

# Western Kentucky CATHOLIC

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## Brescia's President Conducts Liturgies across the Diocese

OWENSBORO, Ky. - When Brescia University's president, Fr. Larry Hostetter, took office in June, some of his primary objectives were to meet those with ties to Brescia, to increase Brescia's name recognition with the greater community, and to strengthen Brescia's ties with the Catholic community. One of the ways he is achieving the latter objective is by visiting the nearly 80 parishes in the Owensboro Diocese. Fr. Larry has begun meeting parishioners by traveling to parishes at the invitation of the pastors and conducting a weekend Mass. For the past three months, he has traveled across western Kentucky to the parishes located in Mayfield, Aurora, Madisonville, Axtel and sections of Owensboro.

In his sermon, the message Fr. Larry brings is clear: there are aspects of Catholic education, pre-school through graduate school, which make it distinct from the education received in public schools. At Brescia, the only Catholic college located within the Diocese, a Catholic education recognizes the following: that each student is a child of God, unique and never to be duplicated; that education should be tailored to the needs of the student; that morality and ethics are an important and necessary part of education; and that students should be inspired to embrace an attitude of servant leadership as was demonstrated by Christ when he washed his disciples' feet. It is an education of the whole person in body, mind and spirit. There is a unique difference of the "added value" of a Catholic education and Brescia is focused on making a difference in the lives of its students, its community and the Church.

Following each Mass, Fr. Larry welcomes the opportunity to visit with parishioners during a reception, usually held in the Parish Hall, and coordinated by Karen Wells, Brescia University's

Director of Alumni Relations. Also representing Brescia on these visits is a member of the admissions staff who talks with parents and those interested in receiving a higher education at a Catholic institution. They explain in detail the Catholic Connection Grant which allows graduates of Catholic high schools across the nation to receive a 50% tuition discount at Brescia with the stipulation that they reside in the Residence

**Of his visits to Western Kentucky Catholic parishes, Father Larry Hostetter, right, said, "I've enjoyed sharing my view of the 'Brescia difference' with the people of the diocese. That difference can be summarized in four points: Respect for the Sacred; Devotion to Learning; Commitment to Growth in Virtue; and Promotion of Servant Leadership." Brescia University Photo**



Halls. This tuition discount is also available for those students who do not attend a Catholic high school, but who are active in their faith and receive a recommendation from their parish priest.

Currently, the following dates and times are scheduled for Fr. Larry Hostetter to preside at Mass:

- Nov. 4, 5:30 p.m. - Holy Name, Henderson
- Dec. 1, 5 p.m. - St. Joseph, Bowling Green
- Apr 5, 5:30 p.m. - Holy Cross, Providence
- Apr 6, 8:00 a.m. - Immaculate Conception, Earlington
- Apr 6, 10:00 a.m. - Resurrection, Dawson Springs



## Rallying The Nation For Mary

**Public Square Rosary Rally, in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. Held along with Catholics in thousands of cities in Leitchfield, Ky. on October 13, 2007, exactly 90 years since the miracle of the sun at Fatima. Photo by Jody Zeigler.**

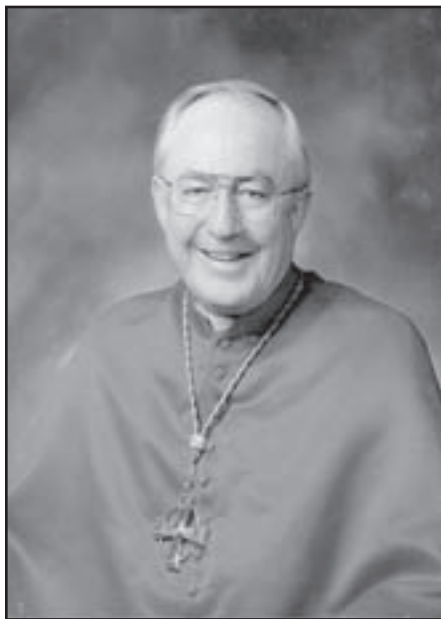
# We Give Thanks For The Great Gift of the Mercy of God

Dear Friends,

As I write this message to all of you, I am mindful that we are soon to find ourselves in the month of November. We celebrate many important days in November, but I want to call special attention to the Solemnity of All Saints, November 1, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) on November 2, and the celebration of Thanksgiving, November 25th.

The Solemnity of All Saints reminds us that there are unknown saints in heaven, and the Church reminds us that sanctity is within everyone's reach. Through the Communion of Saints, we help one another achieve sanctity. Our hopes are summed up in the opening prayer for the Solemnity of All Saints: "Father, all powerful and ever-living God, today we rejoice in the holy men and women of every time and place. May their prayers bring us your forgiveness and love." All Saints Day reminds us that at the end of our pilgrimage from this life to eternal life, we are called to be saints. Our prayers are joined with those who are now in heaven, that we will live our lives on this earth so that we might one day join them for all eternity in heaven. Do not let this day go by without praying to these saints. Many of them are from our own families; they are people that we shared the practice of our faith with while on our journey. They are one with us now, as they were then.

On November 2, we celebrate All Souls Day, the day that the Church (which includes all of us) prays for all who are purifying, suffering in purgatory and awaiting the day when they will join in the company of All Saints. The celebration of the Mass, which re-enacts the sacrifice of Calvary, has always been the principal means by which the Church fulfills the great commandment of charity toward the dead. They too are part of us, and through our prayers, suffering and penances, we can continue to reach out to those who have gone before us. Again, some of those for whom we pray may be family members, friends and others who have traveled the journey with us and are now waiting for that moment to join all the saints. These two days remind us that we must always pray for and to the dead, especially those who have touched our lives while they were with us on earth. While we remember those who have been close to us in a special way, we also pray for all those who have gone before us, from the beginning of time. The Church continues to stress the importance of offering Masses for the



+Most Reverend John J. McRaith, D.D.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

happy repose of the deceased.

This leads us to Thanksgiving Day. There are so many things for which we have to be thankful, but so often it is the material things that we think about on Thanksgiving Day. On this Thanksgiving Day, I would hope that we give thanks — not just for material things, or even for our families and friends, as blessed as we are to have them — but that we give thanks for our faith and all that entails.

Let us join with our Holy Father on this Thanksgiving Day in giving thanks to an ever-loving Jesus who shares Himself with us through the Eucharist.

As we give thanks for our many blessings on this Thanksgiving Day, we again give thanks for our faith and all that is part of our faith life. I would like to call to your attention that we give thanks for the great gift of the mercy of God. Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI has called the first ever World Congress on Mercy to be held in Rome on April 2nd to the 6th, 2008. How often do we receive the mercy of God but fail to thank Him for this gift that is key to our salvation?

We receive His Mercy in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. How often do we take advantage of this great gift of the sacrament of mercy? The merciful love of God was the subject of our Holy Father's Sunday Reflection on Sunday, September 16, 2007. He entitled it "GOD IS MERCIFUL LOVE." He then called our attention to the Gospel of Luke where in Chapter 3 the Evangelist Luke gathers three examples of Jesus' stories of

how God is merciful. He referred to the parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin and finally to the Prodigal Son. The Holy Father said in his reflection, "In this Gospel passage, we almost seem to hear Jesus' voice revealing to us the face of His Father and our Father. Basically, this was the reason He came into the world: to speak to us of the Father; to make Him known to us, His lost children; and to revive in our hearts the joy of belonging to Him, the hope of being forgiven and restored to our full dignity, with the desire to dwell forever in His house which is also our house."

Yes — the mercy of God tells us how much God loves us and how we are to love one another. As we are shown the gift of mercy, we are called to show that same mercy to each other. On our diocesan website (<http://www.owensborodio.org/>), you will find a link to <http://www.worldapostoliccongressonmercy.org/>, a site that gives more information about the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy. The site says it so well: "Divine Mercy has the power to change the world. It is a Revolution of Love able to uproot evil and sow goodness instead. Pope Benedict XVI explains 'It is the mercy of God become flesh in Jesus that alone can redress the balance of the world from good to evil, beginning with that small and decisive "world" which is man's heart.'" You will be hearing more about the Congress on Mercy from the diocese in the months to come. With regards to the Congress, I have asked Fr. Bruce Fogle to be our contact person with the Bishops' Conference.

What a great gift to thank God for on Thanksgiving Day and each day of our lives. What a great gift He has given us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Today is a day not only to give thanks to God for His loving mercy but to reflect on how often we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation—a great gift of mercy—and to reflect on how well we do in forgiving others as God has forgiven us. This great gift of mercy is something to be especially thankful for on this special day of Thanksgiving.

A happy Thanksgiving to each and every one of you. May we together not only receive God's mercy but show that mercy to each other, to show our gratitude.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John J. McRaith  
Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro

## Bishop McRaith's November 2007 Schedule

- 1 Solemnity of All Saints, Holy Day of Obligation – CPC CLOSED
- 3 Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, Mayfield, 5pm
- 4 Confirmation, St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah, 11am
- 7 50th Anniv. Celebration of the Diocese of New Ulm, Hutchinson, MN
- 8 Visit Diocese of Owensboro seminarians, St. John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul, MN
- 9 Mass with seminarians, St. John Vianney, St. Paul MN
- 10 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Mtg., Baltimore
- 11-14 USCCB Mtg., Baltimore
- 15 USCCB Mtg., Baltimore, ends at noon
- 18 Healing Mass, Mount Saint Joseph, 10:30am
- 19 Priests' Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am
- 19 Priests' Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm
- 19 DPC Mtg., CTK, Madisonville, 6pm
- 20 Presbyteral Day with Speaker Ed Monahan, Executive Dir. of CCK, CPC
- 21 Paducah Office Day, beginning at 10am
- 22 Thanksgiving Mass at Cathedral, Owensboro, 8am
- 26 Provincial Bishops' Mtg., Nashville, 1-5pm
- 27 Provincial Bishops' Mtg., Nashville, until noon
- 27 Mtg. with Priests' Council Reps. from Province V, Nashville
- 28 Mtg. with Priests' Councils from the Province, Nashville, until noon
- 29 Priests' Age Group One Mtg., St. Raphael, 11am



## Want to learn about Ursuline women in ministry?



### Join us for an Ursuline Way of Life Weekend

**WHO?** Single Catholic women, ages 18-30

**WHAT?** A weekend experience to pray, relax, explore, reflect and learn about our founder, Saint Angela Merici. It's also a chance to meet women who have followed God's call to be Ursuline Sisters.

**WHEN?** November 30-December 2, 2007:  
Friday, 7:30 p.m. to Sunday, 1 p.m.

**WHERE?** Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse, Maple Mount, Kentucky (12 miles southwest of Owensboro on Highway 56)

**COST?** There is no charge. Accommodations/meals are provided.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Sister Alicia Coomes: 270-229-4103, ext. 214 or [vocations@maplemount.org](mailto:vocations@maplemount.org)

*If you have ever thought about religious life, this event is an easy way to experience it firsthand at no cost or obligation. Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore a vocation as a woman religious in an active, apostolic community.*



## Best Gift

On September 21, 2007, the students and staff gave Mrs. Whitehouse, principal at the Owensboro Catholic Elementary K-3 Campus, the 'best gift she has ever received.' They said prayers for Mrs. Whitehouse and combined all the prayers into a bouquet saying how many of each prayer were said for her. Students had 'homework' to say prayers for Mrs. Whitehouse. A total of 5,838 Hail Mary Prayers; 1,001 Our Father Prayers; 887 Glory Be Prayers and 93 Rosaries were said and 557 Good Deeds were done. OCS Photo

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*"Those who exercise authority in the Church will take care to ensure that there is responsible exchange of freely held and expressed opinion among the People of God."* -Pastoral Instruction Of The Means Of Social Communications, #116, Jan. 29, 1971

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor submitted for publication in the Western Kentucky Catholic are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic.

## New federal law increases amount of college aid available to students

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- College students and lending institutions are not likely to heed this advice from Shakespeare's "Hamlet": "Neither a borrower nor a lender be." That's because student loans are a way of life, particularly when tuition at some private colleges has now topped \$40,000. And although loans make affording college tuition feasible, they also carry with them the huge weight of future debt, forcing graduates to rethink careers or put off life decisions such as getting married or starting a family. Others hope to sidestep the expense by postponing college or skipping it altogether. But now the federal government hopes to make college more affordable through the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, effective Oct. 1. Catholic higher education officials interviewed by Catholic News Service gave high marks to the legislation because it is aimed at helping more students pay for college and graduate with less debt. It will reduce the interest rates on federal student loans to 3.4 percent from the current 6.6 percent. It guarantees that loan recipients will not spend more than 15 percent of their annual income repaying loans and that loans will be forgiven after 25 years -- 10 years for those in public service.

## Twenty years of stats show religious retirement needs still great

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Despite steady support by American Catholics for the national Retirement Fund for Religious over the past 20 years, the unfunded liability for the care of elderly U.S. men and women religious continues to grow, according to a new report.

Annual national collections since 1988 have raised more than \$529 million for the needs of retired religious, with more than \$507 million being distributed to more than 500 religious congregations, the June statistical report of the National Religious Retirement Office showed.

But a December 2006 survey of 527 women's institutes and 154 men's institutes showed that only 11 percent of women's congregations and 12 percent of men's congregations reported being "adequately funded" for the retirement needs of their members, based on designated assets and the reported cost of care. By contrast, 26 percent of the women's institutes and 19 percent of the men's said their funding for retirement needs came to between 0 percent and 20 percent of the amount needed.

Assuming that only currently designated assets were available for retirement needs, the retirement office estimated the total unfunded liability for past service by men and women religious in the U.S. at \$7.5 billion in 2007, up from \$7.4 billion the year before. If other assets that could be available are included, the shortfall in 2007 would be \$6.5 billion, compared to \$5.5 billion in 2006, the report said.

At their June 2006 meeting in Los Angeles, the U.S. bishops approved extending the yearly collection until 2017. It had been due to expire in 2007. The statistical report was dated June 11 and was made public without analysis or commentary in late July. The report showed that 91 percent of women religious and 86 percent of men religious over age 70 receive Social Security benefits, but the average annual benefit for religious was \$4,209, compared to more than \$12,000 for the average U.S. beneficiary.

*Editor's Note: The annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is held in most U.S. dioceses on the second Sunday in December. It will take place Dec. 8-9 this year in the Diocese of Owensboro.*

## Life at the Poverty Line.

**Everyday is about hanging on. Be part of the numbers who care. Catholic Campaign for Human Development • [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd)**

There is a line strung across America—the poverty line—and one in eight Americans hangs below it. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) helps people rise above the poverty line by funding programs that focus on the root causes of poverty and are led by low-income leaders from the community.

The Catholic Bishops of the United States established CCHD in 1970. Now, as then, CCHD's mission is to work toward the elimination of poverty and injustice in this country through local initiatives and transformative education. CCHD funds small self-help programs initiated and led by poor people.

These successes are only possible through the solidarity of Parishioners in the United States. Each November the Bishops of the United States request the support of Parishioners throughout the United States to generously contribute to this annual collection. This year the collection will be taken up on the weekend Masses of November 17-18, 2007.

Richard Murphy said, "CCHD uses funds raised nationally in a once-a-year collection to fund innovative, grassroots projects all over the country. Each diocese retains 25% of the Collection to make additional grants. The strong, local, CCHD-funded groups who work with the poor in the Diocese of Owensboro are committed to ending poverty and promoting justice. They are led by the good people in our parishes and energized by your support. I urge you to help them to help our neighbors overcome poverty in Western Kentucky."

For more information on CCHD here and throughout the United States, contact Richard Murphy, Director for Social Concerns at 270/ 683-1545, or email him at [richard.murphy@pastoral.org](mailto:richard.murphy@pastoral.org), or visit the CCHD Web site at [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

**Owensboro Diocesan CCHD Collection Date - November 17-18, 2007**

## Body Language: Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture

By Christopher West



Christopher West

### The Theology of the Body is for Every-body!

I heard of it again just recently. An unmarried person decided not to attend her local parish seminar on John Paul II's theology of the body (TOB) because she thought it didn't apply to her. I hear this often – "What does the TOB have to do with me, I'm not married?" The theology of the body applies, quite literally, to every-body.

