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Testimony

Janie Brasher of Holy Spirit in Bowling Green shares her testimony about a catechumen for whom she will serve as godmother, during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion celebration at St. Stephen Cathedral on Feb. 18, 2024, for those preparing to enter the Catholic Church this Easter Vigil. **Page 27**



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On Feb. 18, Lazarus Retreat participants and team members pop confetti during their Sunday morning "Celebration Breakfast" kicking off the day's focus on Lazarus coming from the tomb into new life.

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Front page main photo by Riley Greif | WKC

Submissions

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

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

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

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A Word From Bishop Medley

This Lent, what are ways that you can pray, fast, and give?

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Ask just about any Catholic – actually almost any Christian in general – the meaning of the season of Lent, and we will hear some rather consistent descriptors: penance, sacrifice, self-denial, “giving something up.”

All of these address some important aspects of the 40-day season observed from Ash Wednesday into Holy Week. In fact, the Church’s prayer and scriptures present a threefold call to action: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Most of us readily gravitate to the fasting category; thus, the memories of self-denial and sacrifice from far back in many of our childhoods.

The Church structures this for us with Ash Wednesday and Good Friday being days of both fast and abstinence. By definition, this means that adults are expected to fast – that is, to not eat between meals and ideally that two of our three meals would be small – and to abstain from meat entirely. The Fridays of Lent are to be observed as days of abstinence, that is, meatless days. And while these guides for our diet are important markers for Lent, we should never allow our strict or not-so-strict observances to grant us a pass on the call to prayer and almsgiving.

What new or additional prayer might mark your 40 days? If your life affords you the luxury of time, could you consider going to Mass at least one day each week in addition to your obligatory Sabbath? Two days per week? Six days per week? The Church

in the United States is observing a three-year renewal of faith in the Holy Eucharist as the Real Presence of Christ with the National Eucharistic Revival (learn more at eucharisticrevival.org). If getting to Mass is not an option, how about praying the rosary or some other devotional daily?

One of the most common laments I hear from parents and grandparents is that their adult children and grandchildren rarely go to Mass. Would you go to Mass more frequently to pray for the intention that those not coming to Mass might come again? This is not about imposing a guilt trip on others. But perhaps mentioning your Lenten observance could trigger a positive response. If one person goes to Mass and receives Holy Communion one single time because of your example, the grace of God will have richly rewarded you.

Let your regular almsgiving have a shot in the arm during Lent. I have had many conversations with people who see the days of their lives drawing to an end. I have never heard anyone say, “I wish I had not given so much of my blessings away in charity.” Reflect on that.

Forty days of Lent can seem like a very long time in our fast-paced culture. An ancient tradition of the Church considers this. The Fourth Sunday of Lent, this year on March 10, is celebrated as Laetare Sunday. Laetare means Rejoice! Be sure to listen for the entrance antiphon, which proclaims, “Rejoice, Jerusalem, and you who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning.” This marks the middle of Lent as if to promise us that the “trials” of the season will

BISHOP MEDLEY'S MARCH 2024 CALENDAR	
MARCH 2	4 p.m. Confirmation – St. Peter and Sacred Heart Parishes, Waverly
MARCH 3	10:30 a.m. Confirmation – St. Martin Parish, Rome 2 p.m. Scouting Mass – St. Anthony Parish, Browns Valley
MARCH 6	8:30 a.m. School Mass – Mary Carrico Memorial School, Knottsville 6 p.m. Confirmation – St. Romuald Interparochial School, Hardinsburg
MARCH 7	9 a.m. School Mass – Owensboro Catholic Middle School
MARCH 10	11 a.m. Confirmation – St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah
MARCH 11	10 a.m. Synod Listening Session with Parish Catechetical Leaders & Youth Ministers – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro (MCC)
MARCH 12	8:15 a.m. School Mass – Christ the King School, Madisonville
MARCH 13	10 a.m. Synod Listening Session with Diocesan Staff – MCC
MARCH 16	5 p.m. Confirmation – St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro
MARCH 17	10:30 a.m. Closing Mass for YOUTH 2000, Brescia University, Owensboro

Column and calendar continue on page 4

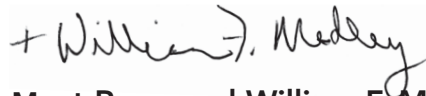
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not last forever. On this day, it is optional for the presider to wear a rose chasuble rather than the purple of Lent. (It may also be worn on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday Advent.)

My simple message: do something for Lent whether it is an act of self-denial or embracing something new.

May God bless you all,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro

BISHOP MEDLEY'S MARCH 2024 CALENDAR CONTINUED	
MARCH 18	10 a.m. Priest Personnel Meeting – MCC 12:30 p.m. Synod Listening Session with Priests – MCC 4 p.m. Catholic Foundation Board Meeting – Old Hickory, Owensboro
MARCH 19	6 p.m. Serra Club Meeting – Briarpatch, Owensboro
MARCH 20	10 a.m. School Mass – St. Mary Middle School, Paducah
MARCH 21-22	Brescia University Board Meeting
MARCH 23	10 a.m. Synod Listening Session with Parish Council Representatives – Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Hopkinsville
MARCH 24	11 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MARCH 26	6:30 p.m. Chrism Mass – Owensboro Sportscenter
MARCH 27	8:30 a.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – MCC
MARCH 28	Time TBD Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MARCH 29	3 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
MARCH 30	8 p.m. Easter Vigil – St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

'All women are great women' says Afghanistan's first female fighter pilot, now living in Owensboro

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

By 33 years old, Hasina Omari has survived familial disapproval of her career choices (becoming Afghanistan's first female fighter pilot), nearly 370 flight hours of night and weekend missions, and expecting a baby while escaping the Taliban's takeover of her home country.

Today she is happy to live with her family in Owensboro, Ky., where they have been assisted by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro while resettling in the United States, safely out of danger.

She recently shared her story with The Western Kentucky Catholic.

Ever since she was a child growing up in

Afghanistan, Omari wanted to become a jet pilot. And throughout her childhood, her family and friends affirmed this idea.

Until she grew up – and the encouragement stopped.

A few Afghan women have become pilots in recent history – including Niloofar Rahmani, the first female fixed-wing pilot for the Afghan Air Force – however, it was still not seen as a socially-acceptable role for women in Afghanistan.

“But I didn’t give up,” said Omari. “I tried to convince my family for seven years... they weren’t convinced, especially my mom and my big brother.”

She said her twin brother supported her, and her older sister tried to help her get admitted to a pilot school in India, but it proved too expensive. “But I tried and tried,” said Omari.

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COURTESY OF HASINA OMARI

Hasina Omari with her entire squadron with the Afghan Air Force take a picture with then-president of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, in 2020.

Finally, “my father said okay – but that I must be like Ahmad Shah Massoud!” she said, in reference to the heroic Afghan resistance leader during the Soviet occupation of the country. “My father loved him.”

“If you want to be a pilot, you must be like him,” her father told her.

She was grateful for the support she received from her family members – especially her twin brother – but her mother continued to struggle with the idea of Omari becoming a pilot.

“It hurt, but I continued,” she said. At last, “I told my mother this is my wish; this is what I want to do.”

She said that after stating her true feelings on the matter, “my mother finally accepted this is what I want to do,” said Omari.

Omari began working with the Afghan Air

Force and went to the Czech Republic in March 2016, where she studied fixed-wing. She received a scholarship and financial aid for her studies from the United States.

“After 15 months’ training, I came back to Afghanistan,” she said, adding that she and one other woman were the only females in the program. “My colleague studied fixed-wing; I applied for the fighter aircraft. Then I studied almost nine months for that.”

Omari said that at that point, “everyone was proud” of her – including her mother.

Before too long, Afghanistan’s first female fighter pilot was doing “day and night missions, weekend missions; I worked hard,” she said.

She ended up flying a total of almost 370 hours’ worth of missions.

“My general commander would say, ‘She is braver

than any man! Hasina is the first to say, ‘I am going there,’” Omari recalled.

She did not limit herself to her work as a pilot, either. Omari found fulfilment in helping with Afghan women’s equality and education initiatives, assisting as an interpreter, and spreading awareness about drug abuse.

When she married her husband, their families – especially her in-laws – argued that she should quit her job and become a housewife like other Afghan women. With her husband’s support, however, Omari pressed on with her professional calling.

Then they began receiving threats from the Taliban.

After about eight months into her role with the Afghan Air Force, her husband, who worked in Afghanistan’s government, received a message from the Taliban wanting him to work for them. They also wanted Omari to quit her job and stay home as a housewife. Otherwise, the Taliban’s message said, they would kill them.

Omari and her husband ignored this threat and continued with their jobs – until a family member of her husband received a letter from the Taliban threatening to kill Omari and her husband. Her husband’s family had already experienced the death of several relatives at the hands of the Taliban, and they knew to take this threat seriously.

Omari and her husband received help to evacuate Afghanistan, and traveled around to several countries in hopes that a moving target would be harder for the Taliban to discover.

