – as Chris once said – ‘she’s not you.’”

The Kights attended a support group after

adopting Chris; one in which he was the only domestic adoptee, and most of his peers were Asian. The family stopped attending the group as Chris grew older, and his mother recalled that “he had adjusted very well and was very happy.”

As to her son answering the call, Vicki told the WKC that “it was as early as first grade – when he could stand in a pew – that I noticed how he would copy all of the mannerisms of our pastor at the time, Fr. Jerry Riney.”

When he was about 7 or 8, Vicki recalled, “I brought materials from Wal-Mart to make (pretend) vestments that Chris could slip over his head, and (then) he became active in the daily Masses as an altar boy.”

Fr. Chris’s ordination this past summer, his mother said, “was beautiful; Bishop Medley moved it to Paducah so that more people could enjoy it, and I think the ceremony really opened some eyes – I have never been happier.”

Ion Kight is the younger brother of Fr. Chris, and he was adopted from Romania at age 3.

Now 26 years old, Ion said “I don’t remember my other family, because this has been my only real one; Chris wanted a younger brother, so our parents



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Fr. Jerry Riney assists newly-ordained Fr. Chris Kight with his vestments during the May 20, 2023 Mass of Ordination at St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah. Fr. Jerry was Fr. Chris’s childhood pastor and inspired his vocation from a young age.

decided to see what they could do,” he recalled.

He added that “we are brothers, and because we are both adopted, as I grew up our relationship just seemed natural.”

As to his brother entering the priesthood, Ion said, “it’s great and it has always been something that he wanted to do, or else pursue a musical career,” Ion said.

Ion also feels that couples who are struggling to begin a family should consider adopting a child.

“I have friends who were adopted, and based on their positive outcomes, I would encourage rather than discourage a couple to ‘go for it,’ because in the end it is the bond that you forge as a family that is what counts.”

“However, it has to be something that you want to do; it has to be your choice,” Ion said.

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*Adoption continued from page 9*

Fr. Chris's biological, older brother by three years is Cameron Jenkins.

Now 34 years old, Cameron said, "I first reached out to Chris about four years ago, and there was no difficulty in tracking him down because the adoption records were still in good physical condition."

"The only requirement was that the agency could not release any information to me until Chris approved it, and afterwards we communicated by regular mail, then email, and finally began talking by phone," Cameron said.

He said he has always known their biological mother - "she has been in and out of my life to where I always knew who she was - more so than Chris did."

"Her name is Elizabeth, she is 54 years old now, and things have improved for her," Cameron said.

The brothers just recently saw each other for the third time in four years, during Fr. Chris's vacation. A highlight of the visit was our new priest being able to see his new nephew, who was born seven days before Fr. Chris's ordination to the priesthood.

"I wanted to attend it, and would have, but still think it was a great moment for him because I was raised in a private, Christian school environment, and it was interesting to hear about the differences (in their two faiths)," Cameron said.

"Chris listened to his call from the Lord, and now we converse around Jesus and football," Cameron concluded. ■

*Robert Alan Glover writes for FAITH/West Tennessee Catholic in the Diocese of Memphis, Crossroads in the Diocese of Lexington, Ky., and OSV News in Indiana. An alumnus of the University of Dayton, he minored in theology, is a two-time survivor of kidney disease, and the recipient of a donor organ in November 2019.*

## The night our family answered a call of their own

BY ROBERT ALAN GLOVER, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Lexington, Ky. - My family's connection to this story took place in Great Falls, Montana in 1963 at 804 7th Street South. We had a small, four-room apartment due to a housing shortage at Malmstrom Air Force Base - where our parents were stationed - just outside of town.

A young, Native American mother and her newborn daughter lived below us.

She cared for her daughter as best she could. Her daughter's cries almost nightly were heartbreaking, and too often our mother ended up doing welfare checks on baby Norma Jean Buffalo (her birth name) and preparing much-needed baby formula.

Norma's mother - who was full-blooded Sioux - ultimately agreed to her adoption by our own parents. By the end of legal proceedings, our family - including my new baby sister - had received orders for Torrejón Air Base outside of Madrid, Spain. Norma - or 'Jeannie' as we have always called her - is now 60 years old and battling leukemia, but doing very well.

I myself am approaching my fourth anniversary with a new kidney, bestowed upon me Nov. 2, 2019, at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center: Jeannie and I are now bound by more than just an adoption

paper and sibling closeness.

In 2005 she began searching for, finally located, and began communicating with her birth mother in Montana. Before her biological mother died, Jeannie learned that she had had two more siblings - brothers - and was able to connect with them as well.

I still remember those cries in the night - and how my two brothers and I often took turns bringing 'Norma' upstairs for her baby bottle - and a second chance at life. ■

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[odou.org/bakhita-empowerment-initiative/](http://odou.org/bakhita-empowerment-initiative/)

# Spending mornings with Jesus in Adoration gives students ‘new mindset’ at Catholic High

BY JULIA MARSHALL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Beginning in June 2022 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops called for a Eucharistic Revival among the nation. All members of the Catholic Church are invited to deepen their devotion and faith within the Blessed Sacrament. Through Eucharistic Adoration, we can be physically present with Jesus who is physically present with us in the Eucharist.

The theology department at Owensboro Catholic High School made available daily Adoration, welcoming all students to participate in the Revival. The goal is to deepen a community’s faith and relationship with God.

Kristin Dorth, theology teacher, encourages students to participate in Adoration to have still moments: “We offer Adoration because the world is such a busy place and it is easy to get caught up in our phones and responsibilities.”

Adoration offers an opportunity to create quiet in our lives so that we can hear the voice of God more easily. In a world where students are constantly being distracted and tempted to turn away from faith, teachers hope giving students the opportunity to grow their commitment to faith will help to continue to foster their beliefs.

Adoration begins around 7:30 a.m. in the school’s

chapel daily. When

the Eucharistic Host is placed in the monstrance on the altar, the Blessed Sacrament becomes exposed, meaning the body, blood, soul, and divinity of God is fully present. Students can experience prayer in a more intimate way, truly in the presence of Him.

Daniela Guido, a senior, says Adoration to her is, “A place where she can go to fully give herself to God through her prayer and worship.”

Members of the theology department offer to take turns sitting in each morning and leading in prayer. Theology teacher Lisa Higdon finds inspiration when spending her mornings in prayer: “As a teacher, I have been inspired by the number of students who continue to show up in the morning, consistently seeking it, and making it a priority to spend time with Jesus. That gives me a lot of hope for the future and gives me encouragement to strive for this in my own life.”

The theology teachers’ desire to help us deepen our faith, shows their commitment to the Eucharistic Revival and helping us recommit to Christ.

Each morning is something different from live worship music to praying the rosary as a group. Students become united when praying together.

Senior Tutt Carrico thinks praying as a group keeps

him focused: “When praying as a community we can share our thoughts and have a deeper connection to the Lord.”

Students are encouraged to attend even if it is just for a couple minutes. Students such as sophomore Mayme Powell have been able to grow their relationship with God outside of theology class. Powell expresses the new priority in her life as well as a positive outlook on school mornings: “Going to Adoration before school has completely changed my life. My mornings used to be full of stress and chaos. Now, my mornings are spent with Christ, and I leave with a new mindset for the day.”

Around 8:05 a.m. the Host is taken out of the monstrance and placed back into the tabernacle. Students head to class and will now begin their day with a sense of fulfillment and tranquility.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “God is a friend of silence.” Let us sit with our Friend and just be in the moment. We are all invited to sit in the presence of our living God and take a gaze into our faith. In this we can truly look at Jesus as He looks at us, imitate Christ, and invite others to answer His call. ■

*Julia Marshall is a senior at Owensboro Catholic High School in Owensboro.*



COURTESY OF JULIA MARSHALL

Sophomore Cameron Taylor participates in the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet which is done every Friday in the chapel of Owensboro Catholic High School in Owensboro.

# Honoring Our Lady of Kibeho during Black Catholic History Month

BY F. VERONICA WILHITE, OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY

November is Black Catholic History Month, which was designated to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics by the National Black Clergy Caucus on July 24, 1990. This month was selected due to two commemorative dates: St. Augustine’s birthday on Nov. 13, and St. Martin de Porres’ feast day on Nov. 3. November is also when Catholics celebrate the feasts of All Saints and All Souls – an occasion to recall in a special way the saints and souls of Africa, and the African Diaspora, who were lost enroute and after arriving as slaves in the Americas.

On Nov. 28 we also celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of Kibeho, the only Vatican-approved Marian apparitions in Africa which occurred in Kibeho, Rwanda. Our Lady first appeared to a young schoolgirl, Alphonsine, first on Nov. 28, 1981. As a result, she was ridiculed, called a liar, and accused of being possessed by demons by classmates and school staff. Alphonsine begged Our Mother to appear to another girl in the school. Subsequently, she appeared to Anathalie Mukamazimpaka and slowly, more people began to believe. Finally, she also appeared to Marie Claire, who had previously accused Alphonsine of being a witch.