John Paul II's TOB is most often cast as an extended catechesis on marriage and sexual love. It certainly is that, but it is also so much more. Through the biblical analogy of spousal love, John Paul II's catechesis illumines the entirety of God's plan for human life from origin to eschaton with a splendid supernatural light. In its course, the TOB plunges us head first, as John Paul said, into "the perspective of the whole gospel, of the whole teaching, even more, of the whole mission of Christ" (TOB 49:3).

God has revealed his mystery of love through the Word made flesh – theology of the body. This phrase is not only the title of a series of talks by the late John Paul II. It represents the very "logic" of Christianity. The TOB, then, is nothing but an extended proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of the Incarnate Word – the "Gospel of the body." From start to finish, John Paul's TOB calls us to encounter the living, Incarnate Christ and to ponder how his body reveals the meaning of our bodies.

"The chief purpose of theology," as John Paul wrote in *Fides et Ratio*, "is to provide an understanding of revelation and the content of faith. The very heart of theological inquiry will thus be the contemplation of the mystery of the Triune God. The approach to this mystery begins with reflection upon the mystery of the Incarnation" (n. 93). This is precisely what the Holy Father's TOB is. As I once heard it stated quite succinctly, if the language of Israel is Hebrew and the language of Islam is Arabic, the language of Christianity is the body. There is simply no other way to "do" theology in the Christian sense. It all begins with the Incarnation – with God's human body.

To ask questions about the meaning of the human body starts us on an exhilarating journey that—if we stay the course—leads us from the human body to the mystery of sexual difference; from the mystery of sexual difference to the mystery of a holy communion in "one flesh"; from the mystery of this holy communion to the mystery of the Holy Communion of Christ and the Church (see Eph 5:31-32); and from the Holy Communion of Christ and the Church to the Eternal Holy Communion of Father, Son, and Spirit.

In other words, because we are made in the image of God as male and female, maleness and femaleness provides the main clue in the visible creation to the mystery of God himself. This doesn't mean God is sexual (he is not), but rather that God himself is an eternal exchange of life-giving love. This is what we learn when we "stay the course" in pondering the meaning of the body and human sexuality. The mystery of the human sexual-body launches us like a rocket into the mystery of God.

It seems that relatively few Christians, however, have "stayed the course." A great many obstacles, prejudices, taboos, and fears can easily derail us as we face the enigma of our own embodiment as male and female. The temptation to "spiritualize" Christ and Christianity is constant and fierce. The enemy incessantly denies Christ come in the flesh (see 1 Jn 4:2-3). But only by pondering Christ's body can we understand our own. When we dis-incarnate Christ, we lose all sense of the meaning of our own humanity.

That's what the TOB is all about – the meaning of our humanity. So, as I like to say, if you have a body, John Paul II's theology of the body applies to you. Take up a study of it, and get ready to launch into the Mystery!

## Ursuline Sisters Christmas Craft Sale

**Saturday, November 10, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Precious Blood Parish Hall, 3306 Fenmore Street, Owensboro, Ky.**  
**Homemade chili, bread and baked goods for sale. Many nice homemade items for gifts for any occasion. For more information, call Sister Rosanne Spalding at 1-270-925-3712**

# Women and Men, Holy Together



## Joining A Youth Group

By Julie Onstott

I took a bold step and decided I would volunteer for the youth group of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Of course, when I first mentioned to Keith that I would help out, I adamantly thought to myself, that if I don't like it, I could easily get out of it because Keith participates. Oh well, it was just a thought.

That is one of my flaws. Following through with a project once I have made a commitment to it. I get easily overwhelmed and start to doubt myself, then ultimately talk myself out of any given task. Let me tell you, it's not that I am lazy, it's truly a lack of confidence in myself. It has taken years for me to come to the realization, that, just maybe, I can make a difference in someone's life.

I remember calling my mom and telling her that I don't have a talent in anything. "I wish I had just one talent!" Being a little aggravated with me, my mom would then start to tell me that I am a very good mother. "But, I don't want to be just a good mother. I want to have a real talent." Oh my gosh! How stupid was that comment? It is the most valuable and important job in the world! I am only responsible for the development of one of God's creatures.

This child looks up to me for everything. It's not just about feeding them, putting clothes on their back and giving them an education. The most challenging task in raising my children, and still to this very day, is raising God fearing children. Nurturing their soul. And let me tell you, it's been the hardest job in my life. As a matter of fact, still, with an 18 year old daughter and a 15 years old son I am still working on overtime. Even with my oldest daughter married, I will always worry about her safety.

Well, it's time for me to get back to the subject at hand. Youth group. Once I had arrived and started to participate with the kids, I started to have a really good time. I enjoyed interacting with them and listening to their ideas. I was very impressed with their instructor Danny May. He has a connection with these kids and you can see in their faces and actions that they respect him as a teacher.

The topic at the first session I went to was, "Building a strong foundation." Why having a strong foundation with God can help us through the struggles that will come to us in this life. Because, just like the song says, "Life Ain't Always Beautiful," but it can be a beautiful ride. It's not going to be a beautiful ride if we don't have God in our life. Especially, when difficult times come our way. After that discussion, Danny read to us some of Pope Benedict's letter to the youth and then we talked about the Bible readings from the mass that day. Once we finished with talking about the gospel reading we picked up our chairs and formed small groups and had questions and answer discussions and then a fun activity for all of us. Not to mention, a wonderful meal prepared for us.

It was really nice talking and sharing with these young ladies and young men. They had very thought provoking ideas and valid questions. It was so nice to see a thirst for knowledge. I get a little choked up sometimes when I recall some of their answers and questions that they shared with the group. Letting these young voices be heard became abundantly clear to me how important youth group is. The interaction and bond that they share is like having a personal counseling session. Being able to say things like, "I don't understand the bible!" "I don't get anything out of it!" Then you don't feel so out of place because more in the class will speak up and share, relating that they feel the same way. Then we learn as a class that becoming more familiar with the Bible is the key to understanding it. And, when in doubt we can always say, "Hey, I don't understand this at all." It is also comforting for the youth to know that even adults have a difficult time.

I too had a difficult time reading the Bible and concentrating. Then I decided that I would read in the presence of our Lord at the Carmel Home and if I have any questions he is there to help me out. It has helped me a lot more and it is so awesome to read the Bible in His presence.

I am very proud of those who come every Sunday to youth group. It shows to me young minds eager to learn more and grow more spiritually.



## Planning for the Future

By Donna Howard, St. Pius X, Owensboro, KY

Plan, plan, plan! It's what we know we must do to stay focused in this unfocused world. It starts early in life too. As little ones, we plan what games to play with our friends or what to watch on TV when we get home from school. As adolescents and teenagers, we are forever planning what to wear, who to hang out with, what classes to take or what to say if given the chance.

As adults, we plan for the future by choosing the right vocation, profession and retirement plans. If parenthood is chosen, the planning is endless! Now we must carefully plan for other people who depend on us to make the right decisions! Sometimes all this planning can make the head spin!

But in the midst of all the well-made plans, somehow we find ourselves unprepared for something and it leaves us wondering, "How did that happen?" We become so busy planning our lives that we forget to check with the Master Planner, our Heavenly Father! So often we keep pushing His plans to the back burner or maybe we don't even bother to find out what His plans for us are. Sometimes we just need to plan time for God!

That is exactly what my Cursillo weekend was for me 13 years ago! It was the beginning of my letting go and letting God's plans take precedence in my life. At that point in my life, I had just started my first job as an elementary school teacher and had four little ones at home. Having been raised in a strong, faith-filled Catholic family and attending Catholic school all my life, I knew how important it was to keep Christ at the center of my family. Yet, it was becoming harder and harder to stay focused on this plan! After years of gentle encouragement from my in-laws, my husband, Mark and I finally agreed to make a Cursillo weekend in the fall of 1994. Wow! I am so glad we did! On that weekend I learned how it was possible to make God's plans my plans! It actually felt really good to surrender and go with the flow! On that weekend I was given the tools to be successful and persevere in my Christ-centered life. Best yet, I was given an incredible support group to lean on when I left the safe weekend surroundings. The men and women I have come to know and love through the Cursillo have been a true Godsend!

Since then, Mark and I have had 3 more children and have worked several weekends! I meet regularly with fellow Cursillistas who help me in my plan to stay focused on Christ. My "group" has changed over the years as circumstances have changed, but what has remained constant is the love and encouragement I receive from surrounding myself with those who walk my walk with me! I have learned that no matter how busy I get, I must make time for God! I need this time to stop the craziness of the world for a while and refocus.

If you are searching for a way to place Christ at the center of your plans, consider attending the next Cursillo to find out how to put this plan into action. The next weekends are:

Men's - February 28 - March 2, 2008

Women's - March 6 - 9, 2008

Contacts: Cecelia Hamilton (270) 926-4176,

Theresa or Charlie Krampe (270) 546-7773

Let go and let God take control. You'll be glad you did!



## Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon Saturday, December 1, 2007

### Saint Mary of the Woods Parish Hall, Whitesville, Ky.

8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Salad luncheon (11:00 to 1:30)

Christmas ornaments, Decorations, Gift Baskets, Religious items, etc.

Any questions, call Saint Mary Parish Office at 233-4196

## TEC: The Communion of Saints

The month of November is traditionally dedicated to remembering the saints who have gone before us, our departed family and friends. In different countries the cel-



Father Eric Riley

ebrations this month are expressed in a variety of ways, from simple, quiet prayers before and after Mass, to lighting candles of remembrance, to large processions and vigils in cemeteries. In all of the ways we make our expressions, what is most important is that we remember that we are all joined together by Christ through the Communion of Saints.

On 1 November the Church throughout the world celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints. This day is particularly focused on those men and women who have gone before us in Faith and are already celebrating the great Mystery of the Beatific Vision; those who have already entered into the glories of the Heavenly Kingdom. The souls of these Saints are in perfect Communion with the Most Holy Trinity. They are very much alive, conscious and active in the presence of our Mighty God. These Saints in Heaven are great intercessors on our behalf. They are the "cloud of witnesses" who have allowed Christ to bring them into the fullness of Life (Hebrews 12:1). The Saints in Heaven are also intercessors on our behalf; while nothing is lacking in the intercession Jesus Christ makes on our behalf before His Father, the Saints in heaven are united with us and with Christ in prayer for God's perfect will to be done in our lives. When we ask Saints in Heaven and Purgatory to pray for us, they pray for God's will in our lives. They know how to pray for what we need, not just what we want.

On 2 November the Church celebrates the Feast of All Souls. On this day we particularly focus on the Saints who are still being purified before entry into the perfection that is Heaven. These Saints who have been given the gift of salvation by Christ, and have lived their lives in Communion with Him, are allowing the purifying love of God to burn away any imperfections that may still exist in their earthly attachments. They are being made whole by the love of God so that they may step unstained into the perfect Beatific Vision and fully celebrate the joys of Heaven without anything holding them back. These Saints can and do pray for us in the Communion of Saints; but God also allows us to pray and offer sacrifices for them. It is important to be in Communion with the Saints in Purgatory; this is why we offer Masses for our loved ones who have gone before us. We can offer wheat (sacrifices) for them. We can assist them, through our solidarity with them in prayer, as they are being purified and made ready for the glory of the Eternal Life in Heaven. As we pray for the good for our sisters and brothers here upon the earth, we should pray for the good for our families and friends who have gone before us. While our hope is that all people are saved and are enjoying the good things Christ has prepared for all in heaven, we should also pray for those who have gone before us as though they need our prayers. If we are praying for our relatives and friends who have gone before us and they are already in Heaven our prayers are not wasted, but will still be a blessing. Our prayers do not change God's will, but they help us to be in communion with God's will.

During the whole month of November, let us reflect on the Communion of Saints. Let us pray for our deceased relatives and friends every day. Let us ask them to pray for us. Let us, together, continue to share in the goodness of Christ in our lives. Let us live our lives in such a way that one day we, the Saints upon the earth, may be numbered among the Saints in Heaven. May the Holy Spirit produce much fruit from the seeds we plant.

Thank you to all who made TEC 159 such a great Encounter. The team, candidates and circle of disciples came together with an awesome spirit. The momentum that is building for entering into, nurturing and spreading the Good News of the Paschal Mystery is a great movement of Faith in which to share. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Little Flower St. Therese of Lisieux, and the Communion of Saints, may we live out our God-given call to proclaim by word and deed the life well-lived in Christ.

All are invited to come and share in the TEC Holy Hour at Holy Redeemer, 13th Street, Beaver Dam, on Monday, 12 November, 7-8:30 PM. There will be time for praise and worship music, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and prayer, a Paschal Mystery Meditation, small group sharing, Benediction. Refreshments following. All are welcome. Bring a friend.



TEC 160 will be at the Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp, Bowling Green, 19-21 January 2008. Cost for the weekend is \$50. Registration deadline is 4 January. Registration forms and more info are available at [www.wkytec.org](http://www.wkytec.org) or contact [wkytecsdir@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkytecsdir@bellsouth.net) for more info.

TEC 161 will be at Saint Charles in Bardwell, 16-18 February 2008. For more info see contacts above.

If you have worked on TECs in the past or have made a TEC weekend and want to join together to continue growing in our Faith, putting our Faith into action, and being an active member of this movement within the local Church, send an email to Fr. Eric Riley, [wkytecsdir@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkytecsdir@bellsouth.net) Together we will continue to grow in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

## Helping Children Cope with Sibling Loss

By Betty Medley

Children live in a world not of their own making and are subject to influences beyond their control. If as parents or professionals we are interested in improving our children's quality of life, we must concern ourselves with their relationship to death. Certainly, the relationship is complex and troubling, and we face it only with great reluctance. At heart, we prefer to deny that there is any connection between death and our children.

However, experience does not allow us to maintain this denial for very long. The death of a child or of someone close to a child is an event which most children will observe firsthand at some point. There is much that can be done to help these children cope with the life crisis death poses.

It is important that children who lose a sibling experience acknowledgement of their loss, from their parents and immediate family members but also from extended family, neighbors, teachers, and others who come in contact with them. Failure to acknowledge the child's loss sets in motion the beginning of a response that inhibits (and prohibits) mourning in the child. Those who interact with a bereaved child may also be unaware of the difference between the ways adults and children express grief. For the observer, the adult's capacity for expression of feelings often overshadows the child's less obvious grief reactions, which leads to the conclusion that the child is not in great pain. In fact, the child may be experiencing a wide range of feelings connected to the loss, including sadness, grief, guilt, and overburdening sense of responsibility to make up to the parents for their loss. These inner reactions will not be outwardly expressed, however, if those people who are around the child convey an attitude of unconcern.

We need to be aware of differences in the ways grieving parents respond to loss and of the potential for surviving siblings to feel abandoned by them. The death of a child may result in a fixation in the progression of the family life cycle on the inability of the family to assist surviving siblings with their developmental needs. Despite such a tragic event as the death of a child, the development of surviving siblings does not stop. They continue to need parents who can provide flexible and sensitive care and guidance. If parents become unable to provide these things, serious difficulties may develop in the family.



Betty Medley

## U.S. archbishop says military chaplains must be voices of conscience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Military chaplains must be voices of conscience and defenders of the human rights of their own soldiers, enemy combatants and civilians, said Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore, who headed the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services for 10 years. Where there is an acceptance of the direct killing of noncombatants or where torture is justified to obtain information, the chaplain service is either absent or not doing its job, the archbishop told a Vatican-sponsored course for military ordinaries and chaplains. "The vicious and utterly barbaric treatment of individuals" in the U.S.-run Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq "leaves no doubt as to the barbaric extremes to which human beings can resort, especially in times of war," the archbishop told course participants Oct. 13. "It is significant, perhaps, that this prison did not have an assigned chaplain, though Army regulations required one," he said.

# Reverence for Life

## ... A Need for “A Heart That Sees”

On his recent visit to Austria, Pope Benedict XVI named abortion “a deep wound in society,” a threat inflicted by ethical blindness. In a prophetic voice raised in defense of a fundamental right to life, the Holy Father stated: “I am acting as an advocate for a profoundly human need, speaking out on behalf of unborn children who have no voice. I do not close my eyes to the difficulties and conflicts that many women are experiencing, and I realize that the credibility of what we say also depends on what the Church is doing to help women in trouble.” His address, “The Fundamental Human Right,” also expressed a grave concern about movements promoting “actively assisted death.” (September 7, 2007)

These remarks of the Holy Father to diplomats and government leaders in Austria mention an ecclesial task of service to the needs of women and their children as well as the pursuit of justice in the political order – a justice inspired by charity.