Not long after, the Taliban took control of Afghanistan.

And adding to the strain was the fact that Omari and her husband were expecting their first child.

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“When Afghanistan fell, I was seven months pregnant,” said Omari.

Omari and her husband, together with approximately 150 other U.S.-supported Afghan pilots and their personnel, had to make an emergency landing in Tajikistan.

Due to the sudden landing, which meant a lack of proper protocol, the Afghan pilot group’s devices were confiscated, and they were detained in a sanatorium in a rural Tajik region.

“It was a really bad journey,” said Omari. “We were not allowed to talk to our family, even to tell them we were ok. It was really, really tough.”

She said of the 150 pilots, she and one other woman were the only females present.

Thankfully, “my husband was there with me, but the other girl was on her own,” said Omari.

The tension continued to rise as international governments debated what to do with the Afghan pilots.

“They made my pregnancy political,” said Omari. “They were telling people that I couldn’t be moved, that I was in pain, but it was all lies. Everyone was blaming me; it was hard.”

In not being able to leave, “I was really worried about my baby while I was there,” she said.

Eventually Omari obtained a mobile device, with which she secretly texted her American flight instructor that she was, in fact, healthy and safe.

“In my ninth month of pregnancy, the U.S. Embassy withdrew us,” said Omari, explaining that they were flown to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). “They had me say I was seven months pregnant, or else I would not have been allowed to travel!”

Her child was born nine days after they landed.

After seven months in the UAE, their family of



COURTESY OF HASINA OMARI

Hasina Omari with her entire squadron in the Afghan Air Force, along with their United States instructors, in 2020.

three was flown to the United States and taken to Virginia.

“We stayed there 21 days,” she said. “After that, they asked if we had any family in the United States” with whom they could stay.

She and her husband, however, were the first of their families to come to the U.S., so they were sent to Evansville, Ind., where they lived for seven months.

Then, with the help of Khaibar Shafaq of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro, they applied for asylum. They also learned that the Afghan community was thriving across the river in Owensboro, Ky., so they moved there in November 2022 with help from Catholic Charities and the International Center of Owensboro.

Omari is grateful for the slower pace of life in the small Kentucky city. She and her husband have welcomed a second child, and enjoy settling into

their new hometown – having been granted asylum in December 2022. Catholic Charities and the International Center are available if they ever have questions or need assistance.

“There are more Afghan families here in the community,” said Omari, adding that she appreciates “talking with each other, giving to each other, and I even have American friends, too!”

Down the road, Omari is open to considering future aviation opportunities, but that will be a while since she is still working on obtaining her green card. For now, she is happy to be safe with her family.

Reflecting on her varied experiences, Omari said she has concluded that “all women are great women,” no matter where their paths lead them.

“Whether doing big things for society or staying at home with children, I appreciate all women,” she said. ■

Local bluegrass musicians record peaceful songs in Motherhouse Chapel at Mount Saint Joseph

BY DAN HECKEL, MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

In 2009, local bluegrass musician Randy Lanham participated in the “Discover Music, Discover Nature, Discover Maple Mount” camp with Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, at the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. It was the first time that he played in the Ursuline Sisters’ Motherhouse Chapel, but he never forgot the experience.

“The acoustics in this chapel were the best I’d ever heard,” Lanham said. “I knew someday I wanted to record in here. It just took me a long time to decide what to do.”

With his dad in and out of the hospital, Lanham found the inspiration for his recording project at Maple Mount.

“He had a hard time sleeping and relaxing and it made me think of when I was a kid learning to play fiddle,” Lanham said in a letter to the Ursuline Sisters. “Several evenings, he would be resting in his recliner, I would be practicing in the other room, and he would ask me to come in there and play some waltzes. He would be so relaxed and carefree, as long as I played slow, pretty songs.

“As we were in the hospital, I kept wondering how all these patents are not going crazy with all the noise, beeps and alarms going all the time. So, I thought of recording some of the old waltzes and hymns for a person to listen to while they are there, or anywhere.”

Following Mass on Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, Lanham was joined in the Motherhouse Chapel by fellow musicians Chris Joslin and Chris Armstrong to record

some of the old-time music that his granddad, John Lanham, taught him to play. Joslin is the executive director of the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum, where Lanham is the education director and Armstrong teaches classes.

“We’re trying to keep these songs alive,” Lanham said. The results were as good as he hoped.

“It sounded fantastic,” he said. “It will take a while to edit. I probably won’t do much narration, I’ll let the music speak for itself.”

Owensboro Health has agreed to play the instrumental music on its Arts in Healing channel, and Lanham hopes to offer the music to other hospitals as well. It will be available on YouTube, and he plans to speak with officials with Kentucky Educational Television to see if it could be promoted statewide.

Sister Catherine Marie Lauterwasser, OSU, taught Lanham in the eighth grade at Mary Carrico School in Knottsville. He played the fiddle for school events, and Sister Catherine Marie said she knew then he had the capability to be a professional musician.

“I used to kid him, ‘Randy, that’s not a fiddle, it’s a violin. You just fiddle with it,’” she said.

Lanham invited the Ursuline Sisters to be in attendance and pray as the musicians played the music, in an effort to be healing to those who listen.

“I just hope that the music blesses people,” Lanham said. ■

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



COURTESY OF DAN HECKEL

Chris Joslin, left, on mandolin; Chris Armstrong, center, on guitar; and Randy Lanham on fiddle play music as technicians record in the background.



COURTESY OF DAN HECKEL

Chris Armstrong, left, on guitar; Randy Lanham, center, on fiddle; and Chris Joslin on dobro record “Westphalia Waltz” in the Motherhouse Chapel.

At Ash Wednesday liturgy, bishop urges faithful to commit to being ‘marked with the sign of faith’ in daily life

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The faithful crowded into St. Stephen Cathedral for the 12:05 p.m. Ash Wednesday liturgy on Feb. 14, 2024, which was presided at by Bishop William F. Medley.

In his homily, the bishop said that the crosses of ashes traced on everyone’s foreheads might last a few hours, but that the ashes are not meant to remain forever.

“What we do today is not permanent in a physical way, but we would do well perhaps to reflect upon that passage from the Eucharistic Prayer of those who go before us marked with the sign of faith,” he said. “How, in the continuing 40 days of Lent that lie before us, how in the continuing years of life that lie before us – be that 40 days or 40 weeks or 40 years or more that lie before us – how do we bear the cross that will be visible today?”

The bishop said that the goal should be to live one’s life so that when standing before the judgment seat of God at the end of one’s life, it is clear “we have been marked with the sign of faith.” ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Dcn. Richard Murphy traces a cross of ashes on a man’s forehead during the 12:05 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, which took place Feb. 14, 2024.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
After the 12:05 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass on Feb. 14, Bishop William F. Medley greets a dad and toddler who had attended the liturgy at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. .



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
After receiving their ashes, the faithful process back to their pews during the Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Mass.

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Altar server Jude Carrico prepares to carry the crucifix up the aisle of St. Stephen Cathedral for the 12:05 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass.



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
Ushers carry baskets for the collection during the 12:05 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, which took place Feb. 14, 2024. On this day in the Diocese of Owensboro, collections are held for the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica, which is a sister diocese to Owensboro.



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HANCOCK COUNTY
MARCH FOR LIFE**

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150th Anniversary

Cultivating the Vine

Saint Angela

Entrusted to Us






Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph
1874-2024

The Ursuline Sisters have been serving at Maple Mount for 150 years! Throughout 2024, we will be celebrating the arrival of the five pioneer Sisters in 1874 and the ways the Sisters have served God's people ever since. We hope all of our friends will engage in acts of service and kindness this year in honor of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.

You can keep up with all the ways we're celebrating here: ursulinesmsj.org/150-years

Would you like to share your story about how an Ursuline Sister(s) has affected your life? Scroll to the bottom of the website listed above.

Have a Blessed Year!



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

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www.ursulinesmsj.org · info.ms@maplemount.org

Family's first time at camp:

How to help your child – and yourself – prepare for their first Gasper River experience



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Campers and staff spend an afternoon participating in outdoor activities during Camp LIFE at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center on July 8, 2021.

BY BEN WARRELL, SPECIAL TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Our 17th summer of camp at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp is quickly approaching. Maybe, as a parent, you've heard of camp but don't know anything about it and may even be a little nervous about sending your child to camp. We completely understand! This is a big decision and it can be nerve-wracking for parents to send their kids away. Here are a few things that we'd love for you to know about camp at Gasper River.

First of all, safety is our top priority for every person who comes through our gate. Not just their physical safety, but their mental and emotional safety as well. Young people can't grow if they don't feel safe, so we work incredibly hard to have a safe and secure campus. The summer staff and volunteer counselors go through extensive training to keep kids safe in all areas of their camp experience. We want kids to come

to camp, to feel safe here, to encounter Jesus in ways they never have before – and we want them to come back and continue to grow in holiness! Everyone here has gone through Safe Environment training, and no one is ever alone here at camp. There are supervisory adults everywhere, with eyes out at all times, ensuring that everything is proper for these young people to fully enjoy camp.