When she first appeared, Mary called herself Nyina wa Jambo, “the Mother of the Word.” All three visionaries described her as the most beautiful woman radiating a warm, glowing, motherly love. Marie Claire said that she could describe her beauty; simply that “her beauty is as great as her love for her children.”

The message of Our Lady of Kibeho was a simple one of love and repentance. Love God and love others. Be kind to one another, pray sincerely, repent of your sins, be humble and forgive each other. She told the visionaries to pray the Rosary and particularly the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows. She also showed the girls horrific visions of what would happen if people did not repent.

In 1994, the visions the three schoolgirls saw came to pass in the Rwandan Genocide. Over



MARCO LONGARI | CNS

A statue of Mary situated atop a pole marks the site where three young students witnessed an apparition of the Virgin Mary in Kibeho, Rwanda, in the early 1980s. In June 2001, after years of investigation, a Rwandan bishop confirmed the apparitions saying, “There are more reasons to believe than deny it.”

three months, up to a million Rwandans were killed by their neighbors, friends and even family members. Most of those killed were Tutsis, who were a minority that had been privileged under the previous Belgian colonial rule of Rwanda. But people from both groups, Tutsi, and Hutu, were killed. Kibeho itself was not spared. It was the site of a massacre where about 5,000 refugees were killed, some in the very church built to honor Our Lady of Kibeho. Among those killed at Kibeho was Marie Claire.

But today, Kibeho has been restored. The shrine at Kibeho is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, a place of repentance, of peace and of healing for Rwanda and for all people. ■



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


DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

## BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH MASS

**Saturday, November 4, 2023 11:30 AM**

Please join the Diocese of Owensboro as we observe Black Catholic History Month with Bishop Medley’s celebration of Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral with a luncheon in the undercroft immediately afterward. Special guests will include representatives of the historic organization of the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver.

 St. Stephen Cathedral 610 Locust Street, Owensboro KY 42301

# Amid Israel-Hamas war, interfaith solidarity more important than ever, say experts

BY GINA CHRISTIAN, OSV NEWS

(OSV News) – Two experts in Muslim-Christian relations told OSV News that preserving dialogue amid the Israel-Hamas war comes down to recognizing what is really at issue – and what is really at stake.

“We cannot afford to lose our solidarity ... because of a war that is not based on religion,” said Mehnaz M. Afridi, religious studies professor and director of the Holocaust, Genocide and Interfaith Education Center at Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York. “We have to look at lessons learned. It took us so long to build bridges.”

“The Israel-Palestine issue at its core isn’t and shouldn’t be about religion,” said Jordan Denari Duffner, a Catholic author, educator and scholar of Muslim-Christian relations, interreligious dialogue and Islamophobia. “I think the key is to not let what is a political issue turn into an issue of religious bigotry.”

The complex dynamics among three of the world’s major faith traditions – Islam, Judaism and Christianity – have been at once highlighted and strained by the war, which was sparked by Hamas’ militants Oct. 7 ambush on approximately 22 locations in Israel. Hamas members gunned down civilians and took at least 199 hostages, according to Israel, including infants, the elderly and people with disabilities. The coordinated attack took place on a Sabbath that marked the final day of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.

Israel declared war on Hamas Oct. 8, placing Gaza under siege and pounding the region with airstrikes. Hamas has continued to launch strikes against Israel. To date, some 1,400 in Israel, including at least 30 U.S. citizens, and at least 3,000 in Gaza have been killed. Israel placed Gaza under siege, and has warned some 1.1 million in Gaza to move south within the enclave ahead of an expected ground offensive by Israeli forces. So far, at least 600,000 in Gaza have heeded the evacuation order, creating a humanitarian crisis that has left the Middle East “on the verge of the abyss,” said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

Afridi said she sees the war from a unique vantage point – that of a Muslim who is a Holocaust scholar at a Catholic institution. In a statement posted to her center’s website, she called the Hamas attack “a mass atrocity,” saying, “I condemn these actions as a Muslim; this is not what Islam is built on.”

Speaking to OSV News from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afridi described Hamas as “a terrorist group ... (that) has never been good to its people.”

She said the attacks on Israelis were “a repetition of the biggest fear that they have gone through” –



DEBBIE HILL|OSV NEWS

A German theology student reads the psalms during a day of prayers and fasting for peace in the Dormition Abbey on Mount Zion in the Old City of Jerusalem, Oct. 17, 2023. That day a massive blast rocked Catholic Near East Welfare Association-supported al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City packed with wounded and other Palestinians seeking shelter, killing hundreds of people, the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry said.

the Shoah (Holocaust), the systematic execution of 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

“I cannot bear to see what happened to my Israeli brothers and sisters and the way that they were treated,” said Afridi, adding she prayed for both Israelis and Palestinians endangered by the war, including the Lasallian Christian Brothers in the West Bank at Bethlehem University, which has a partnership with Manhattan College.

She has direct experience with facing backlash for her Muslim identity due to terrorism, having been spat on while at a restaurant after the Sept. 11,

*Continues on page 14*

**Israel-Hamas continued from page 13**

2001, attacks on the U.S.

“I get questions all the time (such as), ‘Isn’t everyone (who is Muslim) a terrorist?’” Afridi said. “So we have to stop that. We have to quell that.”

She and Duffner, who is completing her doctorate at Georgetown University in Washington, expressed their horror at the Oct. 14 stabbing death of a Chicago-area Palestinian child by his Catholic landlord, who feared the child and his mother would rally their fellow Palestinians to attack him.

Afridi and Duffner stressed the need to view people of other ethnicities and faiths as multidimensional, rather than monolithic.

“Let’s not homogenize each other,” said Afridi. “(Muslims) are not Hamas. Palestinians are not Hamas. And Israelis are not warmongers.”

“There are many Israelis and many Jews who don’t agree with their government’s policy towards the Palestinians,” said Duffner. “And then there are, of course, many Palestinians ~ whether they be Christian or Muslim ~ who don’t approve or strongly condemn the kinds of tactics used by Hamas and others who are engaging in violence.”

More than ever, people of different faiths need to unite for the peace and security of all, both Afridi and Duffner said.

“The temptation right now is for people to sort of retreat into their sort of religious tribal communities and say, ‘They’re hurting us, and so we should hurt them,’” said Duffner.

Yet Pope Francis has modeled new possibilities for encounter between Muslims and Catholics, she said.

“When he became pope, he said that dialogue with Muslims was going to be one of the priorities of his papacy,” said Duffner. “And we’ve really seen that.”

With that effect “trickling down now,” she said, “there are ... many positive relationships between Catholics and Muslims that are not making the headlines,” said Duffner, the author of “Finding Jesus among Muslims: How Loving Islam Makes Me a Better Catholic” and “Islamophobia: What Christians Should Know (and Do) about Anti-Muslim Discrimination.” ■

## Catholic schools pray for peace in the Holy Land

BY WKC STAFF

As war between Israel and Hamas continues to devastate the Holy Land, Catholics in the United States participated in a day to pray and fast for peace in the region on Oct. 17. In an Oct. 13 statement, the patriarchs and heads of the churches of Jerusalem had urged “the people of our congregations and all those of goodwill around the world to observe a Day of Prayer and Fasting” on Oct. 17. That day, Catholics across the Diocese of Owensboro participated in various acts of prayer and fasting for the Holy Land, such as the rosary being prayed in the courtyard of Owensboro Catholic High School. The following day, more than 500,000 children across the globe participated in an annual rosary campaign sponsored by Aid to the Church in Need. One local school that participated in the Oct. 18 rosary campaign was John Paul II in Morganfield, who paused to gather around their Mary grotto in front of the school to pray for peace. Later that month, Pope Francis called for another day of fasting, penance and prayer to take place on Oct. 27 in light of the ongoing violence that included a rocket strike at a Christian hospital in Gaza City during the day of prayer and fasting on Oct. 17. ■

*OSV News contributed to this report.*



COURTESY OF CLARE CORDELL, OCS  
On Oct. 17, a Day of Prayer and Fasting in light of the violence in the Holy Land, the students, faculty and staff of Owensboro Catholic High School gather in the courtyard to pray the rosary.



RILEY GREIF | WKC  
Students, faculty and staff of John Paul II School in Morganfield pray the rosary on Oct. 18, 2023, as part of a global rosary for peace sponsored by Aid to the Church in Need.

## Source and summit: An encounter of God's mercy

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF  
EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

“The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.” Inspiring words from the document *Lumen Gentium* from the Second Vatican Council and yet, what do they practically mean to us today?