The practice of charity at the heart of the Church’s mission and ministry is a theme central to the theological vision of Pope Benedict XVI. *Deus Caritas Est* (2005), his inaugural encyclical, presents a theological reflection on the ministry of charity as a constitutive element of the Church. The ecclesial ministry of charity bears a commitment to justice. (DCE nn. 26-29)

In the political order, the Church’s specific contribution to a “just ordering of society and State” consists in providing an “understanding of the requirements of justice” and the political embodiment of those demands by means of “the purification of reason and through ethical formation.” (DCE n. 28)

In speaking of the indirect duty of the Church in the political sphere, *Deus Caritas Est* states that “charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as ‘social charity.’” (DCE n. 29)

In the same vein, *The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (2004) attributes a priority to charity in its interrelationship to justice, for “[l]ove presupposes and transcends justice.” The dignity of the human person calls for the pursuit of justice to open up to “the new horizon of solidarity and love.” (CSDC nn. 203-204) Love, then, as the “highest and universal criterion of the whole of social ethics” engenders an appreciation for the values of truth, freedom, and justice that flows “from the inner wellspring of love.” (CSDC nn. 204-205)

In 1999, we, the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky, published *Reverence for Life: The Pursuit of Justice* to implement the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities in the dioceses of Kentucky. Our pastoral letter strongly emphasized the indispensable need for life-affirming assistance for women and children along with the pursuit of justice in public policy. The month of October, a time when Catholics nationally participate in the annual “Respect Life Program,” is an appropriate occasion to highlight selected pro-life themes set forth in our previous letter.

First, by way of a preface, the formation of the consciences of our Catholic people becomes a priority for us in our role as pastoral teachers. As the U. S. Bishops pointed out in *Faithful for Life: A Moral Reflection* (1995), the Church’s role “to participate in the public debates about abortion and other threats to human life are correlative to the task to inform consciences and to promote justice.”

Pope John Paul II called for renewed evangelization and catechesis in *Evangelium Vitae* (1995): “We need to begin with a renewal of a culture of life within Christian communities themselves. Too often it happens that believers, even those who take an active part in the life of the Church, end up by separating their Christian faith from its ethical requirements concerning life, and thus fall into moral subjectivism...” (EV n. 95)

Moral clarity based on Church doctrine is integral to a responsible formation of conscience.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1997) sets forth the definitive Catholic moral doctrine on the evil of abortion: “Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law.” (CCC n. 2271) The *Catechism* also

**“In a consistent ethic of life, the unborn child creates a special test for society’s moral vision ...”**

admonishes: “The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of a civil society and its legislation.” (CCC n 2273)

In reference to euthanasia, the *Catechism* states: “Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable.” (CCC n. 2277) Abortion and euthanasia have become pre-eminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental good and the condition of all other human goods and rights.

In a consistent ethic of life, the unborn child creates a special test for society’s moral vision since the right to life is antecedent to and the necessary condition for all other rights of the human person. Respect for unborn life is the acid test for fostering a respect-life ethos in society since protection of the unborn child is a radical symbol of society’s regard for the helpless, the dependent, the unwanted, or the powerless.

In this sense, abortion is the fundamental human rights issue, for to diminish respect for the right to life of the unborn is tantamount to diminishing respect for life in all other contexts.

The heritage of the Catholic social doctrine is not limited to questions touching upon economic and political rights. It is concerned with human life issues – abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, the death penalty, and the violence of war fall within the scope of social morality.

*Reverence for Life: The Pursuit of Justice*, in accord with the Pastoral Plan, identifies the defense of human life and the promotion of human dignity within a broad spectrum of justice issues.

The Pastoral Plan locates the right to life and opposition to abortion and euthanasia in the context of the Church’s coherent moral vision for a just ordering of society: “To focus on the evil of the deliberate killing in abortion and euthanasia is not to ignore the many other urgent conditions that demean human dignity and threaten human rights.” Hence, in *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics* (1998) the U. S. Bishops state: “Any politics of human life must work to resist the violence of war and the scandal of capital punishment. Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, unemployment, education, housing and health care.” (LTGL n. 23)

Without doubt, reverence for life cannot cease with birth; pro-life values must be applied to every stage of human development. Again, as Pope John Paul II stated in *Evangelium Vitae*, building a culture of life requires that the service of charity be consistent: “Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good. We need then to ‘show care’ for all life and for the life of everyone...” (EV n. 87)

Although legal protection of the unborn remains a long-range public policy goal, we note in *Reverence for Life: The Pursuit of Justice* that legislation of itself will not prove adequate. In *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II drew similar implications regarding the defense of life: “... it is not enough to remove unjust laws. The underlying causes of attacks on life have to be eliminated, especially by ensuring proper support for families and motherhood. A family policy must be the basis and driving force of all social policies.” (EV n. 90)

Linking the right to life of the unborn with quality of life issues stresses the need for providing reasonable alternatives to abortion. A life-affirming environment cannot be effectively established without life-affirming assistance. Solidarity in helping to carry the burdens of men and women in need entails provision of a variety of services which realistically offer alternatives to abortion.

Prenatal care, maternity care, emotional support, adoption services, child care, foster care, educational and vocational assistance represent important measures to mitigate the evil of abortion.

We renew the commitment of the Catholic Church in Kentucky to seeking and supporting public policy efforts to achieve the long-range legal protection of the unborn and to the provision of compassionate presence, service, and care by means of a variety of measures that support life: material assistance, social services pertaining to adoption and foster

Continued on page 9



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Marriage Celebrations for November 2007: Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and over 50 years of marriage

### **Blessed Mother, Owensboro**

David & Debbie McBride, 25  
Randall & Ruthie Payne, 40  
Harry & Charlene Baumgarten, 51  
Eldridge & Lois Owens, 51

### **Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro**

Philip & Joyce Moorman, 50  
**Christ the King, Madisonville**  
Eddie & Rachel Ballard, 54  
Emilio & Virginia Suarez, 53

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

Patrick & Jeanette Burke, 50

### **Holy Name, Henderson**

Billy & Betty Gatten, 58  
Boynton & Marian Merrill, 55  
Andre' & Louise Trawick, 52  
Bobby & Della May Marlin, 50  
Charles & Faye Pippin, 50  
Jimmy & Dianne Willett, 40  
Donald & Rita Meuth, 25

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

Matthew & Chris Keyser, 25  
Richard & Marie Owen, 50  
Howard & Dorothy Naberhaus, 57  
Paul & Barbara Schnoes, 51  
Bill & Alberta Metzger, 61

### **Immaculate, Owensboro**

Fred & Norma Mattingly, 40  
John & Patricia Mountain, 51  
William J. & Carolyn Mulligan, 61  
Joseph & Rosita Blandford, 60  
Stewart & Barbara Coomes, 53  
Thomas & Mary Louise Cecil, 57  
Joseph & Mary Ruth Cilia, 64  
Tom & Rosella Whitsett, 57  
Joseph & Jo Anne Mason, 40  
Donald & Mary Blanford, 54  
Charles & Mary Jane Bowlds, 55

### **Immaculate Conception, Hawesville**

Myrl & Cleo Bickett, 66  
**Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro**  
James & Clara Simon, 57  
Arch & Ramonda Bamberger, 67

George & Irene Beierlein, 70  
Samuel & Louise Berry, 55  
Herbert & Ann Crabtree, 57  
Ronald & Dorothy Coomes, 40

### **Precious Blood, Owensboro**

Louis & Liz Cecil, 63  
Ivan & Mary Coomes, 25  
Larry & Linda Jollay, 40  
Charles & Shirley Merimee, 51  
James & Doris Schrecker, 52

### **Sacred Heart, Hickman**

David & Sandra Lattus, 40  
Morrison & Paula McClure, 50

### **Sacred Heart, Russellville**

William & Jean Danhauer, 57

### **Sacred Heart, Waverly**

Ralph & Judy Hagedorn, 40

Larry & Anne Hagan, 40

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

Maurice & Helen Willett, 54  
Pat & Peggy Tomas, 55  
Clarence & Charlene French, 71

### **St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph**

Robert & Mary Ann Mattingly, 50  
Maurice & Dot Drury, 60  
Bill & Daisy Gibson, 51  
William & Elizabeth Mattingly, 61  
Joe Paul & Joyce Warren, 59

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

Gordon & Marietta Clements, 60  
James & Betty Hancock, 63

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

Simon & Rita Wink, 51

### **St. Anthony, Peonia**

Lawrence & Ruth Powell, 60

### **St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers**

Donald & Eleanor Crayne, 54

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

Maurice Dale & Josetta Cain, 58  
Joe & Rosie Hayden, 61

### **St. Columba, Lewisport**

John & Anna Payne, 25

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

John & Estelle Simrell, 66  
Douglas & Concetta Lorton, 51  
Charles & Dorothy Fenwick, 55  
Steve & Ann Lindsey, 53  
Pat & Susie Fenwick, 25

### **St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis**

Fred & Margaret Williamson, 59

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

Charles & Mary Chappell, 50

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

Leon & Mae Carter, 72  
Joseph & Magy Wilson, 59  
Bernard & Wilma Hobbs, 58  
James & Barbara O'Guinn, 58  
Charles & Betty Cash, 57

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

Louis & Emma Bourgois, 53  
Bennie & Doris Durbin, 57  
Johnny & Louise Kaufman, 54  
Leroy & June Kaufman, 55  
Francis & Dorothy Scheer, 57  
Ambrose & Mary Denise Willett, 61

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

Russell & Elizabeth Below, 60  
Larry & Mary Beth Conrad, 25

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

Wendell & Mary Lou Beeler, 53

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

James R. & Cindy Cash, 25  
Robert & Trudy Richards, 40  
John & Helen Riley, 51  
Douglas & Hilda Webb, 59  
Samuel & Ann Cash, 61

# Catholic Campaign to End the Death Penalty

By Peggy Wright

Over and over again, the Catholic Church has taught that mercy is greater than sacrifice. While saying it, the Church acknowledges that as Christians, respect for human life is a must, even for those who have done great harm to others. The U.S. Catholic Bishops remind us that all human life is a gift from God, and that the death penalty should be set aside when it has other means to protect society. Imprisonment is, therefore, the merciful choice.

With forty persons on Death Row in Kentucky the press has covered the recent case of Ralph Baze whom the Governor slated for execution in September. Through the Catholic Coalition Against the Death Penalty, the Kentucky Bishops' visit to Governor Fletcher and activities of numerous Kentuckians, both Catholic and non-Catholic, a stay was granted, but only a temporary stay. On November 15th, another hearing will take place. The Catholic Coalition asks that all persons in Kentucky sign the petition entitled *Not in Our Name* by clicking on their website at [www.kcadp.org](http://www.kcadp.org); at this site, you can vote on-line, and for interested parishes a form is available to use for those who do not have computer access. If you have not yet signed Please Sign. Hopefully, the Coalition will accrue the 50,000 signatures it seeks, and this will be a great leap forward to the abolition of the Death Penalty in Kentucky, as we ask God "to forgive us as we forgive others." What can be more merciful?

- Peggy Wright is a member of the Diocesan Prison Ministry Committee. She is from Bowling Green and serves with Fr. Mark Buckner at The Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, Ky..

Randal & Louise Carrico, 62

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

Kenneth & Carolyn Ramsey, 51

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

George & Patti Osborne, 52  
Paul & Mary Schrecker, 61

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

Gerald & Carol Head, 40  
Mike & Mary Lou Jones, 25

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

Dennis & Donna Mills, 25  
Gordon & Evelyn Millay, 53  
J. W. & Mary Morris, 55  
James L. & Martine Boarman, 59

William & Mary Brey, 61

James A. & Rose Ann Cecil, 64

### **St. Michael, Oak Grove**

John & Helena Klepacki, 25

### **St. Paul, Leitchfield**

Jeffrey & Sylvia Sanders, 25  
Steven & Judy Summers, 25  
Patrick J. & Anna Johnson, 59  
**St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley**  
Sammy & Beth Hall, 25  
Delbert & Shirley Fulkerson, 55  
Hugh & Betty Cecil, 55

### **St. Peter, Waverly**

George & Regina Vogel, 59

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

Jerry & Gayle Seay, 54

### **St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro**

Dennis & Leslie Phelps, 25  
Joseph & Dorothy Raley, 53  
Marvin & Millie Morris, 66  
**St. Romuald, Hardinsburg**

Tommy & Shirley Winchell, 25

Joe Paul & Phyllis Flood, 50

Victor & Lillian Henning, 50

Harold & Dorothy Burnette, 55

Paul & Pauline Henning, 60

### **St. Rose, Cloverport**

Pat & Betty Henning, 25

### **St. Stephen, Cadiz**

Delbert & Ronella Stagner, 61

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

Royce & Dottie Vinson, 56  
John & Marybelle Darnell, 61  
Jim & Jolene Hudson, 51  
Henry & Mary O'Bryan, 59  
Bill & Jean Danhauer, 57  
Charles & Mary Ruth Danhauer, 58  
Glenn & Ruth Helen Wright, 52  
Gil & Joann Moore, 50

### **St. Thomas More, Paducah**

John & Helen Farrell, 52  
Louis & Emma Bourgois, 53  
George & Joanna McMinn, 53  
Donald & Eleanor Crayne, 54

### **St. William, Knottsville**

John W. & Edna Lanham, 61  
Frankie & Elsie Lindsey, 51  
Joseph E. & Catherine Mills, 61

### **Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro**

Danny & Mary Bartlett, 25  
Marvin & Emma Blincoe, 61  
Charles & Florence Howard, 52  
Richard & Rita Stiff, 52  
Gordon & Mary Rose Whitehouse, 59  
Donald & Martha Hare, 52

### **Sts. Mary & James, Guthrie**

Donald & Cathy Hall, 51

### **Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville**

Henry & Hannelore Kumpfmuller, 50  
Arnold & Julia Borders, 52  
Thomas & Winnie Wilson, 55



# Reverence for Life (Continued from page 7)

care, pregnancy counseling centers, spiritual assistance and counseling, programs of formation on the virtue of chastity, and education in natural family planning.

Since 1984, we have sponsored Opportunities for Life, a statewide telephone hotline staffed by volunteers from all over Kentucky. OFL provides support and assistance to women in crisis pregnancies and information about resources and support to inform women of their options in choosing life for their babies.

Catholic Charities and Catholic Social Services provide adoption services and guidance to women about adoption. These agencies also provide on-going counseling and parenting education.

Project Rachel is a post-abortion healing program available in several locations throughout our dioceses. Project Rachel creates an opportunity for healing, support and reconciliation.

We likewise pledge compassionate care in respect for the dignity of all who are wounded by the violence of abortion. In this ministry, we join the national body of bishops in its pledge to “uphold the spirituality of the Good Samaritan.” (*Light and Shadows*, 1997). In the writings of both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope John Paul II, the biblical image of the Good Samaritan serves as a model of the Church’s charitable activities and works of mercy.

For forming a people of life, Pope John Paul II identified the service of charity as being “inspired and distinguished by a specific attitude: we must care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible.” *Evangelium Vitae* invokes two seminal biblical texts to disclose that disposition of solidarity: 1) The parable of the Good Samaritan enjoins us “to become neighbor to everyone (Lk, 10: 29-37), and to

show special favor to those who are poorest, most alone, and in need”; 2) The judgment scene in the Gospel according to Matthew describes the salvific encounter with Christ in the corporal works of mercy: “In helping the hungry, the thirsty, the foreigner, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned – as well as the child in the womb and the old person who is suffering or near death – we have the opportunity to serve Jesus.” (Mt 25:40)

In *Deus Caritas Est* Pope Benedict XVI envisions the Parable of the Good Samaritan as the model of the Church’s ecclesial ministry of charity. The Holy Father designates the Christian approach to charitable activity as “the program of the Good Samaritan, the program of Jesus.” (DCE n. 31)

The works of charity must be suffused with “heartfelt concern” effected by a “formation of heart.” That disposition in Catholics stems from the “encounter with God in Christ which awakens their love and opens their spirits to another.” (DCE n. 31)

The “program of the Good Samaritan” embodies “a heart that sees.” In other words, a heart that is graced to see “where love is needed, and acts accordingly.” (DCE n. 31) Living the Gospel of life must be nurtured by prayer, reflection, and solitude. A prayerful spirit can move the believer towards solidarity and communion with others, support a hopeful realism in the face of injustice, and forge a link between contemplation and service.