Homesickness is the biggest issue that we deal with at summer camp. Our staff and volunteers go through detailed training to help young people adjust to being away from family. We will allow campers to call home if they need to, but our staff will reach out first to make the parents aware of the situation. If a child is completely miserable at camp we will recommend that they get picked up. If, however, they are having fun and only get down at quiet times or at night, we know that they will make it and we will build them up and encourage them to keep going. We want young people to enjoy their experience at camp and come back again and again (and maybe even work here in the future!) We have found over the years that parents who tell their children, "If you're not having fun to call and we'll come get you," almost always end up picking up their kids. Gently encourage your child to be open to all the amazing adventures and opportunities to grow in faith that camp has to offer! Having a friend, sibling or cousin at camp is a great way to help fight homesickness, too. Parents, we are in this with you and want what's best for your children and families.

Families will be given access to our camp app so they can check out all the fun activities and adventures

their child is experiencing at camp. Phone lines are monitored 24/7 during camp, and we are always available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

We strongly encourage you to come and visit camp if you've never been here before. We love getting to know our camp families and love showing off all that camp has to offer. It does help for young people to see where they will be going and how things are set up here before they come for their week of camp. Just call our office at (270) 781-2466, and we can set up your visit or answer any questions you may have about camp. We realize that we are not just ministering to the camper, but to the entire camper's family as well. When you drop off your child at camp, we want you to know that we care about your child and desire great things for them and for you! We want you to leave knowing that your child is in great hands and is going to have the adventure of a lifetime at camp!

We exist to serve the families of the Diocese of Owensboro. We understand the incredible amount of trust that it takes to send your child to a sleep-away camp and we take that very seriously. Camp is a wonderful opportunity for your child to grow in faith, self-esteem and self-confidence. It is a place of encounter and accompaniment and a place to make friends that will last a lifetime. We greatly look forward to seeing you this summer at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp. We are honored and humbled to have you place your trust in us with your children and you are always in our prayers. ■

Ben Warrell is the director of Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, located in Bowling Green, Ky.

Do you believe this?

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

If your parish has people who are seeking baptism at the Easter Vigil this year, you will probably here the Gospel passage from John regarding the raising of Lazarus from the dead during the fifth week of Lent.

Surprisingly, when Jesus receives the news that his good friend, Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, is sick and near to death, he does not rush to see him and comfort him or his family. He takes his time getting there.

However, upon arriving, Jesus finds that Lazarus has already been in the tomb for four days. As he approaches the house, Jesus is met by Martha who is less than happy to see her friend. Instead, she starts to really give it to him – I mean really chew on him! What does she say? “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Martha is clearly angry. It is easy to look back on this scene with 2,000 years of hindsight and theological understanding and say to ourselves, “Man, Martha needs to take it easy... she’s speaking to God.” But we need to understand that in her anger, she is expressing a deep faith and belief in the Lord. We know this by her next statement: “But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Even though Martha is angry with Jesus, she has not given up on Jesus. Jesus assures her that her brother will rise again and then he proclaims clearly, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me...will never die.” After saying this, he looks directly at Martha and asks her, “Do you believe



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Francis baptizes Auriea Harvey, a woman from the United States, during the Easter Vigil Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 8, 2023.

this?” And without any hesitation, she replies, “Yes, Lord. I... believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Despite her loss, grief, and pain, Martha is still able to have faith and confidence in Jesus as the resurrection and the life who has come into the world.

I think this Gospel passage functions as a signpost that points and leads us to Holy Week. On Holy Thursday, we are asked to stand with Jesus as he is betrayed and denied. On Good Friday he will be condemned, beaten, and crucified. He will die. There is no way of ignoring or avoiding the reality of the death of Jesus. But the cross is not our final destination. It is only a stage on our journey – not only through Lent – but in our lives too. With the women who stood by Jesus at his death, we too must stay at the foot of the cross before we experience the joy of the resurrection. On Good Friday, we are asked to experience the fact and reality of death –

and not just Jesus’ death – but our own mortality as well. But we are also asked to have faith in Jesus as Martha did. As we take another step on our Lenten journey, Jesus says to each one of us, “I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe this?”

Difficult as death and the loss of a family member or a friend is, we are asked not to lose faith in God. God will not abandon us at our time of need. Jesus offers us the promise and hope of new and everlasting life.

As we face the reality of Good Friday, let us also look towards the new life of Easter Sunday. Jesus is still the resurrection and the life. If we believe in him, we shall not die. ■

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

Principal video series tells story of Catholic education across the diocese

BY WKC STAFF

Back in fall 2023, the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Communications undertook a lofty project: recording and creating a series of videos to highlight the diocese's 17 Catholic schools, which spanned from Paducah to Grayson County. The idea was inspired by a suggestion from diocesan schools superintendent, David Kessler. As soon as the school year began, the communications staff began scheduling and visiting the Catholic schools to interview each principal individually and record footage of the students learning, praying, and playing. The videos were produced by the diocese's digital media specialist, Riley Greif. Each video includes a message from the school's principal talking about why they love serving their school, and why families should consider Catholic education for their children. The 16 videos debuted during Catholic Schools Week 2024 and the week after.

The videos featured are:

- Christ the King School, Madisonville
- Sts. Peter and Paul School, Hopkinsville
- St. Paul School, Grayson County
- St. Romuald School, Hardinsburg
- St. Mary Middle and High School, Paducah
- St. Mary Elementary School, Paducah
- John Paul II School, Morganfield
- Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus
- Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus
- Trinity High School, Whitesville
- Mary Carrico School, Knottsville



SCREENSHOT

Emily Hernandez, principal of St. Mary of the Woods School and Trinity High School in Whitesville, speaks about Catholic education in a video released for Catholic Schools Week 2024.

- St. Joseph School, Bowling Green
- Owensboro Catholic Middle School
- Holy Name of Jesus School, Henderson
- St. Mary of the Woods School, Whitesville
- Owensboro Catholic High School

To watch the full series on YouTube, visit <http://tinyurl.com/4265wb5b> or use your phone to capture the QR code below:



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 **Marian Shrine**  Diocese of OWENSBORO

Catholic Schools Week 2024 across western Kentucky

This year, Catholic Schools Week took place from Jan. 28-Feb. 3. The Diocese of Owensboro's 17 Catholic schools got creative in how they chose to celebrate their schools, including pep rallies, vocations day, days of service, Mass, and much more. Enjoy these highlights from the week.



COURTESY OF ST. PAUL SCHOOL
Students of St. Paul School in Leitchfield dress up as saints, priests and nuns on Feb. 1 for their annual vocations day during Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF MARY CARRICO CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Mary Carrico Catholic School 4th-8th graders perform square dancing at their open house to celebrate the Knottsville community's Catholic school on Jan. 31. Square dancing is a tradition at Mary Carrico. They also visited the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph on Feb. 2 for a special performance. The square dancing class is led by Sr. Mary Celine Wiedenbenner, OSU, a religion teacher at Mary Carrico.



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
Rose Cing Lam Nuam (Rose Nuam) and Elizabeth Nel Huai Kim (Elizabeth Kim), students of St. Joseph School in Bowling Green, speak during Jan. 28 Mass at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green about what their school means to them.



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL
Students of Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson participate in praise and worship time during Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF MARY CARRICO CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Mary Carrico Catholic School students preparing for their Catholic Schools Week kickoff Mass with the parish community on Jan. 28 at St. William Parish in Knottsville.

Continues on page 14

YOUTH

Catholic Schools Week continued from page 13



COURTESY OF OWENSBORO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Students of Owensboro Catholic 4-6 Campus participate in "Crazy Hair/Hat Day" as a way to say "hats off to the vocations who support our school!" during Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL
On Jan. 31, parent cheerleaders cheer on the participants of the parent versus eighth-grade student game for Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL
Cale Heppler faces off one of the dads from the "Seniors" team at John Paul II School's annual kick-off game for Catholic Schools Week. The "Senior" teams are comprised of parents of current JP II athletes.



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS SCHOOL
Students of Holy Name of Jesus School in Henderson clean the gym during a day of service for Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
St. Joseph School in Bowling Green hosts its second annual Dads vs. Students basketball game in the gym during Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF OWENSBORO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Tim Riley, dean of students at Owensboro Catholic High School, visits with students participating in some free time in the small gym during Catholic Schools Week 2024.

Continues on page 15

YOUTH

Catholic Schools Week continued from page 14



COURTESY OF JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL
The mini cheer squad for John Paul II School in Morganfield is seen at a parents vs. students game during Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF ST. ROMUALD SCHOOL
St. Romuald Interparochial School students sing in the choir during school Mass for Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF ST. PAUL SCHOOL
Assisted by pastor, Fr. Steve Hohman, students of St. Paul School in Leitchfield hold up signs reading "Go Comets" during a Jan. 29 pep rally for Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
Bishop William F. Medley presides at Mass during a Jan. 31 visit to St. Joseph School in Bowling Green for Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF ST. ROMUALD SCHOOL
Students of St. Romuald Interparochial School in Hardinsburg celebrate the 100th day of school during Catholic Schools Week 2024.