Our Acts 2:42 groups will gather this month and reflect on the meaning of source and summit, and they will consider the witness of St. Justin Martyr from the year 155. Please take a moment and read his witness from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1345. It is obvious that the structure of our Mass today has changed very little in all these centuries.

In the Liturgy of the Word, we gather, hear the scriptures proclaimed, and reflect on the teachings of Jesus. Then in the liturgy of the Eucharist, we receive Jesus' body and blood and rest in the awe that we are made worthy through his life, death, and resurrection. We receive Jesus in four ways at Mass: through the priest, community, scriptures and in the sacrament. As Bishop Medley offers in his reflection for our Acts groups this month, “we are given mercy from God.”

We admit our need for God and confess our sin to one another as we say, “I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned.” We recognize that we are not worthy of God's love and mercy, yet God comes to us to meet our deepest needs and transform us by his mercy and challenges us to be his mercy to all we meet.

Jesus is the source of all we need. To be fully human we must be fully connected to the divine. In the sacred liturgy, Jesus is faithful to us, even though we are not faithful. He renews the covenant of God's love with each of us as we reach the summit, the apex of the Christian life and we proclaim, “I am not worthy, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” Here we receive the unfathomable gift of God's mercy, and we are fulfilled.

This is where the rubber meets the road... we, as individuals and as the Body of Christ, are sent forth on mission. Sent forth to carry the love and mercy we have received to a hurting world. To our children who may not be attending church, to our friends going through various traumas and to people we do not know that long to find love and mercy in this chaotic world.

We are told to, “Go in peace.” As we have been transformed by our encounter with Christ, we are called to be channels of transformation in our world. It is not because of our goodness, but rather the goodness and grace of God, that we can share God's love in our actions throughout the week. How do you live out this mission to yourself and others?

Peace in Christ,

Jeff ■

*Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, and can be reached at [jeff.andrini@pastoral.org](mailto:jeff.andrini@pastoral.org).*



OSV NEWS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ  
A ciborium containing hosts and a flagon of wine are seen during Mass at St. Therese of Lisieux Church in Montauk, N.Y., in a file photo from April 23, 2017.

Coming to your parish or a parish near you!

### ENCOUNTER LOVE

*Encounter Jesus*

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

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

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

# Thanksgiving and the Eucharist

BY DCN. JAY W. VANHOOSIER, OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

The holiday of Thanksgiving holds a special place in the hearts of many Americans. It is a time when families and friends gather together to express gratitude for the blessings they have received throughout the year. However, the connection between Thanksgiving and the Eucharist, which literally means thanksgiving, goes beyond the surface level of expressing gratitude. The Eucharist, as a central sacrament in the Catholic faith, holds a profound significance that can be linked to the essence of Thanksgiving.

At the heart of Thanksgiving lies the act of giving thanks. It is a time when we pause to reflect on the abundance of blessings in our lives and express gratitude to God for His providence. Similarly, the Eucharist is a sacrament of thanksgiving, where Catholics gather to remember and give thanks for the ultimate gift of Jesus Christ. In the Eucharistic celebration, we are invited to participate in the sacrificial offering of Christ's body and blood, which was given for the salvation of humanity. This act of thanksgiving is not merely a symbolic gesture but a profound encounter with the divine.

Just as Thanksgiving is a time of gathering and sharing a meal, the Eucharist is a communal celebration where the faithful come together to partake in the body and blood of Christ. In the Eucharistic meal, we are nourished and united as one body, the Church. This unity mirrors the spirit of Thanksgiving, where families and friends come together to share a meal and strengthen their bonds

of love and gratitude. The Eucharist reminds us that we are not alone in our journey of faith but are part of a larger community, bound together by our shared thanksgiving.

Furthermore, Thanksgiving and the Eucharist both invite us to cultivate a spirit of gratitude in our daily lives. The act of giving thanks on Thanksgiving is not meant to be a one-time event but a reminder to live with a grateful heart throughout the year. Similarly, the Eucharist calls us to live lives of gratitude, recognizing the countless blessings we receive from God each day. It challenges us to be mindful of the presence of Christ in our lives and to respond with gratitude and love.

Moreover, both Thanksgiving and the Eucharist invite us to move beyond a self-centered mindset and to embrace a spirit of selflessness. On Thanksgiving, we often extend our gratitude by reaching out to those in need, sharing our blessings with others. Likewise, the Eucharist calls us to imitate Christ's self-giving love by serving others and being attentive to their needs. It reminds us that true thanksgiving is not just about receiving but also about giving, as we are called to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

The holiday of Thanksgiving and the Eucharist



OSV PHOTO/COURTESY ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT  
A family is pictured praying around the dinner table. In his column, Dcn. Jay W. VanHoosier writes that the Eucharist holds a profound significance that can be linked to the essence of the Thanksgiving holiday.

share a deep connection rooted in the act of thanksgiving. Both invite us to pause, reflect, and express gratitude for the blessings we have received. They remind us of the importance of community, selflessness, and living lives of gratitude. As Catholics, we can find inspiration in the spirit of Thanksgiving and allow it to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist. May we always approach the Eucharist with hearts full of thanksgiving, recognizing the immense gift of Christ's presence in our lives. ■

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





COURTESY OF WINSTEAD FAMILY  
Charles "Charlie" Winstead delivering the mail as a young man.

BY THE OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP,  
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

Charlie Winstead was a quiet, unassuming man who spent thousands of Masses in the back pew of St. Stephen Cathedral. He was an usher there for 54 years. In addition to being an Air Force veteran, he was also known for his many years of delivering mail for the U.S. Postal Service. Last month, Charlie quietly passed away at the age of 87. His pastor at the cathedral, Fr. John Thomas, described Charlie as a "quiet, faithful man. He tried never to bring attention to himself." He often volunteered in the office, and regularly visited the Carmel Home to play cards with the residents.

But Charlie wasn't just a quiet servant while he was alive. He left a legacy of significant generosity at his passing that will continue to powerfully serve the Catholic Church for many more years to come. For years, he would take out a charitable gift annuity (CGA) each year. The gift annuity provided him with a guaranteed income each year, a generous tax

## 'Quiet, faithful' parishioner leaves legacy that will impact local Catholics for years to come

deduction, and now at Charlie's passing, the dollars will support the work of the Catholic Church in his name for many more years to come. The beneficiaries of the fund he established now goes to St. Stephen Cathedral, Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and the Glenmary Home Missioners.

The first gift to the CGA was in 2008, and then annually for the next eight years he purchased another one.

"It's been nearly five years since I sat with Mr. Winstead in his living room," said Kevin Kauffeld, who was chancellor of the Diocese of Owensboro until 2019. "He loved old-time bluegrass music, and

he played it on a stereo that looked like something right out of Antiques Roadshow! Seeing his obituary brought back a lot of memories of a friendship we developed over the years. He loved his cathedral parish family.

"I can see Mr. Winstead riding his bicycle through the streets of Owensboro on his way to a hot card game at the Carmel Home," added Kauffeld. "He loved a game called 'Pedro.' He was a humble man. My life was enriched by the time I spent listening to bluegrass music with him."

And the generosity of Charles Winstead will continue to enrich the work of the Catholic Church for many years to come. ■



### You can earn 6.2% on your gift to The Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky

A 75-year-old donor can receive a guaranteed income for life by contributing to The Catholic Foundation of Western Kentucky with a Charitable Gift Annuity! Rates vary based on age of donor.

For example, if you give a \$25,000 Charitable Gift Annuity to the foundation, your benefits include:

- \$1,550 annual income, which you may donate to your parish or diocese for additional tax credit
- generous charitable tax deductions
- over half the income tax free
- potential reduced estate taxes

You can designate the Diocese of Owensboro or your parish as the beneficiary of your generosity.

For more information, call Valeria Vessels at 270-852-8348 or Tom Lilly at 270-683-1545

## Annual Jubilee of Religious celebrates ‘extraordinary’ choice of sisters

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

The Diocese of Owensboro held its annual “Jubilee of Religious 2023” program on Sept. 30, 2023, to recognize women religious celebrating jubilees. Bishop William F. Medley presided at the event and described it as “a jubilee of gratitude.”

The program took place at St. Martin Parish in Rome, Ky., and was organized by the Steering Committee of the Council of Religious and the Serra Club, along with Mike Bogdan, director of the Office of Music for the diocese, and Deacon Ken Bennett. Attendees included Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Glenmary Sisters, Sisters of the Lamb of God, and sisters from several congregations in Vietnam.

“I see how many of the sisters have served in other countries. That was very common,” Bishop Medley remarked during the program. “Now we call priests from other nations to come here. Who would have thought we would have eight sisters from Vietnam, through the courtesy of the Ursuline Sisters who invited them through Brescia University? The world keeps on changing. What is the same is that God has set his heart on you.