The spirituality of the works of mercy arises from our prayerful encounter with Jesus. The contemplative outlook attained through prayer illumines the heart, “a heart that sees” the face of Christ mirrored in the faces of “the least” of our brothers and sisters – the weakest, the powerless, the voiceless in our midst. Adopted: September 2007

## References for Study and Reflection

- *Deus Caritas Est* (2005) <http://www.vatican.va/>
- *Evangelium Vitae* (1995), <http://www.vatican.va/>
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2d ed 1997), <http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text/>
- *Reverence for Life: The Pursuit of Justice* (1999), <http://www.ccky.org/>
- Pro-Life Prayer Services for Times of Transition, <http://www.ccky.org/>

*The Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) is an agency of the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky, established in 1968. CCK speaks for the Church in matters of public policy, serves as liaison to government and the legislature, and coordinates communications and activities between the church and secular agencies. There are 406,000 Catholics in the Commonwealth. The Bishops of the four dioceses of Kentucky constitute CCK’s Board of Directors. Committees of the Conference are: Ecumenical, Education, Finance, Health Care, Hispanic, Pro-Life and Social Concerns.*

## Pope says liturgical music should evolve with the times

ROME (CNS) -- The church’s “ancient treasure” of liturgical music should not remain frozen in time, but evolve with appropriate modern-day adaptations, Pope Benedict XVI said. Sacred music and song are a “necessary and integral part of solemn liturgy” that “stir hearts and lift them” to such heights that one can experience, “in a manner of speaking, the same intimacy of the life of God,” he told staff and students of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music. During an Oct. 13 visit to inaugurate and bless recently restored areas of the institute, the pope recalled Pope John Paul II’s observations that sacred liturgical music has three defining characteristics, “holiness, true art, universality,” enabling it to be offered to “any people or type of assembly.” The Second Vatican Council affirmed that the church’s sacred musical tradition “is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art,” Pope Benedict said, quoting from the council’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.



## St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day Blessing of the Animals

Saturday afternoon on the St. Francis of Assisi feast day an assortment of animals and their assorted owners gathered under the large tree in the St. Francis de Sales church parking lot in Paducah. There were the usual large, medium and small dogs, a mixed group of cats, one large black rabbit and a shy guinea pig. Robert and Terrie Dwyer are shown above with their whippets. After all the animals were admired and petted Father Bryan Roby signaled it was time to start the proceedings. The group sang an appropriate song and Father blessed all the animals. It was a really beautiful fall day and a fitting way to celebrate St. Francis’ feast day.

## Speakers at Right to Life Dinner Defend The Value of Lives Of Babies, Children

By Tami Schneider

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Presidential Candidate, Alan Keyes, spoke to a sold-out crowd at the annual Right to Life of Owensboro Autumn Fundraising Banquet. His dynamic words reached the ears of approximately 425 people who gathered at the Sports Center on Parrish Avenue. All were eager to hear what a politician had to say in defense of the unborn. Bishop John J. McRaith attended the banquet and commented, "I was inspired by the large number people who gathered for the Right to Life banquet, people from many religious backgrounds, many walks of life joined together to pray and to be renewed in our commitment to protect life and especially the life of the unborn."

Dr. Keyes began by asking how many people love God. Then he asked how many people love their country. He insisted that the two cannot be separated. "We have somehow gotten the idea that God and country cannot go together," he stated. He illustrated how this country was founded on the principle that we were endowed by our Creator. The Declaration itself states this, yet our government does not allow us to teach about our Creator in schools. Dr. Keyes made the decision to speak out for the Declaration because he realizes, that "as a black American, I would be in the bonds of slavery if it weren't for the Declaration." He hopes to help restore the concept that "we owe all we are and all we have to God."

"Abortion represents the efficient suppression of the child." The child is removed from the equation in that relationship. Dr. Keyes made a direct correlation between abortion and homosexuality. Just as abortion suppresses the child, homosexuality completely removes the possibility of the child.

In the same vein, he paralleled the War on Terrorism with the fight to end abortion, as pertaining to the same moral cause. With terrorism, as with abortion, innocent people die. "They represent the same principle of evil."

Dr. Keyes also pointed out that many politicians think that commitment to the pro-life cause is just one issue. He proclaimed that it is not just one issue, but rather the founding principle of our nation. He went so far as to say that if this one principle is forgotten, "our country must fail."

The evening continued with a few words by the President of Right to Life of Owensboro, Ed Hoskins, who reminded those present that we are just one Supreme Justice away from overturning Roe V. Wade. He invited his Executive Director, Dana Goodlett to also share a few words. She quoted the book of Joel by reading: "Yet even now, declares the Lord, 'Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.' [...] Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom come out of his room and the bride out of her bridal chamber. Let the priests, the Lord's ministers, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, 'Spare Your people, O Lord.'" (Joel 2:12-13, 16-17)

Mr. Hoskins presented the annual Life Award this year to Rita Heinz, Director of Programs of Catholic Charities. Since its beginning in January 2001, Catholic Charities Adoptions has provided counseling and support for numerous women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Mr. Hoskins praised her efforts by noting that Rita has personally walked with many women through their pregnancies and deliveries, offering support, guidance, and a listening ear – making herself available to them 24/7, even on vacation! Richard Murphy, Director of the Office for Social Concerns for the Diocese of Owensboro, and Rita's coworker acknowledges that "she has poured her heart and soul into this ministry and is very deserving of this award."

Many in attendance left energized and revitalized by Alan Keyes' words. Some mentioned that it was refreshing to hear someone speak the truth. A young adult Catholic, Katie Riney, stated: "I admire his bravery to speak the truth that we all need to hear, especially when it comes to voting." Joe Bland, MA, a husband, father and Trinity High Religion Teacher, stated: "I like how he tied the Roe V. Wade decision in '73 to the downfall of the family, to the downfall of morality. By giving up our moral stance on terrorism, we are giving up our moral stance on abortion. It reminded me of *Humanae Vitae* (by Pope Paul VI). If we cave in and give up on contraception, we are on the slippery slope." Rachel Evans, a young wife and mother, appreciated the connection he made between contraception, abortion, homosexuality and war. "It is all a downward spiral," she said. Evans was surprised to hear a politician say what she has often thought. Kathryn Crowe, who attended the event with her young adult daughter, said, "He's such a witness that he's really going to be tested. His faith will get him through." A moment later she added, "It made me think that we just can't give up."

The crowd included Catholics and Protestants alike, peppered with several couples proudly showing off their new born babies. St. Francis of Assisi taught: "Preach the Gospel always. When necessary, use words." These couples gave witness to the pro-life cause by example, their precious bundles of joy.

Bishop John McRaith who attended this year's fundraiser for Right to Life, said, "I was inspired by the large number of people who gathered for the Right to Life banquet, people from many religious backgrounds, many walks of life joined together to pray and to be renewed in our commitment to protect life and especially the life of the unborn."



Presidential Candidate, Alan Keyes, speaks with a group of ladies before dinner during the Annual Right to Life of Owensboro Autumn Fundraising Banquet. Staff Photo.



Keith Evans proudly holds his newborn daughter during the Right to life dinner.



Mr. Ed Hoskins presented this year's Life Award to Rita Heinz, Director of Programs of Catholic Charities.



Michael Edge, Keith Evans and John Edge line up with their newborns for this shot. Many parents brought their babies to the dinner to support the pro-life cause with their actions, as well as with their words. Staff Photo.

# Celebrating Religious Life

By Larena Lawson

They came together on a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning, Sept. 15th, at St. Martin Parish in Rome, gathering in one place in celebration of their vocations. It was the religious sisters and brothers of the Diocese of Owensboro. Ten of these sisters were being acknowledged for their jubilee years of service. Their lives have been dedicated to God and they have been serving Him; some, fifty years, some, even sixty! As they prayed together with Bishop John McRaith in the midst of the special ceremony, a sense of unity among them could be felt, even though they represented several different religious orders. They each share the same sacred connection to the Lord, a holy calling to be one with Him in a religious vocation that seeks to serve God and His Church. They are strong witnesses of faith, of courage and of perseverance, which models how, in being true to one's vocation in life, one can find peace and contentment in Christ.

After the ceremony, the celebration continued in the parish hall. The Serra Clubs of Owensboro and Henderson were delighted to prepare their annual Appreciation Luncheon for the Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests. It gave the religious time to be together as one large group, to share a meal, to have fellowship with one another and it also allowed the Serra Clubs, whose mission it is to foster and pray for holy vocations to the Church, to be able to thank all of them for saying yes to their vocations. It was a joy-filled afternoon as they all could share in the gifts that God had given to them, good people, good food and good fun, along with a few cash prize giveaways that the sisters always enjoy with lots of laughter and cheer.



Back row, Sr. Lois Lindle, Sr. Sharon Sullivan, Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, Sr. Fran Wilhelm, Sr. Catherine Kaufman, OSU's and Sr. M. Katherine DeRonde A.D.; Front row: Sr. Judy Riney, Sr. Rosemary Keough and Sr. Frances McDonagh, OSU's. Larena Lawson Photo

## Celebrating Religious Life at Immaculate Church

By Dave McBride

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Sept. 30, 2007, Sister Joseph Angela Boone, right, celebrated her 60th year as a member of the Ursuline Order with parishioners at The Immaculate Church in Owensboro. Born to Mary Josephine and Joseph William Boone in New Haven, Kentucky, Sister Joseph Angela taught four years at Sts. Joseph and Paul School in Owensboro, eight years at St. Denis in Louisville, and mathematics at Brescia College for eight years. She was treasurer for Mount Saint Joseph Ursuline Community for 19 years and has been finance administrator for the Diocese of Owensboro from 1989 to the present. She has been a member of Immaculate Parish since 1989. Sister Joseph Angela attended St. Catherine Elementary and High School before joining the Ursuline Community. She received her undergraduate degree in mathematics from Brescia and her masters in Mathematics from Catholic University. She did postgraduate work at Tulane University and Notre Dame during the summer months. Joining in the celebration at Immaculate Church with Sister Joseph Angela was Sister Judith Nell Riney who celebrated her 40th year in the Ursuline Order. Sister Judith taught junior high social studies at St. James in



Joining Sister Joseph Angela Boone, OSU, at the Immaculate Parish celebration were two of her sisters, at left, Jeanie Hagan, and in center, Teresa Marie Thompson. Photo by Dave McBride



Louisville for two years, junior high math at St. Angela Merici in Florissant, Missouri for six years, history at Trinity High in Louisville for one year, and has library director at Brescia for the past 27 years. Sister Judith comes from a family of 10 sisters and three brothers and was raised on a farm near West Louisville where her parents still live.

Bishop John J. McRaith stops to chat with many of those from Immaculate Parish, along with other parishes, who attended the special occasion to celebrate the two anniversaries in Immaculate's Family Center. The bishop joined others at the head table, including Father Tony Jones, pastor. Text and by Photos Dave McBride



## Piggy Bank Collection

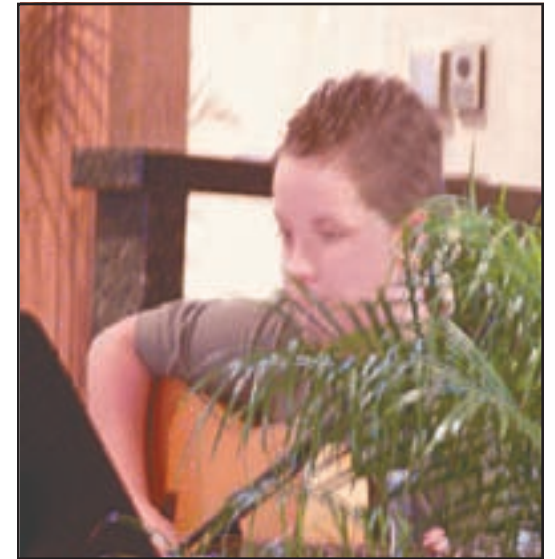
Austin Wetherington, a second grader at St. Mary Elementary in Paducah donates money to the St. Vincent de Paul Store. Mr. Burch spoke to the students of St. Mary Elementary at Mass on the feast of St. Vincent de Paul. The 2nd Graders have a piggy bank they use to collect for special charities. Submitted by Cecelia Farrell



## Grandparents Get Whole Month of Celebrations at SMSS

The student's at St. Mary have celebrated Grandparent's Day throughout the month of September. Tim Froehlich and his Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis O'Brian wait in line for a delicious lunch. Submitted by Cecelia Farrell

## Immaculate Children's Choir praising the Lord with song!



Top: Immaculate Parish Children's Choir at their first Mass - Sunday, September, 9th at the 10am mass. This 30 piece choir is led by Kathleen St. Clair, seated at left with the choir, an accomplished piano teacher and Matt Gray, director of music at Immaculate.

Above: Nicholas Gray accompanying the Children's Choir on guitar. Immaculate Children's Choir praising the Lord with song!

Left: The Children's Choir is scheduled to sing Sunday-November 4 at the 10am Masses. The December dates are TBA. They will also sing during the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter Seasons. Photos by Nicole Gray



**Serving the Gospel, living the Eucharist, building the Church as communion.  
Let yourself be conquered by His gaze and His voice...**

## “Our Experience With The Faith Of The People In Guatemala Was Humbling”

By Daniel Dillard

We were setting out on a journey that would end in a country where we did not know anyone, did not understand the culture, spoke next to nothing of the language, and we would be there for eleven weeks. It is understandable that we were a little nervous when we left the comforts of the United States for the unknown that was Antigua, Guatemala to learn Spanish.

Our worries were unfounded. The people in Guatemala were some of the friendliest that we have ever met. The teachers were great and while we were frustrated from time to time we learned a great deal of Spanish. Josh often said this summer that the reason that we learned so much was that we had Spanish class several times a day. First we had breakfast which was Spanish class then we had our actual Spanish class which was four hours a day five days a week of one on one instruction then we had lunch which was a Spanish class then we had Mass which was a Spanish class and then we had dinner which was a Spanish class. When you are truly immersed in a culture and a language it is hard to not learn it. However, learning Spanish was only the beginning of our experiences this summer.

Our experience with the faith of the people in Guatemala was humbling. The people there were generally very poor but despite the poverty they were people of immense faith. The parish we attended had four daily Masses and they had at least eighty people present at every one. And when we had the procession for Corpus Christi it lasted three and a half hours and led us to encounter some 10,000 people. One of my personal highlights of the trip to Guatemala was carrying the Blessed Sacrament. To see the devotion and love of God that the Guatemalans had was very inspiring to us.

We took several trips both with our Spanish school, Probigua, and on our own. Some of the highlights of these trips were seeing Mayan ruins, visiting an ancient Spanish castle built to fight piracy, roasting marshmallows over lava flows (when we climbed the active volcano, Pacaya) and visiting the family of Basilio Az Cuc, a Guatemalan seminarian studying for our diocese. Where ever we traveled and where ever



we stayed we were consistently impressed with two things the natural beauty of the country and the hospitality of the people. They did not have much but what they had they wanted to share.

In the end we loved our time in Guatemala but when our time was up we were ready to come back here and continue our preparation for the priesthood. We pray that God will use our experiences gathered from this trip to more faithfully serve you as priests in the Diocese of Owensboro.

**In the photo above, from left to right, are: Mr. Az (Basilio's father), Daniel Dillard, Josh McCarty, Basilio Az, Mrs. Az Cuc (Basilio's mother) and Basilio's brother. Daniel and Josh, seminarians for the Diocese of Owensboro, spent the summer in Guatemala to learn Spanish. They spent some time with Basilio, also a seminarian for our Diocese, and his family. "It sure feels different when you're the only white guys in town," Josh says.**

**In the photo at the bottom left, Daniel Dillard carries the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance during a celebration with the local community in Guatemala.**



## Prayer for Vocations

Lord, through Your Holy Spirit, we ask for Your blessing as we pray for vocations. Inspire many men and women to hear Your call to serve God and the Church as priests, deacons, vowed religious and lay ministers. Give them courage, renew their faith and inspire them with confidence to answer Your call. We ask this through Jesus' name. Amen.