COURTESY OF ST. ROMUALD SCHOOL
Bishop William F. Medley presides at Mass at St. Romuald Interparochial School in Hardinsburg on Feb. 1 in observance of Catholic Schools Week.

YOUTH

Lazarus Retreat 2024 helps youth embrace new life in Christ



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

The participants of the Feb. 16-18, 2024 Lazarus Retreat, held at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green.

BY WKC STAFF

The annual Lazarus Retreat, led by the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Youth Ministry, took place Feb. 16-18. A total of 17 youth (11 girls and six boys) attended, guided by 13 adult leaders.

The Lazarus Retreat utilizes the story of the raising of Lazarus (John 11: 1- 46). While on retreat, the youth are invited to explore the things in life that keep them bound up, entombed, and unable to hear the voice of Jesus calling them to life. The goal of the retreat is inviting the young people into the good news of Jesus Christ; helping them abandon the things that lead to death and respond to Jesus calling them to new life. ■

To learn more, visit owensborodiocese.org/lazarus-retreat.



COURTESY OF CHARLIE HARDESTY

Several girls work on an activity during the Feb. 16-18, 2024 Lazarus Retreat, held at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green.

**BLACK CATHOLIC WOMEN...CALLED,
BLESSED, AND SENT**

5TH NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GATHERING



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**SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024 AT 6:30 PM
HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH**

God's healing love the focus of 2024 Joy, Laughter, and Holiness Women's Retreat



COURTESY OF BETH HENDRICKSON

This year's team, which coordinated the Joy, Laughter, and Holiness Women's Retreat in Uniontown, Ky., along with the guest speakers. (Left to right) Michelle Crider, vocalist; Rose Mary Trowbridge, speaker; Beth Hendrickson; Linda Baird; Kristy Malik, speaker; Jill Utley, and Kelly Joiner.

BY BETH HENDRICKSON, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Not only did God bless us with beautiful weather on Feb. 3, but he also blessed the day with beautiful women ready to soak in his goodness and share it with others.

Joy, Laughter, and Holiness Women's Retreat opened with a dedication to one of the team members who died from her battle with cancer on Jan. 7. Lisa Burke had shared her faith story with us last year; a copy of her story, "Mary Did You Know" was shared with all guests.

Approximately 170 women from around the diocese gathered at St. Agnes Hall in Uniontown. Vocalist Michelle Crider led the retreat in beautiful song throughout the event. The Holy Spirit was alive and working throughout the day in song and word.

Guests were served breakfast and enjoyed a coffee bar. The coffee bar was provided by Iron-Stein Coffee of Morganfield, serving coffee produced in

Columbia and roasted in Morganfield.

Retreat participants were delighted with faith stories from Kristy Malik and Rose Mary Trowbridge.

Kristy, from Virginia, shared stories drawing every woman present toward an experience of God's healing love and redemption; calling everyone to fully embrace the amazing plan that he has for our lives. Kristy is involved with the Walking with Purpose program; she is a blogger, speaker, and content creator for the ministry.

Kristy helped all present realize that wherever life has taken you, no matter the choices you have made or the burdens that are on your heart, no one is ever disqualified from God's healing grace. Kristy shared her personal journey of healing, where she felt and allowed God's healing graces to come into her heart, renewing his daughter in Christ.

She reminded each of us that there is strength in numbers. In this digital age, where we are all seemingly "connected" all the time, there are a growing number of lonely and depressed people in the world. Kristy provided everyone with a better biblical understanding



COURTESY OF LAVIDA MISCHEL

On Feb. 3, several women from St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho join an excited group from Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro to attend the Joy, Laughter, and Holiness Women's Retreat in Uniontown, Ky.

of community and how to cultivate community in our own lives.

Rose Mary Trowbridge, from Owensboro, formerly of Morganfield, shared her story of powerful miracles that have happened to her during her life. After a diagnosis of cancer and given just two years to live about 20 years ago, she continues to draw those she meets closer to Jesus Christ in their own journey. Rose Mary is a testament to all who know her that she is not going to give up. Rose Mary reached out to everyone present, providing everyone with courage and faith to persevere, no matter the challenges that lie before us. Today she is known as "NED": No Evidence of Disease!

The day brought restoration and a calling for closeness to our God, calling us away from the distractions. We need to find a community of faithful friends who are interested in growing in holiness. Good and holy friendships are meant to live Christ-like lives, walking in faith. ■

Beth Hendrickson belongs to St. Ann Parish in Morganfield.

Ursuline Sisters kick off 150th anniversary celebration with 'Legacy Sisters' play

BY MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH STAFF

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph kicked off their celebration of 150 years since their arrival at Maple Mount with a reception and performance of the original one-act play "Legacy Sisters" on Jan. 27, the feast day of their founder, St. Angela Merici.

Many Ursuline Sisters were joined by Ursuline Associates, alumnae of Mount Saint Joseph Academy, and other guests to begin the celebration year, commemorating the Aug. 15, 1874, arrival of the sisters who traveled on a flatboat down the Ohio River from Louisville to open the Academy.

Following the program, Mass was celebrated in the Motherhouse Chapel. Buttermilk cookies and watermelon were served at the reception afterwards in honor of the first meal the Ursuline Sisters had when they arrived at Maple Mount in 1874. ■

To see the play, visit the Ursuline Sisters' YouTube page: youtube.com/user/UrsulineSistersMSJ



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
Sr. Amelia Stenger, OSU, second from right, poses with the actors who were portraying the pioneer Ursuline Sisters in the play "Legacy Sisters." From left are Mary-Katherine Maddox, Calli Whitmore, Rebecca Volk, Meredith Keller and Kristin Whitney.



COURTESY OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
Ursuline Sr. Julia Head, OSU, smiles as she speaks with Ursuline Associate Mike Sullivan of Paducah, while in line for refreshments as the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph began their 150th year in Daviess County with a reception on Jan. 27. Sr. Betsy Moyer, OSU, (right), helps serve the refreshments.

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We ask God to bless Catholic sisters as they respond to the cry of the poor. May their work bring comfort, hope, and dignity to those who are marginalized, and in need.

Catholic Sisters Week
March 8-14, 2024

www.catholicsistersweek.org
www.ursulinesmsj.org



Sister Cecelia Joseph Olinger, OSU



Come and become one who sees: An invitation to the event that will awaken you to the beauty of the truth of Catholicism

BY EMILY GIPSON, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

In preparation for the Made for More event happening at Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro on April 18, I had the privilege of sitting down for an interview with Christopher West where he stated, “This is not a ‘theology lecture,’ it’s more like a night at the theater.” This event beautifully weaves together music, art, words, videos, and more in order to awaken our hearts to the truth, goodness, and beauty of what it means to be human.

“The Theology of the Body gives us a map and a blueprint—a blueprint for who we are, and a map to follow to become who we’re meant to be,” he said. The Made for More event is designed to equip us with that very map that will take us on the journey that Christopher West calls, “the longest one in the universe,” the journey from the head to the heart. We have to gain knowledge of that very map and blueprint for who we are, where we come from, and where we are going in order to make that journey, which is the journey of the Christian life itself.

I would love to invite you to not only watch the full interview with Christopher (via the QR code with this article) in order to gain a better understanding of what this event is and how the truth and beauty revealed therein is vital to the Christian life, but to purchase a ticket and attend the Made for More event itself. You will walk away with a new perspective on life and the beginning of the map and blueprint to follow Christ’s call to “come and become one who sees.”

Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased either

online at M4MKY.Eventbrite.com or in the office of any of the sponsoring parishes: St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville; and Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Blessed Mother Parish, and Immaculate Parish in Owensboro. ■

Emily Gipson is the director of catechetical formation at St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville



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The Ursuline Sisters' new Quilt Club tickets are now available!

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For each \$25 ticket, you get 12 chances to win a handmade quilt from April 2024–March 2025. Drawings take place at noon on the first Friday of each month. Watch live on our Facebook page!

Sign up by April 4, 2024 to be entered into all 12 drawings

Purchase online: ursulinesmsj.org/quilt-club or mail a check payable to the Ursuline Sisters to: Director of Development, Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.

Only 2,500 tickets will be sold.

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In the spirit of Lent, St. Martin parishioners share time and talents to make beds and quilts for kids in need

BY NICOLE GRAY, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Sleep is more than just rest; it's a fundamental aspect of a child's wellbeing, essential for physical health, emotional stability, and mental development. However, for many children across the United States, the luxury of a comfortable bed remains out of reach, affecting their overall quality of life. Enter Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a national organization dedicated to bridging the gap between children in need and a good night's sleep. Originating in Idaho, SHP has blossomed into a widespread movement, driven by volunteers committed to ensuring that "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!"

Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Owensboro also recognizes this profound need, and mobilizes volunteers to build, assemble, and deliver bunk beds to families facing housing instability.

Led by Debi Hopkins, director of religious education at St. Martin Parish in Rome, several young parishioners decided to lend their hands and hearts to this noble cause. On a cold day not long ago, Breylan Clancy, Katie Knott, Addy Simmons, and Jimmy Simmons epitomized the spirit of community and generosity by spending three hours building beds for children in need.

Together, with a few other volunteers, they crafted 30 beds that will offer comfort and solace to children facing uncertain nights in Owensboro and the surrounding communities. The turnout underscored the unwavering support and dedication of these volunteers, recognizing the importance of ensuring that every child has a safe place to rest their head. In addition to building beds, parishioners Cindy and Steve Murphy have dedicated their



COURTESY OF NICOLE GRAY

A quilt made by Cindy Murphy and members of the St. Martin Quilting Club, founded by Rosemary Krampe and Becky Krampe.

time to deliver beds for SHP. Cindy expressed the joy of witnessing children light up when they received a bed of their own.

Moreover, Cindy, as well as other members of the St. Martin Quilting Club, (founded by Rosemary Krampe and Becky Krampe), have contributed to the cause by crafting quilts to accompany the beds being delivered. Bellevue Baptist Quilt ministries is also a big contributor to SHP. Cindy said there is an ongoing need for sheets, pillows, comforters, and quilts to support SHP's mission.

As we enter the season of Lent, a time of reflection and renewal, let us heed the example set forth by these volunteers. Let us embrace the spirit of compassion and service, sowing seeds of kindness and empathy in our communities. ■

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

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‘Sweet Tea and Turnip Greens’ the theme of 2024 Holy Name women’s retreat



COURTESY OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

The 36 participants of Holy Name of Jesus Parish’s women’s retreat, with retreat director and parish parochial vicar, Fr. Christopher Grief. The retreat took place Jan. 25-27 at Sarto House retreat center in Evansville, Ind.

BY HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH STAFF, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Fr. Christopher Grief, parochial vicar at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson, led a three-day women’s retreat Jan. 25-27. This year’s theme, inspired by both of Fr. Grief’s grandmothers, was “Sweet Tea and Turnip Greens.” Fr. Grief journeyed with the 36 retreatants, recognizing the sweetness of the Lord through difficult and “bitter” times.

Shannon Long, who attended this year’s retreat said, “I enjoyed how Fr. Christopher was able to use personal stories, rooted in scripture, showing all of us that even when we face challenges in our lives, Our Lord is with us.”

Many laughs, sharing and reflections filled the Sarto House retreat center in Evansville, Ind., these three days. He had been on several retreats himself, but this was Fr. Grief’s first experience in leading a retreat.

He said, “I prayed for this retreat to be a renewing and uplifting time for the women. Recognizing the sweetness of the Lord, shows us the sweetness and goodness in each other.”

Fr. Grief shared in the closing Mass for the retreat that, “these three days were in itself our homily. Writing it together as we shared, and opened up about the sweetness of the Lord in our lives.” ■

Bishop crowns 2024 Carmel Home king and queen



COURTESY OF CARMEL HOME

Bishop William F. Medley with Robert “Bob” and Joyce Ballard, this year’s Carmel Home king and queen.

On Feb. 13, 2024, the Carmel Home in Owensboro was delighted to host a special guest to crown this year’s Carmel Home king and queen for Valentine’s Day.

Bishop William F. Medley visited to bestow the crowns upon Robert “Bob” and Joyce Ballard, a married couple belonging to St. Stephen Cathedral and who reside at the Carmel Home. ■

The Knottsville billionaire responsible for naming Mary Carrico Catholic School

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

A fair share of people in Daviess County, Ky., believe that Mary Carrico, the namesake for Mary Carrico Catholic School, is an official Catholic saint. This is understandable; however, it is not the case. Then, who is she? Well, the archives can give us the answer as well as the story of how her name came to grace the school. Perhaps the most interesting part of this tale is the person who brought it all about.

Mary Carrico was one of the early educators in Knottsville. A photograph of her, as well as her school bell, still adorn a hallway of the school. Few people remember, however, why the school was named in her honor after decades of the local Catholic schools being named after the church, St. William. As it turns out, that was due to the influence of her very affluent and loving son.

It all began with the debt incurred from building the newly-constructed St. William's High School. A young lady, who was a student at St. William's, had heard of a wealthy and generous businessman who had lived in Knottsville before moving away to make his fortune: Robert H. Gore. The young lady decided to write the businessman and tell him about the needs of the school. Mr. Gore, whom our archives confirm was very active at responding to the needs of the Church, immediately replied. He asked the young lady to speak with her priest, Fr. Maurice Tiell, and Bishop Henry J. Soenneker, to inform them about the details.

The philanthropist visited Knottsville, met the

young lady, and spoke with the bishop. He donated \$60,000 to the school in memory of his mother, and the school received her maiden name, Mary Carrico. (Though her married name was Gore, her maiden name of Carrico may have been used as it was her name when she was teaching or perhaps due to its prominence in the area and its Maryland to Kentucky Catholic roots). He also gifted the young lady a full-ride scholarship to a Catholic university after she finished high school, should she choose that path.

But perhaps the most intriguing part of the story is that of Robert H. Gore himself, a local man with a fascinating history, who is now relatively unknown in the area.

Gore began working as a janitor and bell ringer at St. Paul Church in Owensboro. After becoming a newspaperman, he had a brilliant idea about coupling subscriptions with life insurance. He shortly after became the modern equivalent of a billionaire. He was appointed governor of Puerto Rico by President Franklin Roosevelt. Throughout his life he was a generous philanthropist. He donated heavily to the Catholic Church. Though the high school merged with St. Mary of the Woods shortly after the rededication, the legacy continues in the current Mary Carrico Catholic School.

This story is a beautiful example of sharing the blessings God has bestowed upon you. Regardless of where he was or how rich, Gore never forgot the Church or where he was from. As important as he was, there are numerous letters in our archives of



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

Mary Carrico's original school bell, which adorns the hallway of Mary Carrico Catholic School in Knottsville to this day. The school was named after Carrico, a beloved teacher, at the request of her son who donated \$60,000 to the school.

him corresponding with religious sisters, even if just exchanging genial conversation. He was also generous with his presence, happy to travel from his residence in Florida back to Kentucky. May his generosity inspire us all. ■

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.

Rock solid: Looking back at St. Mary Magdalene's history in its present stone church



COURTESY OF GRADY EBELHAR
The new stone church for St. Mary Magdalene in Sorgho in 1948. The old school is seen at the right.

BY DONNA AND GRADY EBELHAR, SPECIAL
TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Jan. 28, 2024, St. Mary Magdalene celebrated 75 years in the stone church which was built in 1948 and dedicated on Jan. 27, 1949. The Men's Club provided breakfast in the parish hall after the 8 a.m. Mass. St. Mary Magdalene Parish began in 1907 with a wooden church and was in great need of repair when the new stone church was built. There have been 19 different priests who have served in St. Mary Magdalene Parish for these 75 years. St. Mary Magdalene still remains as rock solid as the St. Meinard stone it was built with.

A little over 75 years ago thoughts were of building a new church here at St. Mary Magdalene. The old wooden church had served its purpose of getting St. Mary Magdalene established. As someone said, it was easier to cool in the winter than it was to heat

and easier to warm in the summer than cool. Several fundraisers were held for the purpose of building a new church. It really did not become a serious idea until Fr. Robert Wilson arrived in 1946. By 1948 it was well under construction. The architect was Thomas Nelson. The general contractors were John Hamberg of Owensboro and Ubelhor Brothers of Evansville. When the church was finished, the dedication took place on Jan. 27, 1949. Bishop Francis R. Cotton celebrated Mass with Fr. Wilson.

Fr. Henry Willett came from August 1949 until August 1950. Fr. Willett came as a substitute for nearly one year to replace Fr. Wilson who went to Chicago on an assignment. When Fr. Wilson returned in 1950, he developed an idea of building a new school. It was completed in 1951 and consisted of three classrooms. Fr. Wilson remained until 1957. Fr. Aloysius Powers stayed until 1962 when Fr. William Hagman. Fr. Hagman helped to supervise the new rectory but never lived there before its completion. Fr. William McAtee became the first resident priest when he arrived in February 1965. Fr. McAtee's stay was short lived. Fr. Robert Garlick came to St. Mary Magdalene in the fall of 1965 and stayed for one year. In 1966, Fr. George Boehmicke came and became the longest resident priest we have had for 17 years.

In the summer of 1975, the parish hall building project was in progress. On Nov. 9, 1975, Bishop Henry J. Soenneker dedicated the parish hall building. Fr. Boehmicke retired in 1983.