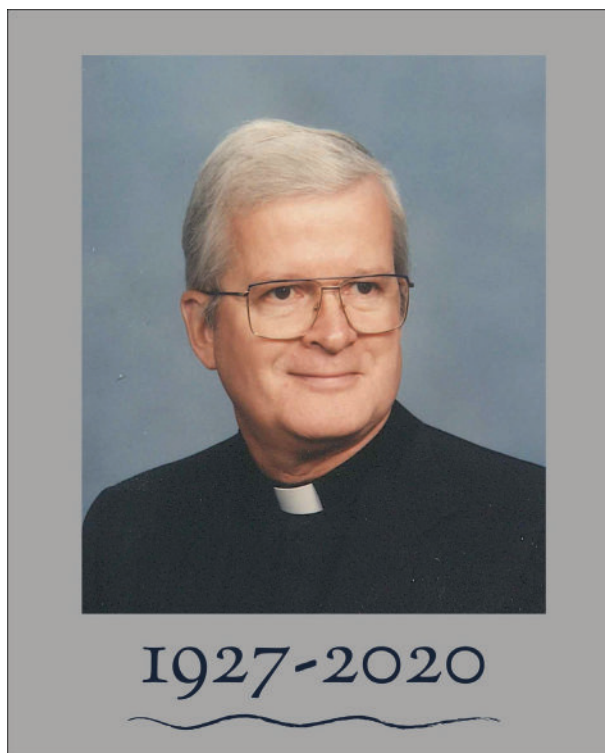
“The words I find most important are, ‘God set his heart on you,’” he said. “Each and every one of you. Each of you had to make a choice to set your heart on the Lord. Your choice is extraordinary.” ■



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH  
Bishop William F. Medley hands Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph Pat Rhoten, a 60-year jubilarian, a certificate of recognition on Sept. 30.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH  
Several Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph help sing during the Sept. 30 Jubilee of Religious program, including the opening hymn, “Christ Be Near at Either Hand.” Front row, left to right: Sister Alicia Coomes, Sister Nancy Liddy, Sister Cecilia Joseph Olinger. Second row, left to right: Sister Elaine Burke, Sister Mary Henning, Sister Susan Mary Mudd.



All are invited to a  
Memorial Mass  
in Celebration of  
the Life of Fr. Joe Mills  
on November 20, 2023  
at 12:05 p.m.  
at St. Stephen Cathedral

*Fr. Joe passed away during the 2020 shutdown, which prevented the general public from being able to attend his funeral. In light of this, Bishop William F. Medley would like to celebrate a memorial Mass for all to attend.*

# St. Teresa Ministries holds Day of Giving in support of World Food Day



**COURTESY OF ST. TERESA MINISTRIES**

Through the profits of St. Teresa Thrift Store, St. Teresa Ministries awarded a combined total of \$86,800 to MEALS Inc., Holy Spirit International Outreach, St. Joseph Food Pantry, and Holy Spirit Food Pantry on Oct. 16.

“St. Teresa Ministries is blessed to be able to give back to our community,” stated Patty Polston, St. Teresa Thrift Store manager. “Announcements such as today, are made possible through the generous support of St. Teresa Thrift Store donors, shoppers, volunteers, employees, and board of directors.”

Through the profits of St. Teresa Thrift Store, St. Teresa Ministries awarded the following organizations a combined total of \$86,800. Holy Spirit Food Pantry received \$26,100 in financial support along with \$5,000 worth of non-perishable food items. St. Joseph Food Pantry received \$43,200 in financial support along with \$5,000 worth of non-perishable

food items. Holy Spirit International Outreach Committee received \$2,000 in financial support toward their refugee and immigrant Christmas assistance program. MEALS, Inc. received \$10,000 in financial support for their Christmas food boxes and meals.

With a nearly 20% increase in food prices over the past two years, support from organizations such as St. Teresa Ministries is vital in the fight against hunger. Today’s recipients, along with many other organizations in South Central Kentucky are anticipating over a 20% increase in the number of individuals and families they will serve in 2023.

*Continues on page 20*

**PRESS RELEASE**

Bowling Green, KY – On Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, in recognition of World Food Day, St. Teresa Ministries awarded four local organizations with funding totaling over \$86,000.

“We recognize that hunger exists in our world; but more importantly we recognize that hunger exists right here in South Central Kentucky,” stated Kelly Wiseman, executive director of St. Teresa Ministries.

With a food insecurity rate of 12.9%, 579,770 people are facing hunger in Kentucky – of those, 154,290 are children. Warren County alone has a food insecurity rate of 11.6%. Each day, 1 in 8 Kentuckians face hunger (1 in 7 children).

## The Ursuline Sisters’ online Quilt Sale is here!



The quilts are made by Ursuline Sisters, Associates and friends.

Starts November 6, 2023

**You don’t want to miss it!**  
*Get an early start on your Christmas shopping!*

**You can find the quilts online at**  
[www.ursulinesmsj.org/online-quilt-sale](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org/online-quilt-sale)

Many quilts are for sale in a range of sizes, including baby quilts. All are unique. The sizes and prices are included in the captions. We also have handmade shawls available for purchase.




*Proceeds provide funding for the Ursuline Sisters to continue their ministries focusing on education and Christian formation.*

To order a quilt, contact Carol Braden-Clarke: 270-229-2008  
carol.braden-clark@maplemount.org



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

**St. Teresa continued from page 19**

“We are grateful for these organizations and honored to partner with them to further our mission by funding efforts to provide food, basic necessities, and emergency services to those in need,” commented Wiseman. “We are proud to be able to give to those who work tirelessly to fight hunger in South Central Kentucky.” ■

To learn more, contact Kelly Wiseman at (270) 791-5100 or [st.teresa.wiseman@gmail.com](mailto:st.teresa.wiseman@gmail.com), or visit [stteresaministries.org](http://stteresaministries.org).

## Radiating joy: School, parish communities, celebrate beloved religious sister



COURTESY OF MARY CARRICO CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU, smiles in front of a sign made in her honor, which reads “Happy 60th Jubilee Sister!! We Love You!!” on Sept. 27, 2023.

BY LAURA CECIL, SPECIAL TO THE  
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner, OSU, is known for her smile with everyone she encounters. However, if you are honored enough to be in her presence for any given time, you will soon feel a great sense of joy that she radiates consistently. Her love for Jesus Christ radiates a joy felt by all.

Students from Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville, Ky., celebrated that joy with her on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023 with a surprise 60th jubilee celebration. At the school Mass, Fr. Shijo Vadakkumkara, pastor of St. William and St. Lawrence Parishes, presented

Sr. Mary Celine with a crystal cross with an engraving that recognized her 60 years of service as an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph and for her 17 years with the Daviess County parishes and Mary Carrico Catholic School.

After Mass, guests and students attended a reception to further the celebration of Sr. Mary Celine. The students created a song for Sr. Mary Celine titled, “Thank You, Sister!” Even more special was that the music teacher at Mary Carrico, Marianna Romero, had Sr. Mary Celine as her teacher at St. Alphonsus School. She spoke of how much she loved having Sr. Mary Celine as a teacher and her siblings having her as a principal.

Sr. Mary Celine has worked for the Diocese of Owensboro for 53 years serving as a teacher and principal. Another one of her former students, Daviess County Judge Executive Charlie Castlen, made a special proclamation in her honor. Sr. Mary Celine was his teacher at St. Peter of Alcantara Parish in Stanley, Ky., and he remembered her kindness and joy. His proclamation made it Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner Day in Daviess County on Sept. 27, 2023, and County Commissioner Larry Conder read and presented it to her at the reception.

Katie Ford, a student in Sr. Mary Celine’s first class at Mary Carrico, is now a colleague with Sr. Mary Celine. Katie notes, “I have had the pleasure of being Sister’s student as a young eighth grader, and now her coworker for the last five years. She has had such an impact on

me and the school as a whole. She keeps the spirit of Christ alive. Her loving, caring spirit is something that will always stay with her students. She truly has the heart of a servant. We are so blessed to have her as a part of our community!”

If you visit Sr. Mary Celine, you will see her shirt that reflects her JOY – Jesus, Others, Yourself. She truly has reflected that for 60 years, and anyone who meets her will feel that joy for Jesus! ■

*Laura Cecil is the principal of Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville, Ky.*



COURTESY OF MARY CARRICO CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
Fr. Shijo Vadakkumkara, pastor of St. William and St. Lawrence Parishes in Daviess County, recognizes Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner’s 60 years as an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph and her 17 years with the parishes and Mary Carrico Catholic School, on Sept. 27, 2023.

## Sorgho parish learns how to prepare in case of emergency

BY LAVIDA MISCHEL, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Aware that September was designated as “Disaster Preparedness Month,” and realizing the devastation a tornado can leave us, as happened in Mayfield and Dawson Springs in December 2021, parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho took advantage of the opportunity to prepare.