## Hubert Powers To Show Haiti Mission Photos in Brescia Art Gallery

By Mel Howard

Hubert Powers of Owensboro has traveled twice to Haiti, in January, 2007 and eight years ago with Global Outreach (GO) an interfaith mission organization based in the USA. The organization supplies essential needs for people in many places of the world, including Haiti: food, medicines, clothing, drill water wells, help with carpentry work on buildings for missionaries and residents as well. Missionaries are nurses, teachers, and many other professionals. Once they take care of hunger and medicines and basic human needs, then spend time teaching residents about Christ.

Hubert helped build apartments and take pictures of the people for GO to express in pictures what is going on in the people's lives, particularly the children, for people who are sponsoring children through GO, and for the advertising needs of GO. He also took photos of kids who need sponsors who provide the money for uniforms and basic needs for the children to go to school. Hubert said that he had \$18 left over from his budget after all his expenses were paid to do the first trip.

On November 8, 2007, Hubert Powers will have a show at Brescia University at 6:00 p.m. in the Anna Eaton Stout Art Gallery in the Campus Center at Brescia University. The show has black & white and color photos of people photographed in the act of being themselves, right where they live, as they are in life: waiting in a food line for a weekly ration of food and supplies, a little girl in mid-afternoon without anything to play with and nothing to look forward to with no hope in her eyes.



The picture with Hubert in ball cap here was taken in a kindergarten as he was getting photos of children who need sponsors. Hubert said, "The kids felt were fascinated with our skin and hair which was different from theirs. My hearing aid also fascinated them."

For more information about GO, go online at [www.wegoglobal.com](http://www.wegoglobal.com). For information about Hubert's show at Brescia, call 1-270-685-3131.

**Haiti Expressions**

The real story told through the eyes of the Haitian people.

You are invited to the opening reception in the "Anna Eaton Stout Art Gallery" at Brescia University in the campus center.

**Nov. 8th. 2007  
6pm.**

*Photos by  
Hubert Powers*

## Sister Mary David Thomas, OSU, Died Oct. 3, 2007



**Sister Mary David Thomas, OSU**

MAPLE MOUNT, Ky. - Sister Mary David Thomas, 97, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, died October 3 at Mount Saint Joseph in her 79th year of religious life. She was born in St. Louis, Mo. and grew up in Marion County, Ky.

An educator for 49 years, she taught at St. Peter of Antioch School, Waverly (1931-36), St. Raphael School, Daviess County (1938-39), St. Mary Magdalene School, Sorgho (1939-42), St. William School, Knottsville (1945-48), Sts. Joseph and Paul School, Owensboro (1952-54), St. Sebastian School, Calhoun (1958-62), St. Alphonsus School, St. Joseph (1962-63), and Clarkson School, Clarkson (1975-79). She taught in the Archdiocese of Louisville and in Missouri, where she also served in parish ministry. From 1983 until her retirement in 1987, she ministered

in health care at Mount Saint Joseph.

Survivors include nieces and nephews, and the members of her religious community. The funeral Mass was October 5 at Mount Saint Joseph with burial in the convent cemetery. Glenn Funeral Home, Owensboro, was in charge of arrangements.

Gifts in memory of Sister Mary David Thomas may take the form of donations to the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.

## Sister Ann Elizabeth Dougherty, SL, died October 14, 2007

Sister Ann Elizabeth Dougherty, SL died October 14, 2007, at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Kentucky.

Sister Ann Elizabeth, a Sister of Loretto, died on October 14, 2007, at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Kentucky. She was in the 74th year of her life with Loretto. A Memorial Mass celebrating Sister Ann Elizabeth's life will be said at the Motherhouse Church on October 17, 2007.

Ann Elizabeth was born June 24, 1915 in Owensboro, Kentucky. She was educated by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth from elementary through high school at St. Francis Academy in Owensboro, and received an A.B. degree in English from Webster College, Webster Groves, Missouri.

Ann Elizabeth entered the Sisters of Loretto June 20, 1933. After first vows in December of 1935 she began her teaching career in Sterling, Illinois at St. Mary's School. Her many subsequent assignments took her to St. Louis, Missouri; Lebanon, Kentucky; Kankakee, Illinois; Denver, Colorado; Taos, New Mexico; and El Paso, Texas. In 1984 Sister retired from teaching and did volunteer work at the Motherhouse in Kentucky until she moved to the Infirmary in 1998 where she remained until her death.

Many friends and her Loretto Community survive Sister Ann Elizabeth Dougherty. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sister of Loretto Memorial Fund % Loretto Development Office, 300 East Hampden Avenue, Suite 400, Englewood, Colorado 80113-2661. Arrangements were made through the Mattingly Funeral Home, 195 Cross Road, Nerinx, Kentucky, 40037.



**Sister Ann Elizabeth Dougherty, SL**

## “Happy Birthday to Mary”

Mrs. Farrell’s 2nd Graders at St. Mary Elementary in Paducah celebrated The Virgin Mary’s Birthday. Grandma Lillie provided the cupcakes and the students made signs with birthday wishes to decorate. Mrs. Farrell’s mother, “Grandma Lillie” to her second grade class at Saint Marty Elementary in Paducah, has a great love for St. Anne and Mary and encourages the little ones to pray to them. She no longer has elementary aged grandchildren so she adopted Ms. Farrell’s class. The signs the kids made all said “Happy Birthday to Mary.” They put them on toothpicks and stuck them in the cupcakes (as shown in the attached photo). Then all gathered around our beautiful statue of the Virgin Mary and sang a very loud happy birthday! Since our school is named in honor of Mary, my second graders celebrate her birthday every year!

This is what some of the 2nd Graders in Mrs. Farrell’s class had to say about Mary: Cole McCoart - “Mary never sinned and she loved all people so we honor her on her birthday. She loved people even if they were poor, rich, greedy or mean.”

Hope Eason - “Mary is important to us because she had Jesus and she always followed Jesus’ rules. She never sinned.” Submitted by Cecelia Farrell

Emma Denton - “Mary was loving and kind. She loved God. Mary followed every good rule. She had Baby Jesus as her Son.”

Submitted by Cecelia Farrell 2nd Grade St. Mary Elementary, Paducah.



## 2007 Softball Lady Aces Earn National Academic Ranking

The NFCA magazine ranked the 2007 OCHS Lady Aces Softball team 15th in the country for GPA at 3.507. The Softball Lady Aces are coached by George Randolph. *Source OCS press release October 16, 2007*

## Diocese Plans W. Ky. Event For World Youth Day Celebration in July, 2008



The World Youth Day cross is taken through the streets of Cairns, Australia, by local Catholics Sept. 22. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiehenc) (Sept. 24, 2007)

By Tami Schneider

A core group of adults met on August 23rd to discuss the diocesan plan regarding World Youth Day 2008. World Youth Days happen every 2-3 years, when the Holy Father gathers in a predetermined city with hundreds of thousands of young people throughout the world. The late Pope John Paul II began this tradition in the beginning of his papacy in 1979. The next one will be held in Sydney, Australia, in July of 2008 with Pope Benedict XVI.

Since many are unable to attend the actual event in Australia because of the cost, the diocese is planning a local event that will run parallel with the actual one.

The overnight event will take place July 18-19 at our new Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center near Bowling Green.

The planning committee hopes that hundreds of young people from all over the diocese and from neighboring dioceses will attend. The cost will be kept to a minimum to encourage participation.

The group opened with prayer and listened to the English version of the WYD Theme Song followed by reading and reflecting on Pope Benedict XVI’s letter to the young people of the world on the occasion of WYD 2008. After talking it over as a group, they came up with ideas and discussed implications. They concluded by listening to the international version of the WYD 2008 theme song by Guy Sebastian, a popular Australian artist, and praying a WYD 2008 prayer.

We invite all young people, starting with who will be entering 9th grade next year and up, to mark their calendars for this incredible opportunity. Our vision is to host a walking pilgrimage of our own and broadcast live feeds from Australia. The weekend will also include lots of live music, Adoration, a film festival and more! Don’t miss it!

## Sts. Joseph and Paul Community Garden Update

OWENSBORO, Ky. - During this season we look at things around us begin the process of dying. At the corner of 5th and Clay Sts., the Sts. Joseph and Paul community garden is getting ready for its rebirth. The old lead-filled dirt is being removed to a level of two feet and new dirt will replace it. That dirt has been tested and has been found to be at a safe level to grow vegetables.

This summer, after months of work and anticipation of food for the neighbors, soil tests showed eating the vegetables in that garden could be harmful. Due to that fact the vegetables were destroyed and a plan was put into place for the summer of 2008. Although it was a sad event there was a positive side to that happening. Many people, because of the newspaper article, called in to have their soil tested. This was a ripple effect that could possible save amateur growers from consuming or distributing unsafe food products.

The process of soil removal has also given this parish the opportunity to "pay forward" a gift that was given this past spring. In the course of building the Good Samaritan House, work was donated by a generous person not of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish. As the removal of the dirt was beginning to happen, Darrell Howard learned that the person who was getting the free dirt (which is safe for use other than growing food) was, in fact, the same one who had generously given to the Good Samaritan House.

This garden became a true community project. Neighbors watched, helped and then mourned the developments this past summer. Excitement has already started as they are seeing the beginnings of what will again be a wonderful neighborhood endeavor.



Darrell Howard and Bobby Beavins watch as Phillip McCarthy finishes digging up the first truckload of dirt. Submitted Photo

## Diocesan Family Life Office Hosts Celebration of Marriage Sept 30, 2007

By Betty Medley

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On Sunday, September 30, 2007 approximately 225 individuals attended the Diocesan Marriage Celebration at St. Stephen Cathedral. Couples celebrating their marriage and had been married anywhere from 2 years to 65 years attended. These couples came from all over the diocese.

Bishop John told the couples that this gave him the opportunity to congratulate them and also thank them for committing themselves to one other for many years. Anniversaries are such a great time to look back and thank God for what you have been given, to look at the present and ask God for the grace to continue to be committed to God and to each other, and to look to the future with a renewal of that commitment.

He spoke of St. Paul and the list of virtues, as written to his friend Timothy. The first one being faith, which is a gift from God. Time spent together in prayer, sacrifices and sharing what you have been with each other calls for a renewal



Married over 50 years, Tom & Mary Riney of Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro, received a donation in their name to Heifer International, and a certificate for a flock of geese. Lois Rutigliano Photo

of that faith. Second, love. A love that is so strong that no matter what happens-loving one another hold you together. Such a love makes you grow in your love for God and teaches you to love your neighbor as Jesus has loved you. The third, patience. St. Paul reminds Timothy and us of the need to be patient with those God puts in our path. Fourth is gentleness. St. Paul explained to Timothy that gentleness is needed when reaching out to others to tell they story of the Risen Christ. In His commitment to us, Jesus has the gentleness of the Good Shepherd.

Bishop John ended his homily by saying that all of these couples have had to practice these virtues. He quoted the opening prayers, "Father, you show your almighty power in your mercy and forgive-

## Sister Mary Angelita Coomes, SCN, Died At 96

Sister Mary Angelita Coomes, SCN, 96, a native of Whitesville, Kentucky, died October 6, 2007 at Nazareth Home. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 78 years.

Sister served in the apostolate of education on both the elementary and secondary levels in Kentucky and Ohio for forty-two years. In the Diocese of Owensboro Sister taught Spanish, English and Math at St. Vincent Academy in Union County from 1966-67; Sister taught Spanish and English at Owensboro Catholic High from 1967-73.

In retirement Sister served as Switchboard Operator at the Motherhouse from 1986-87 and as receptionist at Nazareth Village from 1987-89, and then worked in Community Service as Librarian at the Motherhouse from 1989-2003. Sister became a resident at Nazareth Home/Maria Hall in February, 2003.

Survivors include nieces and nephews: Mary Catherine Payne, Suetta Sapp, Raymond Coomes, Wm. Carl Coomes, Paul Randall Coomes, Jackie Holland, Mary Imogene Thompson, Leroy Howard, Dr. Carroll Howard, Wallace Howard, James Gerald Coomes, Bernard (Sam) Coomes, Tommy Coomes, Virginia Blandford, Cecelia Wilkerson; and her Sisters in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 in St. Vincent Church, Nazareth. Burial was in Nazareth Cemetery. Memorials may be made to SCN Missions, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.



Sister Mary Angelita Coomes, SCN

ness. Continue to fill us with your gifts of love."

After Mass we recognized those couples who were celebrating their 25, 40, 50th and over anniversaries. We also gave gifts to a couple from each group. The Family Life Office of the Diocese decided instead of actually giving a gift that we would like to give these couples a donation in their name. The couples received a donation in their name to Heifer International. This is a nonprofit organization working to end world hunger by giving cow, goats, pigs an other food-and income producing livestock to impoverished families around the world. Their mission it to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth.

Jim & Cheryl Brown from Immaculate Parish in Owensboro. In honor of their 25 years of marriage a certificate for rabbits was the gift that was made to Heifer International. In honor of the 40th anniversary, Don & Fran Bartley of Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro received a certificate for chickens. In honor of the 50th anniversary, Ron & Mary Chappell of St. Francis de Sales, Paducah received a certificate for ducks. The last couple had been married over 50 years, Tom & Mary Riney of Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro, received a certificate for a flock of geese.

All couples celebrated in a reception afterwards. This was a wonderful day and we look forward to celebrating again next year.

Mrs. Medley said, "Bishop John McRaith and I signed at least 1,300 marriage certificates for this celebration this year. The certificate says: 'Certificate of Recognition to (the person married) and (how many years.) This is the commandment that you have heard from the beginning, to live a life of love. 2 John 6.'

Mrs. Medley Noted that the number of couples receiving these certificates from previous years,

Continued on page 19



## The Molding of an Advocate – Part I

### The Journey from Illegal to Undocumented to Brother

By Patti Murphy, *Coordinator of Justice for Immigrants Campaign,*  
Diocese of Owensboro

Over the past five years immigration has become an increasingly divisive issue in our country, our state, and all around our Diocese. Through this series of articles I will share a bit of my journey and I hope it will encourage others to reflect on their own experiences as well.

During my college years I would come back to Owensboro to visit my parents and each time I noticed more and more Hispanics around town and even in our parish. I returned to Owensboro from Ecuador in August of 2003 to find a surprisingly large Hispanic population that I didn't remember seeing four years earlier when Owensboro was my home.

Immigration wasn't new to me. I had been exposed to the phenomena of emigration while serving as a volunteer in Ecuador. In a country the size of Colorado, 1 million of its 12 million citizens had emigrated, mostly to Spain and Italy, searching for a way to feed their families. Or as they would say "*sacarles adelante*" – the Spanish equivalent of wanting to give our kids hope of a better life than we had. I sat at kitchen tables while mothers cried and told me stories of their sons alone and struggling in Spain. I played on the floor with kids being raised by their grandmothers while their own mom babysat someone else's kids in Spain and sent money home. At a high school where I was a volunteer English teacher I heard other teachers lament over bright, intelligent, bilingual graduates who could have changed the fate of their country, but were now doormen in some upper-class Italian mansion. I walked through garbage dumps where some of our students and their families foraged for scraps of anything they could sell just to keep some food on the table and I wondered what they wouldn't do for a chance to emigrate. I watched the news and heard stories of hundreds of people drowning off the coast of Ecuador, desperately trying to find a way to the United States via smugglers' boats – a trip that costs 10 to 12 thousand dollars per person. I knew it was a sad situation – desperate people using desperate measures to escape dire poverty – but I still wondered if there wasn't a better way.

Returning to Owensboro, now fluent in Spanish, I started to get to know the Hispanics around town. I struggled in my own conscience as many told me of their experiences – Guatemalans pretending to be Mexicans and riding buses day after day; Mexicans walking for days in the hot sun of the vast, Arizona desert; riding all over the U.S. in overcrowded vans dropping people off in city after city. I began to volunteer with organizations that needed interpreters, all the while struggling with the Gospel call to welcome our neighbors and yet knowing that these were illegal aliens.

So I started asking questions. I started learning more about why people came here – poverty, war and persecution. I started looking into some of the reasons behind the failing agricultural sector in places like Mexico. I started asking what was behind the civil wars in places like Guatemala and El Salvador. I started investigating our immigration system and what options an immigrant had for coming here legally. I started learning what the Gospel, our Church teachings and our Bishops had to say about immigration. I embarked on a journey, and here's what I found:

This is not a black and white issue.