Fr. Henry O'Bryan (F.O.B) came to Sorgho in

1983. In 1984, the remodeling of the church took place. New paint, a speaker system and a new carpet were all installed. The communion rail was removed, and the stone altar was turned away from the wall to face the congregation. The parish hall was used for about two weeks for Mass while the pews were removed for carpet and while the painting was completed. On Aug. 12, 1984, Bishop John J. McRaith celebrated Mass to consecrate the new altar.

In May 1988, the final 8th grade class graduated from St. Mary Magdalene School. In the fall it opened under the name of "Holy Angels."

In 1989, Fr. Kevin Karl arrived along with Fr. Danny Goff. Fr. Karl only stayed for one year. Fr. Goff became the full-time priest in 1990. In the fall 1990, the bell tower was removed from the church and a new roof was installed. In Jan. 1991, the new heating and air-conditioning system was installed. Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds became our pastor in 1994.

In December 1998, a parish hall renovation began. This completion coincided with the 50th anniversary of our present-day church. We were honored to have Bishop McRaith to join us on February 7, 1999, for the rededication of the parish hall.

Fr. Reynolds was instrumental in getting our own parish cemetery close to the church. In 2003 a new cemetery was established. In June 2004, Fr. Richard Powers was assigned to St. Mary Magdalene. The new cemetery was dedicated by the bishop on Sept. 11, 2004.

Fr. Richard Powers retired in June of 2007. He was replaced by Fr. Pat Bittel. On June 14, 2009 Fr.

Continues on page 24

Stone church continued from page 23



COURTESY OF GRADY EBELHAR

The present-day St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho, with its new narthex added in 2019.

Mark Buckner arrived. In 2012 the parish hall was updated. In 2017 Fr. Shaiju Thomas arrived. In 2018 the parish began meeting concerning building a narthex on the front of the church. In 2019 narthex money was pledged and the council discussed and voted to approve to move forward. The blessing of the narthex was on Sept. 29.

In 2021 Fr. Augusty Valomchalil came to St. Mary Magdalene in June. The tabernacle was relocated back behind the altar. The Sacred Heart statue was restored and placed at the side altar. In 2022 the rectory was fully renovated. In 2023 Fr. Jamie Dennis arrived in June.

There are still several families living in the parish who have resided here for over 75 years. They are the families of: Bartley, Beyke, Boarman, Clayton, Colignon, Leo Ebelhar Family, Peter Ebelhar Family, Elder, Fleishman, Fogle, Gilles, Green, Greenwell, Head, Holinde, Kaelin, Nace Knott Family, R.M. Knott Family, Mulligan, Scherm, Smith, Stephens, Stowers, and Thompson. ■

Donna and Grady Ebelhar are lifetime members of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sorgho.

March Wedding Anniversaries

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro
Dennis & Gloria Ramage, 62
John & Sharon Bell, 51
RC & Margaret Keith, 67
Tommy & Nancy Howard, 40

Christ the King, Madisonville
William & Bonnie Burns, 54

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson
Charles & Karen Nunley, 60
Danny & Amber Potts, 25
Jerry & Jewel Williams, 65
Lonnie & Dee Kennedy, 55
Paul & Mary Wilder, 55
Paul & Nina Drury, 65

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green
Harold & Joan Neighbors, 55
Larry & Marie Wilson, 54
Lian Pau & Ciin Mang, 56

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
Craig & Rose Mauzy, 50
Greg & Ryann Blandford, 10
James & Marilyn Young, 56
Jeffrey & Debra Zimmerman, 40
Matt & Mollie Boarman, 25
William & Sarah Kemper, 62

Precious Blood, Owensboro
Dennis & Sonja Jewell, 50
Michael & Toni Conder, 25

Sacred Heart, Russellville
James & Ruth Dauley, 55

St. Ann, Morganfield
Alvin & Mary Austin, 53
Randy & Becky Greenwell, 50

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers
Dan & Gail Dailey, 55

St. Anthony, Browns Valley
Charles & Ann Hamilton, 59
Gary & Elaine Strain, 55
Jason & Sandy Roberts, 40
Toby & Holly Alexander, 25

St. Anthony, Peonia
Mitch & Mary Hayse, 40

St. Benedict, Wax

Damon & Reva Stasel, 57
Scotty & Angela Sharp, 25
Steve & Andriette Jansing, 10

St. Columba, Lewisport
Terry & Debbie Smeathers, 10

St. Denis, Fancy Farm
Jack & Rose Riggs, 67
Jerry & Barbara Hayden, 58

St. Edward, Fulton
Gary & Sunny Jez, 5

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis
Chuck & Kelly Rideout, 5
Greg & Marie Little, 25
Lance & Ali Davis, 10
Tony & Lita Pfingston, 57

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah
Joe & Veronica Skees, 50
John & Lynda Oldham, 59
Pat & Betty Robinson, 59

St. Henry, Aurora
David & Claire Dean, 10

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Macy & Katlynn Elder, 5
Marvin & Patricia Puryear, 51
Timothy & Taress Williams, 25

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Aubrey & Monselle Willett, 53
George & Doreen Gates, 54
Kerry & Darlene Simmons, 52

St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish
Jason & Frankie Miller, 5
Tom & Sherry Pohlman, 51

St. Joseph, Central City
Phillip & Linda Wells, 51

St. Joseph, Leitchfield
Roger & Stella McClure, 53

St. Lawrence, Philpot
Donald & Amy Carmon, 25

St. Leo, Murray
Louis & Alison DeSimone, 5

St. Mark, Eddyville

Terence & Susan Carlin, 56
St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Fred & Connie Greenwell, 51
Jim & Barbara Pinkston, 62
Ricky & Jan Mullican, 40

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
Mike & Judy Howard, 51
Norman & Mary Lou Howard, 51
Vince & Barbara Brown, 62

St. Pius X, Calvert City
David & Donna Carr, 54

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
Gary & Sherry Hicks, 50

St. Stephen, Cadiz
Joe & Louise Doyle, 54

St. Thomas More, Paducah
John & Linnea Colgan, 5
Matt & Brenda Walters, 53
Michael & Christine Canella, 52
Tom & Beverly Largent, 57

St. William, Knottsville
Jason & Tiffany Ballard, 5

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro
Jordan & Mary Gerteisen, 25
Josh & Lisa Ladnier, 25
William & Donna McDaniel, 52

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville
Joe & Jennifer Chaudoin, 55

Editor's note

Due to circumstances outside our control, the following anniversary was accidentally excluded from last month's list:

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Joseph & Joyce Ripley, who celebrated 50 years of marriage in February 2024

MARCH 2024 BULLETIN BOARD

Mass and confession times in the Diocese of Owensboro

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

St. Pius X in Owensboro to host parish mission

St. Pius X Parish, Owensboro, parish mission to take place March 3, 4, 5, 2024: "Deepening Our Eucharistic Devotion" with Fr. Tony Stephens, CPM. Evening talk: 6-7 p.m. Daily confessions 5-5:45 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday, and 7 p.m. following each evening talk. On Monday, March 4, priests from the deanery also will be available for hearing confessions. A light meal will be served in the parish hall from 5-5:45 p.m. each evening. Sunday: "Wasting Time with the Lord" (A talk on Eucharistic Adoration)
Monday: "The Eucharist Aiding Family Holiness (A talk on family life)
Tuesday: "Breathing Fire Like Lions" (A talk on receiving Holy Communion)
For more information call the parish office at (270) 684-4745.

Trivia Night at Our Lady of Lourdes April 27

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro will be sponsoring its second annual Trivia Night April 27 in the parish hall to benefit the church. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social time and dinner. The dinner will consist of BBQ pork or chicken and burgoo with sides of baked beans and coleslaw. After dinner a dessert, made by one of the parishioners, will be served. Lemonade and tea will be included in the price, but a cash bar of beer and wine will be available as well. At 7p.m. trivia will begin. There will also be a silent auction and a 50/50 pot, as well as door prizes. Tickets are \$25 per person; up to eight people per team. Must be 21 years to enter. All proceeds will go to the church.

The funds raised from last year's event were used to purchase new cassocks for the altar servers. Tickets available at parish office from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., (270) 684-5369.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for healing after abortion

If you are suffering from grief or trauma from an abortion, come experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat on May 3-5, 2024 at the Passionist Retreat House in Whitesville, Ky., sponsored by Rachel's Vineyard of Bowling Green. The weekend retreat will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment of our Children to Jesus. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information or registration contact: Rita by phone (270-474-4707) or email (retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com). The cost is \$200 for meals, private room, and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available – no one is ever turned away due to financial need! For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations contact 1-877-HOPE-4-ME or visit the Rachel's Vineyard website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Sept. 20 Holy Name School Fall Festival

Holy Name School in Henderson will have its annual Fall Festival Sept. 20, 5-10 p.m. and Sept 21 11 a.m.-10 p.m. The festival includes carnival rides, games, food booths, live auction, silent auction, raffle, and a haunted house. For more information contact the school office at (270) 827-3425.