On Sept. 27, parishioners gathered with Scott Ingram, the director of case management with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro. Ingram provided the parishioners with valuable information regarding natural disasters including tornados and earthquakes. The evening primarily focused on the utilization of St. Mary Magdalene’s parish hall and its parishioners as a ‘point of distribution’ (P.O.D.), in the case of an emergency.

On Sept. 21, parishioners gathered with Maj. Gen. Allen Youngman (retired), an expert in the field of security on every level. Maj. Gen. Youngman provided training in the case of an active shooter. He also provided statistics and case studies, stating that though the event is very unlikely, the importance of being prepared cannot be overstated.

*Editor’s note: Parishes interested in having a disaster preparedness training may contact Scott Ingram at [scott.ingram@pastoral.org](mailto:scott.ingram@pastoral.org).* ■

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

## 150 years of St. Joseph in Leitchfield



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Bishop William F. Medley, concelebrating priests, and assisting permanent deacons smile for a photo with the crowd filling St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield.

BY WKC STAFF

On Sept. 17, St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield held a 4 p.m. Mass in celebration of the parish’s 150th anniversary. Bishop William F. Medley attended and presided at the Mass, which was attended by a filled-to-capacity congregation. In addition to current pastor, Fr. Sinoj Pyndath, several permanent deacons assisted and several former pastors concelebrated at the liturgy, which was followed by a meal and celebration in the parish hall. ■



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

People enjoy a meal in the parish hall following the Sept. 17 Mass at St. Joseph Parish in Leitchfield, in honor of the parish’s 150th anniversary.



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Women look at the multi-panel photo gallery of St. Joseph Parish’s 150 years of community and faith.

# November Wedding Anniversaries

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

### **Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

David & Jerri Rudd, 61  
Donald & Lucy Hare, 68  
Gene & Linda Howard, 59  
Henry & Bernadette Hayden, 59  
James & Monica Payne, 53  
Joseph & Beverly Carrico, 54  
Randall & Ruthie Payne, 56  
Thomas & Kelly Howard, 40  
Van & Shirley Brown, 50

### **Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro**

Philip & Joyce Moorman, 66

### **Christ the King, Scottsville**

Leroy & Jean Jansen, 54

### **Holy Cross, Providence**

Claude & Sherry Melton, 59

### **Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington**

Alvin & Loretta Heck, 72

### **Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson**

Billy & Sandy Haynes, 62  
Cory & Kara Doucet, 5  
David & Kathleen Brauer, 53  
Gary & Brenda Crawford, 54  
Larry & Jane Denton, 64  
Michael & Tammylynn Alsup, 10  
Mike & Debbie Willett, 40  
Neal & Patricia Sigler, 51  
Ralph & Jeannine O'Nan, 65  
Steve & Debby Hayden, 51  
Steve & Pam Austin, 57  
William & Pam Crawford, 57

### **Holy Spirit, Bowling Green**

Bernard & Lois Schwitzgebel, 64  
David & Marie Brennan, 40  
Don & Judy Dobernic, 58  
John & Linda Meyer, 59  
Joseph & Denise Deacon, 52  
Lamar & Lora Thompson, 40  
Paul & Christina Blissenbach, 40  
Randy & Jean Thompson, 62  
Robert & Gayle Cron, 54  
Timothy & Martha Vogel, 55  
Wesley & Gail Simone, 55

### **Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

Mike & Sheila Ogle, 58

### **Immaculate, Owensboro**

Ben & Mickey & Brewer, 55  
Bill & Martha Mills, 62  
Donnie & Carrie Munsey, 25  
Joe & JoAnne Mason, 56  
John & Becky Neal, 51  
Larry & Becky Horsman, 50

Larry & Jean Sims, 55  
Link & Marsha Bell, 52  
Michael & Hannah McCarthy, 5  
PJ & Sarah Hayden, 57

### **Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**

Donald & Janice Crask, 56  
Estil & Dianne Woodward, 60  
Gene & Shirley Zoglman, 63  
Nathaniel & Amanda Hirtz, 10  
Roy & Virginia Stevens, 52  
Stephen & Patty Johnson, 59  
William & Katelyn Weaver, 5

### **Precious Blood, Owensboro**

Larry & Linda Jollay, 56  
Larry & Paulette Boswell, 53  
Mike & Vicki Howard, 54  
Sherman & Dolores Roberts, 60  
William & Shelby Martin, 56

### **Resurrection, Dawson Springs**

Jimmie & Patricia Solomon, 55

### **Sacred Heart, Hickman**

David & Sandra Lattus, 56

### **Sacred Heart, Russellville**

Kenneth & Karen Brown, 54

### **St. Agnes, Uniontown**

David & Beverly Clements, 52  
Kimball & Fay Alvey, 54  
Larry & Connie Turner, 51  
Larry & Nancy Hancock, 50  
Ross & Jane Thomas, 64

### **St. Ann, Morganfield**

Eddie & Mary Jo Steward, 58  
Gary & Cathy Welden, 55  
Mike & Brenda Thomas, 54

### **St. Anthony, Axtel**

Ken & Nori Baurle, 58

### **St. Anthony, Browns Valley**

Gerald & Pat Payne, 25  
Robert & Marie Mattingly, 58  
Wes & Laura Allison, 40

### **St. Augustine, Grayson Springs**

John & Sue Mudd, 60

### **St. Augustine, Reed**

Billy Joe & Philomena Bollinger, 62

### **St. Charles, Bardwell**

Dan & Janie Thomas, 57  
Darryl & Angela Burgess, 55  
Walter & Ethel O'Neill, 59  
Wayne & Diane Wilson, 53

### **St. Charles, Livermore**

James & Margie Logsdon, 60

### **St. Denis, Fancy Farm**

Ray & Sue Potts, 53

### **St. Edward, Fulton**

Bill & Jean Fenwick, 71

### **St. Francis de Sales, Paducah**

Harry & Jane Junkerman, 50  
Irvin & Jean Langston, 51

### **St. Jerome, Fancy Farm**

Charles & Mary Ann Thomas, 65  
Edward & Lyndia Elder, 60  
Hardy & Joyce Hayden, 54  
Jerry & Linda Hari, 51  
Joe & Wanda Mathys, 61  
Johnny & Diane Redden, 40  
Jose & Stephanie Ceballos, 10  
Kenneth & Celesta Kilcoyne, 40  
Larry & Nancy Cates, 40  
Philip & Teresa Hobbs, 51  
Raymond & Rosie Hayden, 51  
Rick & Marie Woodrum, 40  
Tommy & Nancy Ballard, 55

### **St. John the Baptist, Fordsville**

Leo & Jo Ann Kauffeld, 53

### **St. John the Evangelist, Paducah**

Bennie & Doris Durbin, 73  
Francis & Dorothy Scheer, 69  
Marvin & Marie Willett, 55

### **St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish**

Bill & Cathy Canty, 52

### **St. Joseph, Bowling Green**

Stan & Cody Young, 61

### **St. Joseph, Leitchfield**

Alton & Sheila Cannon, 50  
Joseph & Ashley Lengerich, 10

### **St. Joseph, Mayfield**

Fred & Nancy Lancaster, 54  
Howard & Rita Darnell, 60

### **St. Leo, Murray**

Allen & Brandi Besand, 5  
David & Margaret Perez, 57  
John & Joan Mullins, 52  
Mark & Jackie Kennedy, 54

### **St. Martin, Rome**

Bobby & Mary Reisz, 51  
Larry & Phyllis Henderson, 55  
Wayne & Betty Hamilton, 58

### **St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho**

Andrew & Ashley Spalding, 10  
Clayton & Karen Gilbert, 40  
Jim & Martha Kamuf, 60  
Matthew & Emily Cissell, 10

### **St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady**

Gary & Patty Carwile, 54

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

Barry & Cyndi Isbill, 40  
Dan & Jordan Hall, 10  
Dennis & Barb Evans, 51  
Dub & Evelyn Millay, 69  
Gary & Sylvia Howard, 54  
JW & Mary Morris, 71  
Pat & Doris Waldeck, 52  
Robert & Diane Higdon, 52  
Tony & Sandra Johnson, 61

### **St. Mary, Franklin**

Harry & Mae King, 60

### **St. Mary, LaCenter**

Brandy & Jennifer O'Neill, 25  
Kenny & Norma Anselm, 54  
Pat & Joan Hutchins, 56

### **St. Michael, Sebree**

Artemio & Maria Gabriela Barco, 63  
Jesus & Hermila Espinoza, 10

### **St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley**

Hugh & Betty Cecil, 71

### **St. Peter of Antioch, Waverly**

Denny & Gayle Hancock, 50  
Jason & Sherri Greenwell, 40

### **St. Pius X, Calvert City**

David & Vicki Spencer, 55  
James & Shirley Poat, 57  
Jerry & Gayle Seay, 70

### **St. Pius X, Owensboro**

Dennis & Charlotte Gatton, 64  
Don & Linda Logsdon, 54  
Gary & Beverly Estes, 53  
George & Geraldine Keller, 59  
Michael & Nancy Ferguson, 55  
Paul & Judy Brown, 53  
Sar Kol Htoo & Rosemary Paw, 5