These "illegal aliens", as our immigration system has dubbed them, broke the law. But I was faced with the question of *why* they broke the law. Isn't it the same argument that we were taught as children? If a man has no way to provide food for his family, and out of desperation he steals bread, is it a sin? Should he face the same consequences as a man who steals out of pure greed? Or in this case if a man crosses a line in the sand in search of a way to provide for his family which he could not do in his own country, or to reunite his family which has been separated for years, or to escape years of violence, is it a sin? Should he face the same consequences as one who breaks the law with the intent of harming another?

Or as Donald Kerwin, Executive Director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), put it: "For the Church, the fact that a person has violated our immigration laws triggers key questions. We ask why they came. Were they exercising their God-given rights (and duties) to support themselves and their families? Were they fleeing danger or persecution? We ask what they have been doing here. Have they been contributing to the good of our nation with their labor, their faith, their commitment to family and to their community? We consider the severity of their offense. Was it like a murder or a breaking and entering, or more like the crime of the hungry

person who steals food for his family or the homeless person who sleeps in a park? Finally, we ask if actual or constructive deportation fits the crime. Or should certain immigrants be able to atone for their offenses in some other way? Can our nation of immigrants find room for these hard-working, pro-family people who, like our own ancestors, have revitalized our nation and Church? We hope they can." (<http://www.cliniclegal.org/Publications/ArticlesbyCLINIC/Kerwincommongoodknoxville2007.doc>)

That brings me to another question I grappled with: what *harm* did they cause, or intend to cause, by breaking the law? 80% of illegal aliens find employment, even with the difficulty of having to buy false papers and not speaking the language, mostly in unskilled labor. That points to desperate companies searching for unskilled workers. I learned that the native population in the U.S. is no longer having enough children to replace ourselves which is leading to an aging population. We are also more educated than ever before. These two factors combine to create an economy in need of workers.

So the next logical question is why can't they come here *legally*? The more I learned about our complicated immigration system, the more I realized that it's pitted against people fleeing poverty. Our immigration system provides green cards for professionals and experts in their field. About 500,000 illegal aliens arrive each year, 80% finding employment, mostly in unskilled labor. Why not get a green card first? Because the annual limit on green cards for unskilled workers is capped at 5,000 a year. (Immigration and Nationality Act 203(b)(3)(B)) How many years might it take to compete for those green cards? How much suffering would a family have to endure while waiting? The other category of green cards are those awarded to family members of citizens or legal permanent residents. Because of the limitations on each category some family members are waiting over 15 years to be reunited. (For example a Mexican citizen who is an unmarried son or daughter of a US Citizen who applied in June of 1992 will have their application reviewed in November of 2007 - Visa Bulletin [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin\\_3827.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_3827.html)).

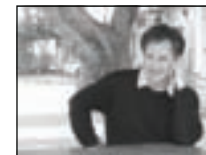
And finally, what does my *faith* demand? First of all isn't it sad that this is my last consideration? What does it say about my Catholic Christianity that I ask so

Continued on page 19

## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY'S

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or [rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu](mailto:rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu).  
Tickets can be purchased at the door.



## Diocesan Pastoral Council Minutes,

### Christ The King, Madisonville September 17, 2007

Present: Fr. Jerry Calhoun, Charles Pratt, P. J. O'Donoghue, Linda Frakes, Barb Carper, Mary Prante, Catherine Grapes, Paul Bachi, Denny Mann, Fr. Al Bremer, Jeff Lamb, Suzanne Rose, Delphine Operle, Charles Rucks, Bryan Borders, SuzAnne Wilson, Bishop John McRaith, Cathy Hagan – Executive Secretary. Absent With Notice: Perry & Betty Elder, Janet Thomason. Diocesan Staff: Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, Patty Blair, Elaine Robertson, Ben Warrell, Tom & Kathy Buehrle, Mike Bogdan, Luis Aju, Kevin Kauffeld, Patti Murphy. Guest: Bill Venditta, Vice-President of Kirby Smith & Associates, Inc. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mary Prante, Chairperson. Jeff Lamb led the opening prayer. Mary Prante introduced two new members. Suzanne Rose who represents the Diocesan Social Justice Committee and Bryan Borders who represents the Diocesan Administration Committee.

I. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from May 21, 2007 were approved.

II. Bishop McRaith's Remarks: Bishop McRaith said that he would make his remarks during the course of the meeting.

III. Tridentine Mass (Mike Bogdan): Mike stated that on July 7, 2007 Pope Benedict the XVI issued a "Motu Proprio" on Tridentine Rite Latin Mass becoming effective on September 14, 2007. He then distributed the following handout: "Why did the Holy Father issue Summorum Pontificum?" Because "in some regions, no small number of faithful . . . continue to adhere with great love and affection to the earlier liturgical forms." This Apostolic Letter is a way of reaching out to them.

What are the stipulations for the use of the Missal of Blessed John XXIII?

- There must be a stable/continuous group of faithful in the parish who adhere to the earlier liturgical tradition;
- On Sundays and feast days, one Tridentine Rite Latin Mass may be celebrated;
- Priests who use the Missal of Blessed John XXIII must be qualified to do so;
- "In order to experience full communion, the priests of the communities adhering to the former usage cannot, as a matter of principle, exclude celebrating according to the new books."

Other key points in the Motu Proprio:

- A pastor may also grant permission for the celebration of the other Sacraments, Funerals or other occasional celebrations according to the extraordinary form when requested to do so.
- The Bishop's permission is no longer required for a pastor to celebrate a Tridentine Rite Latin Mass.
- When someone desires the Tridentine Rite, they go first to the pastor. If he cannot satisfy their request, they go to the Bishop. If the Bishop cannot satisfy the request, the Bishop goes to the Ecclesia Dei Commission in Rome.
- The Missal of Paul VI (Novus Ordo) is the ordinary expression of the prayer of the Catholic Church; the Missal of Blessed John XXIII is considered as the extraordinary expression of the prayer of the church.
- When the Missal of Blessed John XXIII is used, readings may be proclaimed in the vernacular.

Where do we go from here? The Bishop, along with Bishops from across the country, has submitted questions to the USCCB Committee on the Liturgy for their review. The Bishops Committee on the Liturgy will be seeking answers to these questions from Rome. We are awaiting some answers and direction before we proceed. It goes without saying, however, that some priests will need to be trained in celebrating the Tridentine Rite.

Mike went on to say that there is a great difference between a Mass in Latin and the Tridentine Mass. A Latin Mass using the Missal of Paul VI is the ordinary form and a Tridentine Mass using the Missal of Blessed John XXIII is the extraordinary expression of prayer. Some of the differences in a Tridentine Mass are 1) the priest has his back to the people, 2) Communion is bread only – received by mouth, 3) no women lectors or servers, 4) no sign of peace, 5) servers rather than the congregation verbally respond to the prayers.

Bishop McRaith told the DPC that he welcomes their input on this and to please contact him if they have any suggestions. He also said that a mailing will go to the priests asking who would be interested in learning the rubrics of the Tridentine Mass. There is a person locally who would do the training. Bishop McRaith then expressed his appreciation of Martha Hagan and Mike Bogdan for all the work they have done on this.

#### IV. Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center and Youth Camp (Ben Warrell)

Ben reported since closing on the Camp on June 8th there have been more than 1300 guests on the property. 73 of the first 100 days have had bookings. More than 800 volunteer hours have been worked. The Camp is booked every weekend through Mid-December except for Thanksgiving. The camp has 110 beds plus 10 roll-a-way beds. The plan is to bring the accommodations to 150 beds. Ben said their motto is "Welcome Everyone as Christ." A number of other denominations have scheduled retreats and events and have been very enthusiastic about the Camp. Ben concluded by saying that this is a wonderful opportunity to share our faith with others.

V. Hispanic Ministry Update (Luis Aju and Patti Murphy): Luis became Director of Hispanic Ministry in July of this year. He is originally from Guatemala but moved here from Arkansas. He is married with three children and one grandchild. He has over 10 years of experience working in parishes, mostly with Glenmary Home Missioners. He said that he has been to five parishes already in the diocese and the needs, problems and gifts of these Hispanic communities are pretty much the same. He expressed his appreciation to Bishop McRaith for allowing him to come to the Diocese of Owensboro to serve the Hispanic community and for appreciating the gift they are to our Diocese. Luis concluded by thanking the people of this Diocese for opening the doors of the parishes to Hispanics, recognizing that they are part of the Catholic Church, our parishes, our family.

Patti Murphy, former Director of Hispanic Ministry, now works part-time in a parish and part-time for the diocese continuing as Coordinator of Justice for Immigrants Campaign. The following is taken from a brochure which Patti distributed to remind people about the Campaign which started in 2005. "The bishops call for a 'globalization of solidarity' and an overhaul of the U.S. immigration system, to include the following elements: A broad-based earned legalization program for the undocumented in the U.S.; Reform of our family-based immigration system to allow family members to reunite with loved ones in the United States; Reform of the employment-based immigration system to provide legal pathways for migrants to come and work in safe, humane, and orderly manner, and; Abandonment of the border 'blockade' enforcement strategy, and; Restoration of due process protections for immigrants."

"The Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope campaign has several primary objectives: To educate the public, especially the Catholic community, including Catholic public officials, about Church teaching on migration and immigrants; To create political will for positive immigration reform; To enact legislative and administrative reforms based on the principles articulated by the bishops; and To organize Catholic networks to assist qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of the reforms."

Patti reported that a steering committee is helping her to redirect the Campaign's efforts now that the reform failed in congress this year. Education is going to be a main focus, especially trying to reach Catholics that are opposed to the Bishops' teaching and educating immigrants about their rights. A major immigration reform will most likely not be brought up in Congress again for another two years, but it will be back because the system is broken and needs to be fixed. She encouraged people to look into the Bishops' teachings by visiting [www.justiceforimmigrants.com](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.com) and to pray about the immigration issue.

#### VI. Gannon Property (Kevin Kauffeld)

Kevin reported that in the 1980's approximately 1,900 acres of land in Hopkins County was left to the Diocese (50%), Mount Saint Joseph (25%) and the Waterfield family (25%) by Paul Gannon. Most of the land is strip mining land, approximately 200 acres is farm land and another small portion has timber. The land is no longer being mined. Land management is being maintained by Independence Bank. Kevin reported that there is some concern that the land has no landlord and because of this it is being abused by ATV's, meth labs, illegal hunting, etc. The decision needs to be made if we are going to keep this land or sell it. A company has offered to buy part of the land (150 to 200 acres). The diocese is looking into this – wanting to make sure that the company is legitimate and who they say they are. The diocese wants what is best for the property and what is best for the people of that area. A decision will not be made in a rush. At the next Administration Committee meeting representatives from timber companies will be there to talk about timber opportunities of the land. Kevin concluded by saying that he welcomes input and ideas from the DPC members.

Bishop McRaith said that he felt it important that the DPC know what is going on in regard to the land. The diocese does not have all the answers but is working hard to make the best decision for the land. He asked for prayers regarding this.

VII. Capital Campaign (Kevin Kauffeld and Bill Venditta): Kevin introduced Bill Venditta, Vice-President of Kirby Smith & Associates, Inc. (Kirby Smith has been hired

**Continued on page 19**

to run the Capital Campaign and Bill is in charge of over-seeing the campaign.) Bill reported the following: - The title of the campaign is "Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision." He and Kevin are working on a brochure. The Steering Committee of about 20 people has met once. There are four initiatives of the campaign – to vest the Charitable Trust Fund; to restore and renew Saint Stephen Cathedral; to establish a diocesan education endowment fund; and to provide a faith-filled camp and retreat environment for our youth. The silent part of the campaign will begin in October and conclude mid-December (soliciting major gifts). The parish phase begins in January 2008. Parishes will have several options – Campaign Now–Parishes would initiate a campaign now for the **Responding To Today's Need And Tomorrow's Vision** Campaign. Parishioners will pledge and honor their pledges over a five-year period.

Delayed Campaign–Parishes may begin a **Responding To Today's Need And Tomorrow's Vision** campaign later, if approved by the Capital Campaign Steering Committee (delayed campaign). Parishes that delay their campaign may do so for up to 36 months after the beginning of the diocesan campaign. Combined Campaign–Parishes with a fair share goal of less than \$100,000 may conduct a combined campaign for their individual parish and the **Responding To Today's Need And Tomorrow's Vision** campaign. Kirby-Smith Associates will provide campaign assistance to those parishes conducting a combined campaign.

Stewardship Option – In keeping with the Diocesan message of stewardship as an essential part of our faith, parishes may decide not to conduct a campaign but may choose to honor their fair share goal through their parish stewardship effort. Parishes will receive information regarding their fair share goals in the next two weeks. If you know of any prospective major donors, please let Kevin know.

## VIII. Mandeville Sister Diocese Report:

• **Stewardship of Time and Talent:** The Diocese of Owensboro has a scheduled October 3-9, 2007 trip in the works. Here is the team that is planning to go to Mandeville this October, made up of 6 men and 5 women. They are: Jim Scott, Group Leader from Morganfield, Fr. David Kennedy, Priest/Pastor from Hawesville, Jim and Mary Bumpous from LaCenter, Valarie Franklin from Dixon, Joe Schippers from Hopkinsville, Rae Derrington from Owensboro, Tim Snyder from Lewisport, Belinda Thomas from Paducah, Donald Page also from Paducah, and Meghan Payne from Owensboro

• On Nov. 5-11, Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish from Owensboro has planned a trip to visit our Sister Diocese. This group is still forming up its team.

• In 2008, the Diocese of Owensboro has two Mission Immersion Trips planned. They are: May 21-27, 2008 and October 1-7, 2008. More about these trips will appear in the Western Kentucky Catholic in either January or February 2008 to invite people to take part.

• The Convocation for Priests for 2008 at Lake Barkley State Resort Park on January 7-10, 2008 currently is in the planning stage. The topic for the Convocation will have two interrelated topics: (1) intercultural dynamics of international presbyteral ministry; and (2) the status and future of our sister diocese relationship with Mandeville, Jamaica, especially as this touches the ministry of our Priests. Msgr. Michael Palud, the Administrator for the Diocese of Mandeville, is an invited guest who will review the history and present status of the collaboration. Some joint thinking about further future collaboration will also take place.

• **Stewardship of Treasure:** The Fifth Diocesan wide collection took place on Ash Wednesday February 21, 2007, and as reported last time \$85,221.34 was collected. No further updates have been received. The sixth collection is scheduled for Ash Wednesday, February 6, 2008. Planning for the collection will begin in November 2007.

• St. Stephen Cathedral Parish is in the process of preparing to send a trailer load of materials to Jamaica after Hurricane Dean struck the Island on August 20, 2007. Bulletin announcements have gone out to tell Parishes, especially in the surrounding area, what is needed, and where to bring the goods. The trailer is expected to go out in early October 2007.

IX. Future Agenda Items - Invite Fr. Tony Shonis to update DPC on Policies for Building – Building with Dignity; - Diocesan Pandemic Policy – Bishop has temporarily adopted this policy – work will continue on it and will be on a future DPC agenda.

Bishop McRaith's comments: "The Diocesan Capital Campaign "Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision" is about the mission of the Church. Stewardship is at the heart of our faith. We have to come to realize that God owns everything – our time, talent and treasure. We cannot look at this campaign and think that stewardship has failed. This can be a boost for our stewardship efforts – by seeing this campaign as part of our stewardship. We all have a choice of being a disciple of Jesus – we have no choice in stewardship – everything belongs to God."

Bishop McRaith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked the DPC to share their ideas and thoughts about what was presented at this meeting.

X. The next meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is Monday, November 19th. Catherine Grapes will prepare the opening prayer.

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Submitted by, Cathy Hagan

## Sister Mary Angelita Coomes, SCN

*(Continued from page 16)*

Mrs. Medley Noted that the number of couples receiving these certificates from previous years, 2003 to the present, has been around 1,300-1,400. "These certificates," she said, "mean so much to the recipients, that our diocese recognizes their sacrament."

Mrs. Medley commented, "Bishop John enjoys this Wedding Anniversary ceremony with the couples of our diocese. He did a great job this year. He interacts with everyone before and especially afterwards. This year people commented on how well they could understand him (hear him). He stayed at the reception until the very end talking with some of these folks."