Ursuline Sisters add Eucharistic Adoration on the first Sunday

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have added the first Sunday of the month to their Eucharistic Adoration schedule. They invite the public to join them for Eucharistic Adoration on the first Sunday from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. at the Motherhouse Chapel, 8001

Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky. (12 miles west of Owensboro on Hwy. 56). The Ursuline Sisters will continue to have Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The public is also welcome to attend on Fridays. Adoration on the second Friday of each month is dedicated to praying for vocations. The Adoration concludes with evening prayer. To see Adoration and Mass times for the Ursuline Sisters, visit <https://ursulinesmsj.org/mass-prayer-times/>

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 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/>.

Schedule of 2024 fish fries in the Diocese of Owensboro

Editor's note: *Canons 1250 and 1251 state that all Fridays are days of penance in the Catholic Church. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requests that Catholics abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent, and practice some form of penance on the other Fridays throughout the year. Due to fish being a popular Lenten Friday option in this part of the world, the tradition of Friday fish fries has become a common activity for many communities. Below is information for the 2024 fish fries offered within the Diocese of Owensboro, provided by the parishes and local community organizations. All questions about the individual fish fries should be directed to the parishes and organizations.*

Holy Spirit Parish Knights of Columbus

Address: 4754 Smallhouse Road, Bowling Green
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 4:30-7 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 842-7777

Holy Redeemer Parish, Beaver Dam

Address: 13th & Madison Streets, Beaver Dam
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 5-6:30 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 274-3414

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Owensboro

Address: 602 Sycamore Street, Owensboro
 Date: March 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 5-7 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 926-4741

Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council 1055

Address: 3028 Jefferson St., Paducah
 Dates: March 8, 15, 22
 Format: Drive-thru only
 Serving time: 4-7 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 443-4380

Knights of Columbus Council 817

Address: 3540 East 10th St., Owensboro
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 5 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 302-3908

Knights of Columbus Council 1418 at St. Jerome Parish

Address: 161 Picnic Blvd, Fancy Farm

Dates: March 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 5-7 p.m.
 Contact: Joe Goff (270) 559-7720

Knights of Columbus Fr. Glahn Council 11132

Address: Parish hall, 1600 Kingsway Dr., Madisonville
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in, carryout, and drive-thru
 Serving time: 5-7 p.m.
 Contact: Jim Donley (270) 339-7244

Our Lady of Lourdes Knights of Columbus, Owensboro

Address: 4029 Frederica St., Owensboro
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Drive-thru, carryout and dine-in
 Serving time: 5:15 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 684-5369

Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro

Address: 3306 Fenmore St., Owensboro
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 5:30 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 684-6888

Mary Carrico Catholic School, Daviess County

Address: 9546 Hwy. 144, Philpot (school gym)
 Dates: March 1, 8
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 4:30-6 p.m.
 Contact: Candice Schwartz (270)314-0221

St. Agnes Parish, Uniontown

Address: Knights of Columbus hall, 501 Sixth Street, Uniontown
 Dates: March 8, 22
 Format: Carryout only
 Serving time: 5 p.m.
 Contact: Parish office at (270) 822-4416

St. Alphonsus Parish, St. Joseph

Address: 7925 State Route 500, Owensboro
 Date: March 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 4 p.m.
 Contact: Jessica Green (270) 302 9171

St. Ann Parish, Morganfield

Address: 304 S Church St., Morganfield
 Dates: March 1, 15
 Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 5 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 389-2287

St. Columba Parish, Lewisport

Address: 815 Pell St., Lewisport
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in, carryout, and drive-thru
 Serving time: 4-6:30 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 295-3682 or (270) 927-8419

St. John the Evangelist Knights of Columbus Council 10962

Address: 6725 US 45 South, Paducah
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 4-7 p.m.
 Contact: Tim Stewart (270) 554-0700

St. Joseph Parish, Bowling Green

Address: 434 Church Ave, Bowling Green
 Dates: March 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 5-7 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 842-2525

St. Leo Parish, Murray

Address: 401 N 12th St., Murray
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 4:30-6 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 753-3876

St. Paul Parish, Princeton

Address: 813 S. Jefferson St., Princeton (old school building)
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Carryout-only
 Serving time: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 625-0269

St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Stanley

Address: 81 Church St., Owensboro
 Dates: March 1, 8, 22
 Format: Dine-in and carryout
 Serving time: 5:30 p.m.
 Contact: (270) 764-1983

Sts. Peter and Paul Knights of Columbus Council 7847

Address: 902 E. 9th St., Hopkinsville
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22
 Format: Dine-in and to-go orders
 Serving time: 5-7 p.m.
 Contact: Tom O'Hagan (270) 348-2322

Continues on page 27

Fish fries continued from page 26

St. Pius X Parish, Calvert City

Address: 777 E. 5th Ave, Calvert City

Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 4-7 p.m.

Contact: Call to order (270) 395-5747

St. Sebastian Parish, Calhoun

Address: 180 Hwy. 136 W, Calhoun

Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22

Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 5-7 p.m.

Contact: (270) 273-3185

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Address: 610 Locust St., Owensboro

Date: March 1

Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 5 p.m.

Contact: (270) 683-6525

Whitesville Lions Club, Whitesville

Address: Whitesville Senior Citizen Center, 10345

Hwy. 54, Whitesville

Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Format: Dine-in and carryout

Serving time: 5 p.m.

Contact: For to-go orders, call (270) 233-4332

Catechumens and candidates celebrated during final phase before joining Catholic Church

BY WKC STAFF

This year, the Diocese of Owensboro’s Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion celebrations were held on Feb. 11 at St. Francis de Sales in Paducah and on Feb. 18 at St. Stephen Cathedral. This was held at two different locations due to the vast size of the diocese and the need to make these celebrations accessible to the faithful; in fact, the cathedral hosted two celebrations the same day.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion are for those who are undergoing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) to enter the final phase of catechetical and spiritual formation as they prepare to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

The Rite of Election portion was for catechumens – those who have never been baptized – and the Call to Continuing Conversion portion was for candidates – those who have already been validly baptized and who are experiencing the call on their hearts to enter into full communion of the Catholic Church. ■



COURTESY OF WILLIAM CONYER

Bishop William F. Medley greets two youth at the reception following the Feb. 11 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion celebration, held at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah.



COURTESY OF WILLIAM CONYER

Fr. Gary Clark, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, is seen in the background during the Feb. 11 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion celebration, which was held at the parish for the faithful in the western portion of the Diocese of Owensboro.

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WORSHIP

Rite of Election continued from page 27



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley shakes hands with a young man during the 2 p.m. Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion celebration held at St. Stephen Cathedral on Feb. 18, 2024.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

People sign the Book of Elect during the 2 p.m. Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion celebration held at St. Stephen Cathedral on Feb. 18, 2024.



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

The Journey

Young Adult Hiking Retreat
2 NIGHTS/2 DAYS/23 MILES

Friday Evening-
Sunday Afternoon
The North Trail at Land
Between the Lakes



[owensborodiocese.org/
journey-retreat/](https://owensborodiocese.org/journey-retreat/)

Registration is now open for
April 12-14, 2024

“Solvitur Ambulando
in walking, it is solved.”
ST. AUGUSTINE



Office of Young Adult Ministry
DIocese of OWENSBORO

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Esta Cuaresma, ¿de qué formas pueden orar, ayunar y dar limosna?

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Si preguntamos a cualquier católico –en realidad, a casi cualquier cristiano en general– el significado del tiempo de Cuaresma, y escucharemos algunas descripciones bastante consistentes: penitencia, sacrificio, abnegación, “renunciar a algo”.

Todos estos abordan algunos aspectos importantes del tiempo de 40 días observado desde el Miércoles de Ceniza hasta la Semana Santa. De hecho, la oración y las Escrituras de la Iglesia presentan un triple llamado a la acción: orar, ayunar y dar limosna. La mayoría de nosotros gravitamos fácilmente hacia la categoría del ayuno; de ahí los recuerdos de renunciaciones y sacrificios de hace muchos años de nuestra niñez.

La estructura que nos da la Iglesia es de observar días de ayuno y abstinencia el Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo. Por definición, esto significa que se espera que los adultos ayunen (es decir, que no coman entre las comidas principales y que idealmente dos de nuestras tres comidas sean pequeñas). También que se abstengan de comer carne por completo estos días. Los viernes de Cuaresma deben observarse como días de abstinencia, es decir, días sin comer carne. Y si bien estas normas respecto a la comida son aspectos importantes para la Cuaresma, nunca debemos permitir que nuestras prácticas estrictas o no tan estrictas nos dejen pasar de alto el llamado a la oración y al dar limosna.

¿Qué oración nueva o adicional podría marcar sus 40 días? Si sus vidas les permiten el lujo del tiempo, ¿podrían considerar quizás asistir a Misa

al menos un día entre semana aparte de la Misa obligatoria del domingo? ¿Dos días por semana? ¿Seis días por semana? La Iglesia en los Estados Unidos está observando un tiempo de tres años de renovación de la fe en la Sagrada Eucaristía como la Presencia Real de Cristo con el Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional (obten gan más información en es.eucharisticrevival.org). Si asistir a una Misa entre semana no es una opción, ¿qué tal rezar el rosario o algún otro acto de piedad cada día?