### **St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**

Freddy & Mari Townshend, 53  
George & Nancy Walz, 58  
James & Sheila Sills, 50  
Jim & Gail Pollock, 53  
Paul & Debbie Flood, 52

### **St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro**

Dennis & Beverly Cecil, 50

*Continues on page 23*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Anniversaries continued from page 22

Harry & Charlene Baumgarten, 67  
Tom & Amy Payne, 40

**St. Stephen, Cadiz**

Joe & Janie Anderson, 58

**St. Thomas More, Paducah**

Blake & Allison Ainsworth, 5  
Galen & Nicole Stegman, 50  
Gene and Marianne Roof, 40  
Jim & Sharon Godec, 61  
John & Camille Warden, 53  
John & Mary Ann Graves, 54  
McCoy & Lauren Kemmerlin, 5  
Mike & Yvonne Bosch, 57

**St. William, Knottsville**

Huck & Barbara Huskisson, 56  
James Allen & Karissa Morris, 10  
Thomas & Stella Boehman, 59

**Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Eric & Jessica Conder, 10  
James & Joyce Logsdon, 57  
Javier & Liliana Guadarrama, 10  
Kelly & Becky Ward, 51  
Thomas & Terri Carrico, 40

**Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

Hector & Ana Medina, 10  
John & Margie Cook, 57  
Mark & Maggie Jorgensen, 10  
Ronny & Darlene Fuller, 59 ■

### 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.

## NOVEMBER 2023 BULLETIN BOARD

**Post-abortion healing retreat**

Come join us for a weekend of emotional healing and spiritual renewal. Rachel's Vineyard offers post-abortion healing retreats for women and men who are suffering from the lingering effects of abortion. Next retreat is Nov. 3-5, 2023. Location near Owensboro, KY. Rita: (270) 474-4707 or [retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com](mailto:retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com). Learn more at <http://hopeafterabortionky.com>.

**Brescia fall/winter/Christmas concert Nov. 29**

Brescia University's band and choir will have its annual concert for fall/winter/Christmas on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. in Taylor Lecture Hall on campus. Free and open to the public. For more info, contact Brett C. Ballard, assistant professor of music, at [brett.ballard@brescia.edu](mailto:brett.ballard@brescia.edu).

**Are you an alum of "Music at Maple Mount"?**

The first Greater Owensboro Music Camp — which most everyone eventually called Music at Maple Mount — began in 1975. In June 2024, we will celebrate the 50th year since that first camp by inviting everyone who participated to a reunion weekend. This reunion is part of the celebration year recognizing 150 years since the Ursuline Sisters arrived in what is now known as Maple Mount. The reunion will occur the second weekend of June, but the exact dates are awaiting the input of our camp alumni. Would you prefer a welcome back reception on Friday, June 7, activities on June 8 and a final concert on Sunday afternoon, June 9? Or would you prefer starting on Thursday, June 6, and having the final concert on Saturday night, June 8? The sooner you let us know, the sooner we will set those dates. Please take a few moments to complete the questionnaire and then join us in June 2024 for more Music at Maple Mount! You can find the survey near the bottom of this web page: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/music-at-maple-mountain-reunion/> The questionnaire is also our way of catching up with where life has taken you since you were a Music Camper.

**Join Ursuline Sisters for Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays**

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have revised their Eucharistic Adoration schedule. They invite the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Motherhouse Chapel in Maple Mount, Ky. (12 miles west of

Owensboro on Hwy. 56). Adoration on the second Friday of each month is dedicated to praying for vocations. The Adoration concludes with evening prayer.

**Need a meeting space? Maple Hall is available at Mount Saint Joseph**

Need a meeting space for up to 200 people? Maple Hall (formerly known as Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium/Gym) is available for rent. It is located on the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph campus, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky., 12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56, across from the park. Maple Hall is an open space with a kitchen equipped for catering. It's perfect for hosting receptions, parties, reunions, etc. 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). The use of 8-foot tables and chairs is included in the rental fee (user is responsible for setup, or this can be done for you for an additional fee). To reserve Maple Hall, contact the Mount Saint Joseph Finance Office by email: [ap@maplemount.org](mailto:ap@maplemount.org) or call the switchboard at 270-229-4103 and ask to speak to the Finance Office. 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-maple-hall/>

**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/>.

**A Scout is Reverent**

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

# God's Acre: One of our most holy places

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

The archives gets a lot of questions about cemeteries. Most of the questions are for genealogical purposes. However, cemeteries have much more to tell us than just who is buried there. They are like libraries, holding countless stories. More than that, the cemetery itself has a story to tell. Of all our Catholic cemeteries, my favorite is without a doubt God's Acre. Unless you know quite a bit of local Catholic trivia, you may have never heard of God's Acre. God's Acre is the name of Mount Saint Joseph's cemetery. With this article we will delve into archival records and learn about a few of the stories it can tell.

With God's Acre being a convent cemetery, many would assume that only Sisters are buried there. That, however, is not the case. Most of the people laid to rest in the cemetery are of course Sisters but there are also priests and even one of our bishops, Bishop John J. McRaith. Perhaps even more surprising is that there are a few laypeople buried in the holy ground.

One of the most interesting details about the cemetery is who was the first person buried there. Lena Houser was the daughter of Dr. John Houser, the editor of Louisville's German-Catholic newspaper, the *Katholischer Glaubensbote*. At the age of two, Lena was orphaned and left in the care of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville. She received her education at Mount Saint Joseph. Dying almost 10 years later, in 1901, she received the honor of being the first person buried in the new cemetery on the Mount's grounds. So, not a Sister but an alumna

was the first person to be buried at the Mount.

There are countless holy individuals buried in the cemetery but perhaps the saddest tale is the one that isn't. A stone stands in the cemetery for Sr. George Marie Morgan, OSU, but her body does not rest in the loving embrace of Kentucky soil. At 22, Sr. George Marie was sent to teach with the Mount Saint Joseph Ursulines in New Mexico, with the hope that the dry air would help with her tuberculosis. Sadly, she passed away at the young age of 25. She was buried in Waterflow, N.M. Though the MSJ Ursulines, including her sister, Sr. Rose Alice Morgan OSU, made several attempts to have her body transported to Kentucky to be laid to rest in God's Acre, those requests were denied. Her remains are still in New Mexico. Only three other MSJ Ursulines are not buried in God's Acre; two at another Ursuline convent, and one with family, all by request. I am sure that one day Sr. George Marie will find her way back home.

November is a month when we as Catholics are to pray even more intently for the deceased. There are few better places in the diocese to pray a rosary for those who have died than God's Acre, surrounded by our very own saints. There may be no better diocesan pilgrimage; let Fr. Paul Volk (founder of the Mount), Mother Aloysius Willett (first Mother Superior of the Mount), Bishop McRaith, and all the holy Ursulines lift your prayers to Heaven. ■

*Edward Wilson is the director of the Diocese of Owensboro's Archives and the Archives of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Comments and questions may be sent to [edward.wilson@pastoral.org](mailto:edward.wilson@pastoral.org).*



COURTESY OF MSJ ARCHIVES

Sr. George Marie Morgan, OSU, who died in New Mexico at the age of 25. Buried in New Mexico, her remains have yet to be returned to rest in God's Acre, the cemetery of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

*Note: For information on these and more stories of God's Acre, see "Hope and Firm Faith: The Story of the Ursulines of Mount Saint Joseph" by Dan Heckel and "A Souvenir of Mount St. Joseph's Ursuline Academy."*



## Mass counts indicate 4.09% under pre-pandemic numbers, but moving forward

BY DCN. KEN BENNETT, OFFICE OF WORSHIP

This past September, the Office of Worship requested the annual Mass counts from the 78 parishes in the Diocese of Owensboro.

Below is a summary of the 2023 Mass counts data:

Number of registered parishioners - 49,336

Weekly average of Mass attendance - 23,434.75

2023 percent average - 47.5%

2022 percent average - 44.6%

Increase from prior year - 2.90%

For comparison, below is a summary of the 2019 Mass counts data, which was the last year before the COVID-19 pandemic began:

Number of registered parishioners (2019) - 50,435

Weekly average of Mass attendance (2019) - 26,019

2019 percent average - 51.59%

We are 4.09% under pre-pandemic percentages, but we are moving in the right direction. ■

For more information about the parish Mass counts process, contact Dcn. Ken Bennett, co-coordinator of the Office of Worship, at [ken.bennett@pastoral.org](mailto:ken.bennett@pastoral.org).