## The Molding of an Advocate

*(Continued from page 17)*

many other questions, before asking what Jesus would say, or what my Church teaches? Am I first an American or a Christian? Am I first a member of a political party or a member of the Catholic Church?

Throughout the Bible, and especially throughout the Gospel, the message to welcome the stranger is very clear. In the Old Testament, the Israelites are instructed to love the stranger as one of their own and were reminded of their own history. "If a stranger lives with you in your land, do not molest him. You must count him as one of your own countrymen and love him as yourself— for you were once strangers yourselves in Egypt. I am Yahweh your God. (*Leviticus 19: 32-34*) Could not the same be said of our great nation? Have we forgotten our own history as the Israelites had? Jesus made the message even stronger by making the mandate to welcome the stranger equal to welcoming him: "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me. . . I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." (*Matthew 25: 35-40*)

But immigration laws didn't exist in Jesus' time like they do now. The security threats and the need to protect our borders are different than they were then. This is exactly why in the Church we turn to our leaders, our Pope and Bishops, to provide teachings relevant to today's reality, grounded in the teachings of Christ and our traditions. They too have been very clear. The Church does not condone illegal behavior, but rather exhorts nations to construct laws that allow people to live dignified lives. "The Church in America must be a vigilant advocate, defending against any unjust restriction of the natural right of individual persons to move freely within their own nation and from one nation to another. Attention must be called to the rights of migrants and their families and to respect for their human dignity, even in cases of non-legal immigration" (*Ecclesia in America*, Apostolic Exhortation, John Paul II, Jan 1999).

In the case of the United States, our immigration laws should be as generous as God has been with us. As Pope Pius XII reminds us in *Exsul Familia*, "For the Creator of the universe made all good things primarily for the good of all. Since land everywhere offers the possibility of supporting a large number of people, the sovereignty of the State, although it must be respected, cannot be exaggerated to the point that access to this land is, for inadequate or unjustified reasons, denied to needy and decent people from other nations, provided of course, that the public wealth, considered very carefully, does not forbid this." (*Exsul Familia*, 1952, citing 1948 Vatican letter to U.S. Bishops) And more recently, the U.S. and Mexican Bishops, speaking to the peoples of both countries, exhort us in their pastoral letter *Strangers No Longer*, "Our two nations are more interdependent than ever before in our history, sharing cultural and social values, common interests, and hopes

**Continued on page 20**

## In Her Own Words: Busy Teacher, Pro-Life Advocate Finds New Family Full of Happiness

By Marti Castlen

Twenty years ago, I would have never dreamed I'd be a single parent and adopting a second child from China at this time of my life. What a joy my little Maria has been in my life these past three and a half years. Adoptive parents with biological children have told me the love they have for their adoptive children is no different from the love they have for their biological children. I do know I never fathomed loving any little human being as much as I love my Maria.

So how and why in the world did I as a single parent ever decide to adopt? God only knows the answer to that. I can tell you how it all began.

After one of my six sisters suggested I adopt a child, I commented that every child needs a father and a mother. The thought of adoption continued entering my mind off and on for several years. My teaching career put a scare of adopting into me – seeing so many children with learning, behavioral and emotional difficulties, so many from broken homes, etc. As I feared the idea of adoption and kept pushing this thought to the back of my mind, it kept reoccurring.

Be it said that my pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament at the Carmel Home chapel no doubt played a role in making this adoption all a reality. A few months following my pilgrimage to Lourdes, thoughts of adoption began picking up. Foster parent ads and phone calls asking me to foster parent began to haunt me (one adoption ad I had cut out years ago and found in an old box I'd moved from Louisville). I began tossing around the idea of foster parenting and attended an adoption fair in Owensboro soon after the pilgrimage. When asked by a stranger at the fair if I'd ever considered an international adoption, I laughed and asked, "Are you kidding?" The stranger handed me a video about international adoptions to take home. Everything seemed to fall into place after that. Frequently asking Our Lord to guide me, I was going to carry through with adopting if He would just lead the way.

Meanwhile, I read books, articles, and everything I could get my hands on about China adoptions -- parents being forced to put children (especially little girls) in orphanages, large numbers of children in orphanages, abandonment of children in China, poor living conditions in the orphanages, persecution of the Catholic Church in China, etc. What better way to bring a child into Christianity than to bring one from a communist country? I was a true advocate of the unborn and a Right to Life supporter, so why not help a child who very well could have been aborted? It was obvious – China was the country from which I would adopt.

The paperwork was completed within three months and mailed to China. There was no stopping now. About 14 months later, I received a phone call and a referral picture of my new daughter, Zhao FuShu, now named Maria Kathryn-Zhao – named after our Blessed Mother and Catherine Laboure whom we visited on our trip to Lourdes.

My niece, Ashley, and I boarded a plane to China in March, 2004. I was handed my daughter, Maria, around 8:00 p.m. at a Civil Affairs Office in Kunming City, China. I was fortunate enough to be handed a little girl who appeared happy and loved by her nannies as she giggled and laughed. (Another coincidence . . . I like to think of it as Divine Providence!) Most of the babies were afraid and tired at this time. Zhao FuShu's (her Chinese name) three layers of clothing made her appear larger than she really was. You see, once children are "put up for adoption" in China, they are put in a separate room of the orphanage for more attention and stimulation – preparing them for adoption. Little information was shared about Maria's orphanage other than it had around 300 children – another we visited had around 500 children, most of whom were handicapped. While talking to a Chinese lady at a hotel who once worked in a Chinese orphanage, I was told she was one of about five staff members among 300 children. Sometimes two or more children slept in the bare beds with metal rods surrounding them.

People on the streets of China thanked us numerous times for taking a child. They often stopped and looked closely at the nine babies in our travel group. Their tenderness and love for these children showed in their eyes and smiling faces. Unfortunately, the people are tightly monitored under government control when determining the number of children per family.

Maria made the flight home much more enjoyable than the flight over. She decided to stay awake most of the time and entertain everyone around her. Neighboring passengers on the flight reached between the seats to tickle her. Others asked to hold her.

When I arrived home, I was to find out my oldest brother, Joe, was diagnosed with cancer on the day I received Maria in my arms. Nine months later, on Christmas day,



**Marti Castlen and daughter Maria; at right, her new daughter, Monica. Submitted Photos**

Joe passed away. Another coincidence? I believe Maria was a blessing the day she arrived and continues to be not only for myself but our entire family.

Even though these first few years with Maria have been full of happiness, I know the years ahead will include many trials and tribulations. No parent could deny that. With the grace of God, and a supportive family, we'll make it through the challenges like everyone else.

If you'd like to find out more about either international or domestic adoption, please contact Catholic Charities at 270-



852-8328 or e-mail at [rita.heinz@pastoral.org](mailto:rita.heinz@pastoral.org)

*Marti Castlen is a teacher living in Owensboro and is the proud mother of Maria. She leaves for China on November 1 to bring home her second beautiful daughter, Monica.*

## The Molding of an Advocate

(Continued from page 19)

for the future. Our nations have a singular opportunity to act as true neighbors and to work together to build a more just and generous immigration system." (January 2003, #12).

And so, after such reflections, the word "illegals", as the media and now the majority of the American public use, no longer seems an adequate term. The question "What part of 'illegal alien' don't you get?" no longer suffices. For, as Donald Kerwin expressed so well in his speech in the Diocese of Knoxville: "The Church does not 'get' either the 'illegal' or the 'alien.' It does not believe that human beings can be illegal; people can break the law, but they cannot be illegal. We are all God's children, and God doesn't act illegally. To see the problem, try using these terms instead: 'illegal person' or 'illegitimate child.' People cannot be illegal or illegitimate, and immigrants are people. The term 'alien' is also 'alien' to our tradition. Immigrants are our brothers and sisters, our near and far neighbors, they are us." (August, 2007)

Much like using the word fetus instead of baby, "illegals" is a term used to dehumanize and objectify real human beings facing challenging situations out of their control. I would suggest that at the very least the term undocumented immigrant is more human and less degrading. But I would go even further and say the real term would be the one Jesus gave them – brothers and sisters. As the public discourse continues on this very important topic, I challenge each of us to remember that before anything else we are Catholic Christians called to let our faith and values guide our public advocacy.

I invite others to reflect on their own journey regarding immigration and share their thoughts in a respectful manner through our online discussion board ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JFI\\_Owensboro](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JFI_Owensboro)) or via e-mail ([patricia.murphy@pastoral.org](mailto:patricia.murphy@pastoral.org)) or mail (600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301).

I also encourage everyone to learn more about the issues surrounding immigration and the church teachings at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Sometimes they say that the more things change, the more they stay the same. That sentiment certainly holds true for Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Hopkinsville. Before this school year began, the school acquired a new principal, a new school secretary, four new teachers, and three new "specials" teachers (computer, art and library). In addition, two returning teachers changed grades. Yet, even with all the changes, the school continues to thrive.

"The school was great to begin with, but there's such an electric atmosphere now," observed John Pace, father of four children who attend the school. "It's amazing how all the new teachers and principal just melded in with all the students and the rest of the staff. It had to be divine intervention. God had to be involved," Pace added.

Most of the staff, the new and those returning, agree with Pace. As returning preschool teacher Patty Mitchell explained, "The Lord places you where you need to be." Although she is now in her fifth year at Sts. Peter and Paul, she truly believes that God led her to teach here. "I always pray about things before I do them, and I was led to Sts. Peter and Paul," she said.

Principal Scott Marks came to his first interview planning to do some interviewing himself. "I had planned to interview those doing the hiring to try and decide if I wanted to work here," Marks commented. "But the more I got involved in the process, the more I felt like this was the place God wanted me to be. God blessed me when they hired me," Marks said.

Similarly, the new eighth grade teacher, Patrick Kinnare, believes he received a sign from God telling him this was the school where he should teach. "I was looking to teach in a Catholic school primarily because we wanted to send our children to a Catholic school," Kinnare explained. However, living in Florida made it seem unlikely that Hopkinsville, Kentucky would end up being his destination. After visiting the school and parish for two days, however, Kinnare returned home to his family on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul; the same day his daughter, Lucia, was born. "I figured that had to mean something," Kinnare said.

Unlike Marks and Kinnare, the new seventh grade teacher, Nicole Mowen, was simply looking for someplace new to live. "We moved here for a better quality of life," Mowen explained how she and her husband were seeking a smaller city in which to live after a lifetime of living near New Orleans. After much research and determination to find a better place to live, Mowen loaded up her two children in the car and traveled to Hopkinsville. Using the GPS unit in her car, she located the nearest Catholic Church, which happened to be the only Catholic Church in Hopkinsville: Sts. Peter and Paul.

"After the long trip, I was letting my children play on the school's playground and I met a woman with children in the school. After she told me all about the school and the parish, I called my husband and said 'I've found it,'" referring to their new home.

Although she is a certified teacher, Mowen hadn't even yet considered looking for a job when she was interviewed for the 7th grade position at Sts. Peter and Paul. "I was registering Alexis for school here and I found out they needed a seventh grade teacher," Mowen explained. "Before I knew it, the secretary had arranged for my interviews and babysitters for my children!" she exclaimed. "There's a reason why I'm here. I think I was meant to be here," Mowen said.

Recognizing God's involvement in their lives is the main reason most of the staff value working at Sts. Peter and Paul. "I can nurture the kids here both from an academic and faith perspective," explained Jane Irwin, the new first grade teacher who previously taught in a local public school. "It gives me an opportunity to pass



**The staff of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Hopkinsville pose for a group photograph taken recently after school. Front row: Jane Irwin (1st grade), Nicole Mowen (7th grade), Patty Mitchell (preschool), Vicki Kinnard (secretary), Norma Folz (4th grade), Christe Westfall (kindergarten). Back row: Patrick Kinnare (8th grade), Gina Cayce (2nd grade), Rochelle Dickerson (5th grade), Mary Lee (3rd grade), Lisa Loos (6th grade), and Scott Marks (principal). Photo by Dawn C. Ligibel.**

on my faith to them," she added.

Teaching at Sts. Peter and Paul actually helps Mary Lee, the third grade teacher who is in her 12th year at Sts. Peter and Paul. "It helps me to live my faith," she said. "I can't tell them to pray and not pray. I can't tell them to treat people with respect without trying to do the same. This school has really blessed my life. It has helped me grow as a teacher and in my faith. I think I'm a better person because I'm here."

Norma Folz, the fourth grade teacher who is in her 25th year of teaching at Sts. Peter and Paul agreed wholeheartedly. "This school is like my second family. It always has been, and a lot of it has to do with my faith being incorporated into daily decisions. My personal faith has grown," Folz said.

"I appreciate the opportunity to grow my personal faith here," said Gina Cayce, who is in her 34th year of teaching and first at Sts. Peter and Paul as the new second grade teacher. In addition to growing in her own faith, Cayce recognizes another asset to her new position. "I feel privileged to be the one teaching these second graders to prepare for two of their major sacraments (first reconciliation and first communion)," Cayce explained.

Like Cayce, Marks has already seen changes in his personal life while working at Sts. Peter and Paul. "I have grown in my Catholic faith," he said. "I'm attending mass a lot more and I'm spending more time in personal prayer," he added. "I'm a blessed person. I'm more optimistic than I've ever been."

The changes in his life are not limited to just the time he spends at school. "This job has had a positive influence on my entire family," Marks explained. "Tracy (Marks' wife) and I get to attend mass together more often and there's a glow at our house now that wasn't there before."

Christe Westfall, who is in her 18th year of teaching at Sts. Peter and Paul but her first in kindergarten, sees God every day. "At this age (kindergartners), it's very easy to see God in them each day. Every minute of every day, God shines through them," Westfall explained.

In addition, Westfall knows it was God who led her to teach at Sts. Peter and Paul. "I never dreamed of teaching at this school, when I was a student!" Westfall exclaimed. "But I've been a student, a parent and now a teacher. I've given my whole life to this school because it's the best!"

While Sts. Peter and Paul is the best according to all who work here, they believe it can be even better. "I don't see how we cannot grow," said Pace. He attributes the possibility for growth to the new teachers, new families and new sports programs added to the school.

As principal of the school, Marks has very high expectations. By next year, he would love to see the middle school as full as grades preschool through fourth. Five years from now, his vision includes "a new building with facilities that are state of art and a waiting list for virtually every class," Marks said. "Based on the parents, the staff, the leadership of Father John Thomas and our PTO (parent-teacher organization), I think this goal is very realistic," Marks concluded.

## French bishop says Marian shrines' staffers must be connected

**By Ruta Tumenaite, Catholic News Service**  
VILNIUS, Lithuania (CNS) -- The staffers of Marian shrines must be in constant contact with each other or they risk isolating themselves, said the founder of the European network of Marian shrines.

Aside from their different histories, Marian shrines have much in common, said Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes, France.

Bishop Perrier, who in 2003 established a network of 20 Marian sanctuaries in 20 European countries, said, "People are increasingly traveling; therefore we wanted them to see that any of those 20 shrines belongs to a certain family." This in turn helps the sanctuaries to connect with the universal church, he said.

Huge Marian congresses "do not bring desirable results, because people (involved with shrines) have no chance to really meet," he said. Maintaining a network enables shrine staffers "to get in touch and relate with each other," he said.

Bishop Perrier said the rise in pilgrimages worldwide can be explained by the modern lifestyle and its constant demand for new experiences. The network links such famous pilgrimage sites as Loreto, Italy; Lourdes, France; Fatima, Portugal; and Czestochowa, Poland. It also links lesser-known shrines. This year, the annual meeting of the network members was Sept. 18-21 in Lithuania, home to Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn Shrine in Vilnius.

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An interior view of the Diocesan Marian Shrine located at Saint Joseph Church in Bowling Green, Ky.  
Photo by Joe Imel

## Healing Retreat

Set for Nov. 16 - 18, 2007 at the Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Center

**By Father Ray Clark**

Dr. Richard Johnson, a Catholic gerontologist from St. Louis, will be leading a healing retreat on the weekend of November 16-18 at Mt. St. Joseph Retreat Center. The retreat is entitled: Healing Body, Mind and Spirit: Tapping our inner power to heal.

Dr. Johnson defines sickness as the physical, emotional or spiritual problem we are experiencing. Illness, he says, is our attitude toward that problem. Most of us respond to sickness in ways that worsen the problem. However we can experience healing of our attitude toward our sickness. Each of us has known people who faced their sickness with courage and grace. Each of us has the capacity to face our physical, emotional or spiritual brokenness in healthy, healing ways.