Uno de los lamentos más comunes que escucho de padres y abuelos es que sus hijos y nietos adultos rara vez van a Misa. ¿Podrían ustedes ir a Misa con más frecuencia para orar por la intención de que aquellos que no asisten a Misa vuelvan? No se trata de imponer a los demás un sentimiento de culpa. Pero tal vez mencionar su observancia de la Cuaresma podría generar una respuesta positiva. Si una persona va a Misa y recibe la Sagrada Comunión una sola vez gracias a su ejemplo, la gracia de Dios los habrá recompensado abundantemente.

Déle un impulso extra a su limosna regular durante la Cuaresma. He tenido muchas conversaciones con personas que ven que los días de sus vidas están llegando a su fin. Nunca he escuchado a nadie decir: “Me arrepiento de haber donado tanto de mi dinero con que Dios me ha bendecido a la caridad”. Piensen en eso.

Cuarenta días de Cuaresma pueden parecer mucho tiempo en nuestra cultura acelerada. Una antigua tradición de la Iglesia así lo considera. El cuarto domingo de Cuaresma, este año el 10 de marzo, se celebra como Domingo de Laetare. Laetare

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MARZO DE 2024	
2 DE MARZO	4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquias San Pedro y Sagrado Corazón, Waverly
3 DE MARZO	10:30 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia San Martín, Rome 2 p.m. Misa de los Scouts – Parroquia San Antonio, Browns Valley
6 DE MARZO	8:30 a.m. Misa escolar - Escuela Mary Carrico Memorial, Knottsville 6 p.m. Confirmación – Escuela Interparroquial San Romualdo, Hardinsburg
7 DE MARZO	9 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Secundaria Católica de Owensboro
10 DE MARZO	11 a.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah
11 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Sesión de escucha del Sínodo con líderes catequéticos parroquiales y ministros juveniles – Centro Católico McRaith (MCC), Owensboro
12 DE MARZO	8:15 a.m. Misa escolar - Escuela Cristo Rey, Madisonville
13 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Sesión de escucha del Sínodo con el personal diocesano – MCC
16 DE MARZO	5 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia de San Pío X, Owensboro
17 DE MARZO	10:30 a.m. Misa de clausura de Youth 2000, Universidad de Brescia, Owensboro

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Continuado de la página 29

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY MARZO DE 2024	
18 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Reunión del Consejo de Personal Sacerdotal – MCC 12:30 p.m. Sesión de escucha del Sínodo con los sacerdotes – MCC 4 p.m. Reunión de la Junta de la Fundación Católica - Old Hickory, Owensboro
19 DE MARZO	6 p.m. Reunión del Club Serra – Briarpatch, Owensboro
20 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Misa escolar – Escuela Secundaria Santa María, Paducah
21-22 DE MARZO	Reunión de la Junta Directiva de Brescia
23 DE MARZO	10 a.m. Sesión de escucha del Sínodo con representantes de los consejos parroquiales – Parroquia San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville.
24 DE MARZO	11 a.m. Misa de Domingo de Ramos – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
26 DE MARZO	6:30 p.m. Misa Crismal – Centro Deportivo de Owensboro [Sportscenter]
27 DE MARZO	8:30 a.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – MCC
28 DE MARZO	Horario por determinar Jueves Santo Misa de la Cena del Señor – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
29 DE MARZO	3 p.m. Liturgia del Viernes Santo Elección – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
30 DE MARZO	8 p.m. Vigilia Pascual – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro

significa ¡Alégrense! Fijense en la antifona de entrada ese día que proclama: “Alégrate, Jerusalén y que se reúnan cuantos la aman. Compartan su alegría los que estaban tristes, vengan a saciarse con su felicidad”. Esto marca la mitad de la Cuaresma como para prometernos que las “pruebas” del tiempo no durarán para siempre. En este día, es opcional que quien preside use una casulla rosada en lugar de la morada de la Cuaresma. (También se puede usar el domingo de Gaudete, el tercer domingo de Adviento).

Mi mensaje es sencillo: realicen algo durante la Cuaresma, ya sea un acto de sacrificio o adoptando algo nuevo.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos,

William F. Medley

Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Parroquias con
misa en Español



En la liturgia del Miércoles de Ceniza, el obispo insta a los fieles a comprometerse a ser “marcados con el signo de la fe” en la vida cotidiana



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Después de la Misa del Miércoles de Ceniza a las 12:05 p.m. el 14 de febrero, el Obispo William F. Medley saluda a un padre y un niño pequeño que habían asistido a la liturgia.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL
CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

La Catedral de San Esteban se llenó de fieles para la liturgia del Miércoles de Ceniza a las 12:05 p.m. el 14 de febrero de 2024, que estuvo presidida por el

Obispo William F. Medley.

En su homilía, el obispo dijo que las cruces de ceniza trazadas en la frente de cada uno pueden durar algunas horas, pero que las cenizas no deben permanecer para siempre.

“Lo que hacemos hoy no es permanente en el sentido físico, pero tal vez haríamos bien en reflexionar sobre ese pasaje de la Plegaria Eucarística de aquellos que nos precedieron marcados con el signo de la fe”, dijo. “¿Cómo, en los siguientes 40 días de Cuaresma que tenemos por delante, cómo en los siguientes años de vida que tenemos por delante – ya sean 40 días o 40 semanas o 40 años o más que tenemos por delante – cómo llevamos la cruz que será visible hoy?”

El obispo dijo que el objetivo debe ser vivir la propia vida de modo que al presentarnos ante el tribunal de Dios al final de la vida, quede claro que “hemos sido marcados con el signo de la fe”. ■

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

El Retiro anual de Lázaro, dirigido por la Oficina de Ministerio Juvenil de la Diócesis de Owensboro, se llevó a cabo del 16 al 18 de febrero. Asistieron un total de 17 adolescentes (11 muchachas y seis muchachos), guiados por 13 líderes adultos. El Retiro de Lázaro utiliza la historia de la resurrección de Lázaro (Juan 11, 1-46). Durante el retiro, se invita a los adolescentes a explorar las cosas de la vida que los mantienen atados, sepultados e incapaces de escuchar la voz de Jesús llamándolos a la vida. La meta del retiro es invitar a los adolescentes a la buena nueva de Jesucristo; ayudándolos a abandonar las cosas que conducen a la muerte y responder a Jesús llamándolos a una nueva vida. ■

El Retiro de Lázaro de 2024 ayuda a los adolescentes a abrazar una nueva vida en Cristo



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE CHARLIE HARDESTY

Los participantes del Retiro de Lázaro del 16 al 18 de febrero de 2024, celebrado en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper en Bowling Green.



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DE CHARLIE HARDESTY

Varias adolescentes trabajan en una actividad durante el Retiro de Lázaro del 16 al 18 de febrero de 2024, que se llevó a cabo en el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros del Río Gasper en Bowling Green.



Catecúmenos y candidatos celebraron durante la fase final antes de unirse a la Iglesia católica



RILEY GREIF | WKC

El Diácono Cristóbal Gutiérrez traduce la homilía del Obispo William F. Medley al español durante la celebración del Rito de Elección y el Rito del Llamado a la Conversión Continua a las 2 p.m. en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro el 18 de febrero de 2024.

POR EL PERSONAL DE WKC

Este año, las celebraciones del Rito de Elección y el Rito del Llamado a la Conversión Continua de la Diócesis de Owensboro se llevaron a cabo el 11 de febrero en la Parroquia San Francisco de Sales en Paducah y el 18 de febrero en la Catedral de San Esteban. Se llevaron a cabo en dos lugares diferentes debido al gran tamaño de la diócesis y la necesidad de

hacer estas celebraciones accesibles a los fieles; de hecho, la catedral acogió dos celebraciones el mismo día. El Rito de Elección y el Rito del Llamado a la Conversión Continua son para aquellos que están pasando por el Rito de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos (RICA) para ingresar a la fase final de formación catequética y espiritual mientras se preparan para ingresar a la Iglesia católica en la Vigilia Pascual. La porción del Rito de Elección fue para catecúmenos (aquellos que nunca han sido bautizados) y la porción del Rito del Llamado a la Conversión Continua fue para candidatos (aquellos que ya han sido bautizados válidamente y que están experimentando el llamado en sus corazones a entrar en la plena comunión con la Iglesia católica). ■



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Un hombre firma su nombre durante la celebración del Rito de Elección y el Rito del Llamado a la Conversión Continua a las 2 p.m. en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro el 18 de febrero de 2024.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Una pareja se sienta junta durante la celebración del Rito de Elección y el Rito del Llamado a la Conversión Continua a las 2 p.m. en la Catedral de San Esteban en Owensboro el 18 de febrero de 2024.