Parish	City	Registered	Weekly Average	2023 Mass Attendance	2022 Mass Attendance
Blessed Mother	Owensboro	2040	806.25	0.395	0.381
Blessed Sacrament	Owensboro	102	63.5	0.63	0.62
Christ the King	Madisonville	694	311.25	0.45	0.42
Christ the King	Scottsville	188	73.5	0.391	0.45
Holy Cross	Providence	15	13	0.86	0.55
Holy Guardian Angels	Irvington	174	144	0.83	0.7
Holy Name of Jesus	Henderson	3240	955.5	0.295	0.26
Holy Redeemer	Beaver Dam	82	283.25	0.345	1.33
Holy Spirit	Bowling Green	4272	1376	0.32	0.266
Holy Trinity	Morgantown	43	141.25	0.328	2.58
Immaculate	Owensboro	1752	710	0.41	0.42
Immaculate Conception	Earlington	93	167	1.79	1.3
Immaculate Conception	Hawesville	386	180	0.47	0.42
Our Lady of Lourdes	Owensboro	1575	634	0.4025	0.388
Precious Blood	Owensboro	872	387	0.44	0.4
Resurrection	Dawson Springs	70	54	0.77	0.51
Rosary Chapel	Paducah	140	67	0.4786	0.45
Sacred Heart	Hickman	31	33.75	1.08	0.65
Sacred Heart	Russellville	532	161.5	0.3	0.3
Sacred Heart	Waverly	158	96	0.61	0.56
Saint Agnes	Uniontown	590	283.5	0.48	0.443
Saint Alphonsus	Saint Joseph	435	190.5	0.4413	0.39
Saint Ambrose	Henshaw	76	37.25	0.49	0.4707
Saint Ann	Morganfield	665	341	0.51	0.57
Saint Anthony	Axtel	371	293	0.79	0.77
Saint Anthony	Browns Valley	350	168	0.48	0.502
Saint Anthony	Peonia	154	79	0.51	0.458
Saint Anthony of Padua	Grand Rivers	80	125	1.56	1.3
Saint Augustine	Grayson Springs	82	64	0.78	0.414
Saint Augustine	Reed	93	70.25	0.76	0.62
Saint Benedict	Wax	125	89	0.71	0.402
Saint Charles	Bardwell	95	65.5	0.69	0.65
Saint Charles Borromeo	Livermore	81	45.75	0.56	0.57
Saint Columba	Lewisport	223	81	0.36	0.33
Saint Denis	Fancy Farm	93	57.75	0.62	0.62
Saint Edward	Fulton	35	71	2.03	0.56
Saint Elizabeth	Curdsville	58	75	1.29	0.693
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary	Clarkson	144	100	0.69	0.72
Saint Francis Borgia	Sturgis	170	97.75	0.575	0.6
Saint Francis de Sales	Paducah	864	452	0.52	0.55

Continues on page 26

# WORSHIP

Mass counts continued from page 25

Parish	City	Registered	Weekly Average	2023 Mass Attendance	2022 Mass Attendance
Saint Francis of Assisi	Todd County	318	352	1.1	0.9
Saint Henry	Aurora	154	113	0.73	0.879
Saint Jerome	Fancy Farm	1275	650	0.51	0.48
Saint John The Baptist	Fordsville	35	32.75	0.936	0.936
Saint John the Evangelist	Paducah	478	253	0.53	0.47
Saint John the Evangelist	Sunfish	100	36	0.36	0.33
Saint Joseph	Bowling Green	3759	1158	0.31	0.31
Saint Joseph	Central City	174	86	0.69	0.549
Saint Joseph	Leitchfield	636	257	0.41	0.4
Saint Joseph	Mayfield	1293	703	0.54	0.47
Saints Joseph & Paul	Owensboro	1419	902	0.636	0.634
Saint Jude	Clinton	35	17.5	0.5	0.3542
Saint Lawrence	St. Lawrence	367	143.25	0.39	0.42
Saint Leo	Murray	1423	600	0.42	0.56
Saint Mark	Eddyville	106	117	1.1	1.11
Saint Martin	Rome	605	454	0.7504	0.9
Saint Mary	Franklin	507	202.5	0.399	0.451
Saint Mary	LaCenter	170	48.75	0.287	0.326
Saint Mary Magdalene	Sorgho	533	305	0.57	0.5
Saint Mary of the Woods	McQuady	134	149	1.11	0.99
Saint Mary of the Woods	Whitesville	2324	2027	0.87	0.84
Saint Michael	Sebree	324	277	0.856	0.696
Saint Michael the Archangel	Oak Grove	706	250	0.35	0.38
Saint Paul	Princeton	95	73	0.76	0.64
Saint Paul	St. Paul	336	220	0.65	0.64
Saint Peter of Alcantara	Stanley	253	148.5	0.59	0.58
Saint Peter of Antioch	Waverly	477	237	0.5	0.44
Saints Peter & Paul	Hopkinsville	1338	610	0.46	0.45
Saint Pius X	Calvert City	300	217	0.72	0.59
Saint Pius X	Owensboro	1162	523.5	0.45	0.25
Saint Romuald	Hardinsburg	1286	640	0.5	0.41
Saint Rose of Lima	Cloverport	173	129	0.75	0.59
Saint Sebastian	Calhoun	205	106.75	0.52	0.69
Saint Stephen	Cadiz	282	157	0.56	0.58
Saint Stephen Cathedral	Owensboro	1450	491.25	0.34	0.34
Saint Thomas More	Paducah	2385	815	0.3418	0.3147
Saint William	Knottsville	1416	445.5	0.31	0.38
Saint William of Vercelli	Marion	60	43.5	0.725	0.97
Totals		49336	23434.75	0.475	0.446

**You're invited...**



**Registration is now open  
for the 10th National  
Eucharistic Congress in  
the United States!**

**WHEN**

July 17-21, 2024

**WHERE**

Lucas Oil Stadium  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**WHO**

80,000+ Catholics!

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[eucharisticcongress.org](http://eucharisticcongress.org)



CNS PHOTO/LOLA GOMEZ

Pope Francis shares a moment of silence with members of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the end of a prayer for migrants and refugees in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 19, 2023. The service took place around "Angels Unawares," a sculpture by Canadian Timothy Schmalz, depicting a boat with 140 figures of migrants from various historical periods and various nations.

## At synod prayer service, pope calls for immigration reform with a heart

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Taking to heart the lesson of the parable of the good Samaritan is the key to assisting the millions of migrants and refugees forced to travel far from their homelands and often exploited along the way, Pope Francis said. "The road leading from Jerusalem to Jericho was not a safe route, just as today the many migration routes that traverse deserts, forests, rivers and seas are not safe," the pope said Oct. 19 as he led members of the synod on synodality in praying for migrants and refugees. "How many of our brothers and sisters find themselves today in the same condition as the traveler in the parable?" the pope asked. "How many are robbed, stripped and beaten along the way?" The evening prayer service took place around "Angels Unawares," a sculpture by Canadian Timothy Schmalz, that has stood in St. Peter's Square since 2019. The bronze boat is filled with 140 figures depicting migrants from various historical periods and various nations. ■

## U.S. bishops encourage commemoration of World Day of the Poor through giving to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development

FROM USCCB OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON - On the weekend of Nov. 18-19, Catholics across the United States are asked to respond to Pope Francis' World Day of the Poor by giving to the U.S. bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). This special annual collection supports the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty and social justice program established a half-century ago and assists poor and marginalized populations in communities across the United States. Pope Francis, in his message for the World Day of the Poor 2023, wrote, "Caring for the poor is more than simply a matter of a hasty hand-out; it calls for re-establishing the just interpersonal relationships that poverty harms." Twenty-five percent of all money given to the collection stays in the diocese where it is given, to fund local anti-poverty initiatives. In the 2021-2022 grant cycle, CCHD distributed 224 grants totaling more than \$15.4 million. ■



CNS PHOTO/TYLER ORSBURN

People who are homeless line up for a hot meal outside Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington Dec. 16, 2020. The annual special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development will be taken during Masses the weekend of Nov. 18-19 at most U.S. parishes. CCHD is the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, and the collection coincides with the annual World Day of the Poor Nov. 19.

# Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

## Visita pastoral del Obispo Medley a Nigeria

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Durante los últimos años, el Obispo Medley se ha propuesto viajar a los países de origen de los sacerdotes internacionales que sirven en la Diócesis de Owensboro para expresar su gratitud a sus familias, sus comunidades y sus obispos y superiores. Sus viajes han incluido México, Guatemala, Myanmar, India y, más recientemente, Nigeria.

El Obispo Medley y el P. Jerry Riney aterrizaron en Abuja, Nigeria, temprano en la mañana (4:30 a.m., hora de Abuja) del 11 de octubre de 2023. Mientras estuvieron allí, visitaron el seminario mayor de los Misioneros de San Pablo, una comunidad religiosa de Nigeria. El Obispo Medley viajó a varias ciudades importantes para realizar visitas pastorales, celebró varias Misas de tres horas de duración y las ordenaciones de varios diáconos de transición, visitando también a las familias del P. Emmanuel Udoh y el P. Uwem Enoh. También visitó a las Hermanas Franciscanas de la Inmaculada Concepción, varias de las cuales sirven en la Diócesis de Owensboro. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL OBISPO MEDLEY  
El Obispo William F. Medley se toma una foto con la familia del P. Emmanuel Udoh durante su visita pastoral a Nigeria. Arriba de ellos hay una foto del Jefe Cyril Udoh, el padre del P. Emmanuel Udoh. El Jefe Cyril murió en el verano de 2021.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JERRY RINEY  
Después de la Misa durante su visita pastoral a Nigeria, el Obispo William F. Medley saluda a los niños de la comunidad.

### CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY NOVIEMBRE DE 2023

1 DE NOV.	12:05 p.m.   Misa para la Solemnidad de Todos los Santos – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
4 DE NOV.	11:30 a.m.   Misa y almuerzo para el Mes de la Historia Católica Negra – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
6 DE NOV.	10:30 a.m.   Misa – Escuela Preparatoria Católica de Owensboro
7 DE NOV.	9:30 a.m.   Misa – Escuela Primaria Santa María, Paducah
8 DE NOV.	8:30 a.m.   Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith 5 p.m. (hora del Este)   Confirmación – Santos Ángeles Guardianes,
9 DE NOV.	10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.   Día Presbiteral – Centro Católico McRaith
11 DE NOV.	7 p.m.   Cena y subasta de las Escuelas Católicas de Owensboro
12-16 DE NOV.	Reunión de la USCCB - Baltimore
17-18 DE NOV.	NCYC – Indianápolis
20 DE NOV.	10 a.m.   Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro 12:05 p.m.   Misa en memoria del P. Joe Mills - Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro 1:30 p.m.   Reunión del Consejo Sacerdotal – Centro Católico McRaith

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CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY NOVIEMBRE DE 2023	
21 DE NOV.	10 a.m.   Reunión de la Conferencia Católica de Kentucky – Louisville
22 DE NOV.	10 a.m.   Reunión del personal del Centro Católico McRaith
23 DE NOV.	8 a.m.   Confirmación – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
28-29 DE NOV.	Reunión de Obispos de la Provincia – Knoxville Morganfield
30 DE NOV.	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.   Encuentro para el Avivamiento Eucarístico – Centro de Convenciones de Owensboro



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JERRY RINEY

El 12 de octubre de 2023, el Obispo William F. Medley sonríe para una fotografía con algunos de los 107 seminaristas y miembros del cuerpo docente del seminario mayor de los Misioneros de San Pablo, después de la oración matutina y la Misa.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JERRY RINEY

El Obispo William F. Medley y el P. Jerry Riney se toman una foto con el P. Uwem Enoch y sus padres durante la visita pastoral del Obispo Medley a Nigeria.



COURTESY OF BISHOP MEDLEY

(Foto de arriba) El Obispo William F. Medley y el P. Jerry Riney con varias Hermanas Franciscanas de la Inmaculada Concepción



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JERRY RINEY

(Foto inferior izquierda) El P. Raymond Aina, MSP, rector del seminario mayor de los Misioneros de San Pablo, camina con el Obispo William F. Medley y el P. Jerry Riney mientras los dos visitan el seminario el 12 de octubre de 2023.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. JERRY RINEY

(De izquierda a derecha) Namso Enoch, P. Jerry Riney, P. Emmanuel Udoh y el P. Uwem Enoch cenan juntos. Namso Enoch es el hermano del P. Uwem Enoch.

## Haciendo posible un ministerio hispano/latino vibrante y ejemplar

Muy estimados hermanos y hermanas

Recientemente tuve la oportunidad de viajar a Houston Texas y tomar parte en una conferencia nacional católica sobre Ministerio Hispano/Latino en los Estados Unidos. En especial aquellos que laboramos como personal de las diócesis de alrededor de todo el país nos reunimos. También participaron más o menos 10 obispos hispanos, bastantes sacerdotes, algunos diáconos, religiosas y bastantes líderes laicos. Fue una bendición el poder juntos apreciar la memoria histórica de décadas del Ministerio Hispano/Latino en los Estados Unidos. Tanto crecimiento, avances y logros a celebrar, pero también obviamente retos y dificultades de a través de los años y el presente. Una de las razones principales fue también el estudio, y planeación para la implementación del nuevo Plan Pastoral Nacional para el Ministerio Hispano/Latino en los Estados Unidos. Fruto de un trabajo y proceso nacional de muchos años incluyendo varios Encuentros sobre todo el V Encuentro Nacional y a pesar de obstáculos y dificultades como fue la etapa del COVID.

Y no es hasta cuando una viaja y escucha de otros lugares, de otras diócesis del país que uno se siente y se sabe realmente bendecido. Yo me siento enormemente bendecido por una comunidad Hispana/latina aquí en nuestra amada diócesis de Owensboro en el occidente de Kentucky. ¡Gracias! a cada uno de ustedes y sus familias por hacer posible no solo un Ministerio Hispano/Latino vibrante y ejemplar en sus propias parro-

quias, pero también por siempre responder como diócesis. ¡Gracias! a nuestros líderes laicos, nuestros voluntarios, nuestros sacerdotes, diáconos y religiosas. Todos los católicos que vivimos y peregrinamos en este territorio de nuestra amada diócesis de Owensboro agradecemos a Dios abundantes bendiciones.

Y que Dios y nuestra Señora de Guadalupe los bendiga y proteja a cada uno de ustedes y sus familias. ■

*-Dcn. Cristóbal Gutierrez*



POR CORTESÍA DE DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ  
El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez proclamando el Evangelio durante la Misa de clausura en la conferencia de (NCADDHM) la Asociación Nacional Católica de Directores Diocesano de Ministerio Hispano/Latino en Houston TX. 13 de octubre, 2023.



POR CORTESÍA DE DIÁCONO CRISTÓBAL GUTIÉRREZ  
Panel dirigido por el Padre Alejandro Cardinale de la arquidiócesis de Boston. Una conversación con líderes del Ministerio Hispano de alrededor del país sobre los varios retos, pero también oportunidades respecto al Ministerio Hispano/Latino

# Pequeñas comunidades de Hechos 2,42 se reúnen en toda la diócesis

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Las pequeñas comunidades de Hechos 2, 42 son parte de una Iniciativa de la Diócesis de Owensboro del Avivamiento Eucarístico para fomentar la formación en la fe de los adultos en torno a la Eucaristía y compartir la fe en pequeñas comunidades en las 78 parroquias de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Muchas parroquias con ministerio hispano han organizado pequeñas comunidades de habla hispana, que se reúnen para ver reflexiones en video en español, grabadas por ministros hispanos de toda la diócesis. Para obtener más información sobre cómo participar en una pequeña comunidad de habla hispana, comuníquese con el Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez en [chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org](mailto:chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org) o 270-880-8018. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA SAN JOSÉ  
Miembros de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green se juntan en la casa de un parroquiano para la reunión de una pequeña comunidad de Hechos 2,42 el 20 de septiembre de 2023.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE LA PARROQUIA TOMÁS MORO  
Miembros de la Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro se juntan en la casa de un parroquiano para la reunión de una pequeña comunidad de Hechos 2,42 el 30 de septiembre de 2023.

Parroquias con misa en Español



PLANEANDO UNA BODA CATÓLICA

[portumatrimonio.org/bodas](http://portumatrimonio.org/bodas)

POR TU MATRIMONIO

# Christopher French admitted to candidacy

BY WKC STAFF

On Sept. 30, 2023, diocesan seminarian Christopher French was admitted to candidacy, which is the next step of his discernment and formation process toward the priesthood. During this rite, which took place during the Saturday evening Mass at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green (French's home parish), he publicly expressed to Bishop William F. Medley and the congregation his intention to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders first as a transitional deacon and later as a priest.

In light of annual National Vocations Awareness Week – celebrated this year from Nov. 5-11 – you are invited to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and religious life in our diocese. To learn more, visit [owensborodiocese.org/vocations](https://owensborodiocese.org/vocations). ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

(Above photo) Left to right: Seminarian Hunter Dickens, seminarian Conrad Jaconette, Bishop William F. Medley, seminarian Christopher French, and vocation director Fr. Daniel Dillard after French's Sept. 30, 2023 admission to candidacy at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

(Above photo) Seminarian Christopher French stands before Bishop William F. Medley during his admission to candidacy at the Saturday evening Mass at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green on Sept. 30, 2023.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

(Left photo) Seminarian Christopher French sings from the hymnal before the Sept. 30, 2023 Saturday evening Mass at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, during which he will be admitted to candidacy.