The retreat is for anyone in need of healing – physical, emotional or spiritual. It is also for those who care for the sick. Dr. Johnson has extended a special invitation to those who work with the elderly in nursing homes. Continuing Education Credits are available at no charge. Dr. Johnson also has a website entitled [www.healyourillness.com](http://www.healyourillness.com) where you may take an inventory at no charge to discover the healing gifts you possess.

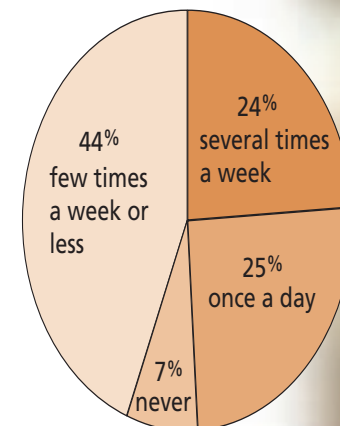
The retreat begins on Friday evening, November 16, with supper at 5:00pm. On Sunday morning Bishop McRaith will preside at Mass at 10:30am; the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at the Mass. The weekend concludes with lunch.

Participants may stay at the Retreat Center, or commute. Participants pay what they can afford. Grants have been given by the Disciples Respond Fund, St. Mary's Hospital and Owensboro Medical Health System.

For more information call the Family Life Office of the Diocese at 270-683-1545. The deadline to register is Monday, November 5.

## Outside Prayer

Frequency that U.S. Catholic adults pray outside of church services



Source: The Baylor Religion Survey, 2005

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## OUTSIDE PRAYER

Nearly half of U.S. Catholic adults say they pray outside of church services once a day or several times a week. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson) (Jan. 17, 2007)

**Please Notice:** Saint Mary Magdalene Cemetery, Hwy 56, Sorgho, Ky. is Open to the Public. Call 771-4436. Look for more information in future issues of The Western Kentucky Catholic,

# Cemetery Directors' Kind Words, Actions Can Help families

By Andrew Junker, Catholic News Service

PHOENIX (CNS) -- At their heart, cemetery directors can "bear witness to the resurrection of the body," Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix said Sept. 22 at the closing Mass of the 58th annual convention and exposition of the Catholic Cemetery Conference.

"Little things matter. They certainly matter at times of death: kindness, kind words, kind actions," the bishop said during his homily. By providing professional service with these little details, cemetery directors can help the families of the deceased "regain, if they lost it, confidence in Jesus' words: 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.'"

Attendance at the Sept. 19-22 convention was 400. The annual gathering brings together cemetery directors and their associates from across the country to share ideas with each other and develop new ways of serving those in need. Gary Brown, executive director of Catholic Cemeteries in the Phoenix Diocese, said it's important for cemetery directors to meet yearly because "there's so much that's going on."

"These are the topics we talk about: what's new in the business, trends that are happening, how are we going to compete with the conglomerates and others in the business," he told The Catholic Sun, Phoenix diocesan newspaper. "That's why it's so important every year." One topic for discussion this year was witnessing to society that Catholic funeral rites remain relevant. "Sometimes it seems like the service is all about what the person has done and little to do with what God has done and continues to do," said Father Stephen Bird, of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

In a Sept. 21 talk, he said that, through the Catholic tradition of caring for the dead, the faithful departed and their families are seen in their relationship to God. "We need to rediscover the riches of what the Catholic Church offers," he said. "We need to explore what the Catholic ritual provides." Father Bird also talked about proper procedures for the cremation of a body. While Catholic teaching permits cremation, it is not to be done before the funeral. The church strongly prefers the presence of the body because it calls to mind the life and death of the person, he said. The cremated remains are also to be kept in a respectable, public place, like a Catholic cemetery, where future generations can visit, he said.



**Mike Cecil, a Funeral Director at Cecil Funeral Home in Whitesville, Ky., has been helping families bury their loved ones for 37 years. Though not a cemetery director, Mike is well known in Daviess and Ohio counties of Kentucky for his compassionate care for bereaved families and their departed loved ones. Staff Photo**

Promoting church-approved burial rites is important, especially in the face of an ever-increasing secular society, said Mark R. Lazaroski, president of the Catholic Cemetery Conference, which is based in Hillside, Ill., near Chicago. He is director of cemeteries for the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y. "Secularism has led to the degradation of burial traditions," he said. "We're dealing with the issues of a disposable society."

A new initiative the Catholic Cemetery Conference has undertaken is participating in government meetings for preparedness in time of an emergency. "Disasters frequently overwhelm local systems that care for the deceased," Lazaroski said during a special report from the conference's subcouncil on mass fatality management Sept. 22. "Consequently, the responsibility for immediate response falls on local organizations and communities. Cemeteries are one of those organizations," he said.

According to Father Patrick Pollard, director of cemeteries for the Archdiocese of Chicago and a member of the subcouncil, Catholic cemetery directors will have to act with care and compassion in the face of chaos. "We have to deal with death and we have to deal with it with reverence and respect," he said, whether the emergency be a natural disaster, pandemic or terrorist attack. "We can't choose a military ap-

proach in a time of disaster, where we're going to simply dig trench graves and place bodies in there for public health," he said. To provide their indispensable services during an emergency, cemetery directors will have to be fearless and steadfast, Father Pollard said. "We have to be ready

to deal with the fear of our own employees, fearful to leave their homes and their families to come to work," he said. "We have to be able to allay their fears of the infectiousness of the disease. We have to be knowledgeable ourselves."

In the opening general session Sept. 20, Tucson Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas addressed the role Catholic cemeteries play in faith communities. He said the cemeteries were established because the church treasures life and the memory of those who have died. "Being Catholic means having a certain understanding of life and death," he said. Bishop Kicanas said he had recently been to a cemetery in Russia, a burial place he said was devoid of religious imagery and symbols. "Angels and saints are reminders that God never disappoints," he said. "Symbols help people realize that this is not the end."

Bishop Kicanas said conference members are responsible for evangelizing and promoting the church's teaching of eternal life.

"Life is the precious gift of God, so we set aside land, we consecrate it and make it holy. In that place the remains will stay until the trumpet sounds and we are summoned to take our place in heaven," he said. "If we die in Christ, we will rise in him."

--Contributing to this story were J.D. Long-Garcia and Ambria Hammel. Copyright (c) 2007 Catholic News Service/ U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

## Catholic Cemetery Sunday, Nov. 4, 2007

By Mark Lazaroski, President, Catholic Cemetery Conference  
Why Cemetery Sunday?

Because of our belief in the resurrection of the body at the end of time.

As a sacred place, a Catholic cemetery is a place that serves the faithful and witnesses the Good News of Jesus Christ and the hope we share in the resurrection to the entire world. It is a place where the signs and symbols of our Catholic faith are displayed with reverence and pride. An integral aspect of the Catholic cemetery ministry is to provide for the spiritual needs of our families. As part of the fulfillment of this commitment, we gather on Cemetery Sunday to pray for the souls of the deceased buried in our cemeteries.

Down through the centuries, the Church has honored the burial of the dead as a Corporal Work of Mercy. Wherever a Christian community formed, sacred ground was set aside where the remains of the dead would await the resurrection of the body on the Last Day. These resting places gave public witness to the Communion of Saints, which joins the faithful on earth with all "those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith." (Sacramentary, 'Eucharistic Prayer No. 1')

Today, our Catholic cemeteries are these sacred burial grounds. They differ from secular cemeteries because they are places where the Church gives witness to her beliefs and teachings surrounding death and resurrection. There the faithful departed rest among others who shared their faith in this life. On Cemetery Sunday, the living members of the Catholic community gather to pray, to honor the lives of the dead, and to renew our own belief in "the resurrection of the body and life everlasting."

An integral aspect of the ministry of Catholic Cemeteries is to provide for the spiri-

Continued on page 26

## A Gallery: The Good News in Pictures



### Service with a smile!

Students who belong to the Co-Ed Y Club at Holy Name School volunteered to work shifts at the Holy Name Fall Festival. Pictured is Robert Payne, D Carter, and Alex Wimber.



### Who is that Priest?

If you look closely, that is none other than Father Tony Shonis, from Holy Name Church having the pie wiped from his goggles. Father was nice enough to spend some time in the pie throwing booth at the annual Holy Name Fall Festival.



### FCA Begins New Chapter

Holy Name School recently started a new club for the 7th and 8th grade students. FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) is being ran by Charlie Hardesty, Vickie Stumph, and Michelle Green. Pictured is Charlie Hardesty speaking at the club's first meeting.



### Environmental Education

On September 6, 5th graders from St. Ann School in Morganfield attended the Lee K. Nelson outdoor safety lab. The lab provided a unique opportunity to learn safety and a deeper appreciation for the environment. The program was sponsored by the local Conservation District, NRCS Fish and Wildlife, Cooperative Extension service, and the Union County Farm Bureau.



### School Spirit!

8th grader, Mark Carver shows his school spirit recently at a pep assembly at Holy Name School. Mark along with his other soccer team members performed a dance routine for the school.



## 7th Grade Retreat at Holy Name School

At right, Holy Name School had the annual 7th Grade Retreat Day at St. Margaret's Chapel. Pictured is Charlie Hardesty, Youth Minister at Holy Name Church, leading a group of students in a team building exercise that involved being blindfolded.





St. Leo Parish in Murray, Ky. recently held their parish picnic on the grounds of the Knights of Columbus. It was a beautiful day and food, fun and fellowship was shared by all.

In the picture at upper left, Father Mike Williams celebrated Mass outside before the start of the picnic.

In a frame by frame stitched photo below, Father Mike Williams is going under water during his time in the dunking booth. Photos by John Mitchell



## St. Ann School's Change a Village Talent Show

MORGANFIELD, Ky. - St. Ann Interparochial middle school students worked for weeks on a service project that allowed them to use their talents, collect some change, and help others in return. They hosted and performed in a talent show where the proceeds benefited the children in Haiti. Each classroom worked towards making donations to the children of Haiti. Classes were asked to sponsor at least one child for \$20 in exchange for watching the show. Twenty dollars purchases a uniform, books, and supplies for one child to go to school for one year!! The talent show was held on Wednesday, October 3rd in the parish hall. Students conducted a bake sale to raise additional funds for the children of Haiti. Donations of approximately \$2,500 were raised through the efforts of our middle school teachers and students. The entire school supported this fundraiser. St. Ann School truly strived to make a difference in the lives of many children from Haiti.



## Every Little Prayer Counts: Rosary Walk October 7, 2007

Alice Palmer, daughter of Dr. Ken and Petra Palmer, holds a rosary as she walks along the Rosary Walk at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The little girl was one of about 20 individuals who gathered to pray the rosary on October 7 at Maple Mount to honor the feast of the Holy Rosary. The group enjoyed refreshments in the dining room after saying prayers. MSJ Photo



A scene from the talent show hosted and performed by St. Ann School students who gave the proceeds for the benefit of the children in Haiti. Submitted Photo

## Calvin Riney awarded Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Calvin Riney has been awarded a Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship to help pay for his college education. This scholarship award is \$1,500 a year.

Riney, a 2007 graduate of Owensboro Catholic High School, is studying accounting at the University of Kentucky.

“Receiving the Byrd Scholarship is an honor that will help tremendously in jumpstarting my future academically and the goals I hope to achieve later on in my career,” he said.

While at Owensboro Catholic, Riney was on the baseball and swim teams and was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, school newspaper, SCRUBS, FCA and Y-Club.

He is one of only 84 seniors in the state this year to receive a Byrd Scholarship, a federally funded program administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). KHEAA also administers other student aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship, where students earn money for college by making good grades in high school.

Riney is the son of Keith Riney and the late Cathy Riney of Owensboro. He is the grandson of F.G. and Winnie Riney and Helen Hermann, all of Owensboro.

The Byrd Scholarship is named for longtime U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, who authored the legislation establishing the program in 1985. Kentucky receives enough funding to award scholar-



Calvin Riney

ships to 84 high school seniors each year, with 14 chosen from each of the state's six congressional districts. Recipients are chosen by an independent panel, based on academic achievement, community service, school involvement and counselor recommendation.

KHEAA and its sister agency, The Student Loan People, administer scholarship, grant, low-cost loan, savings and work-study programs to help Kentuckians pay for college. They also provide free college planning and financial aid information to students, parents and counselors.

## Catholic Charities USA Disappointed

at Failure of U.S. House of Representatives to Override Veto of Children's Health Insurance Bill Calls for Renewed Effort to Reach Agreement so SCHIP Program Can Cover More Poor Children

ALEXANDRIA, VA- Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, issued the following statement today following the failure of the U.S. House of Representatives to override President Bush's veto of a compromise bill to strengthen and improve the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), a highly successful program that provides health insurance coverage to poor children. The vote was 273-156, short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto.

“It is disappointing that there were not enough House members willing to stand up for children and vote to override this ill-conceived veto of a bill that would have helped so many children without health insurance.

“Because of President Bush's veto and the 156 House members who voted to uphold it, thousands of poor children living in every state will not receive health insurance coverage that they would have received under this legislation. Their actions put the health of many of our nation's children at risk.

“The veto may have blocked this bill, but it cannot stop our commitment to the most vulnerable in our society. Catholic Charities USA calls on Congress and the White House to work together to find agreement on a bill that provides this critically needed health coverage to more poor children.”

## MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOVEMBER 2007-FEBRUARY 2008

### November 2007

- 2-4 Mount Hope Weekend
- 3 Yarn Spinning Gathering
- 5-6 Access Assured First Baptist Youth Group
- 5-7 Thomas Merton Retreat: Seeds of Contemplation with Fr. Tony Shonis and Marty Hill
- 9-11 Circle of Friends Men's and Women's Retreat with Sr. Cheryl Clemons
- 10 Grief and Loss
- 15 Water Sentinels/Sierra Club
- 16-18 Healing Retreat
- 27-28 Quilters

### December 2007

- 22 Winter Solstice Sunrise Celebration

### January 2008

- 8-10 Grant Writing
- 11-12 Mother/Daughter Scrapbooking
- 11-13 Grayson County Ursuline Associates Retreat
- 18-20 Retrouvaille
- 19 Trash to Treasure
- 21-25 Spiritual Direction Institute - Week 6
- 25-27 Lenten Preparation Weekend
- 25-27 First Christian Church Elders Retreat
- 27 Father/Son Retreat Day
- 28 Ministry Monday

### February 2008

- 1-3 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 2 Yarn Spinning Gathering
- 6 Art of Ashes Silent Prayer
- 7-9 Basket Weavers
- 15-17 Catholic Charismatic Conference: Behold, I Do A New Thing
- 16 Trash to Treasure
- 17 Precious Blood RCIA
- 22 Lenten Sacrifice Silent Prayer
- 22-24 Art of Creativity: Contemplation, Art & Mystery
- 25 Ministry Monday
- 29 Lenten Sacrifice Silent Prayer
- 29-2 Women's Retreat with Sr. Cheryl Clemons, OSU



Center-sponsored programs in **bold**.

**To register or to schedule your event, call Kathy McCarty 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org**

**The Center is located 12 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56 at 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356**

## Catholic Cemetery Sunday *(Continued from page 23)*

tual needs of our families. As part of the fulfillment of this commitment, we gather on Cemetery Sunday to pray for the souls of those buried in our cemeteries.

Catholic cemeteries reflect Catholic beliefs, and Cemetery Sunday offers a comforting atmosphere in which love for family and friends is remembered; hope is rekindled, and, faith is awakened, renewed and strengthened.

Let us gather as a faith community on Sunday, November 4, 2007, as testimony to our loved ones who have gone before us.

The Catholic Cemetery Conference (CCC) helps Catholic cemetery staff enhance their skills in caring for the deceased and comforting their loved ones through ministry, education, networking and service opportunities. Founded in 1949, the CCC has 1200 members spanning the United States, Australia, Italy, Canada and Guam. The CCC is located at 1400 South Wolf Road, Building #3, Hillside, IL 60162; phone: 708.202.1242 or toll-free: 888.850.8131; fax: 708.202.1255.

## Pioneer Workshop

A weaving workshop was offered at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center August 2-4. It was titled, "Arts at the Mount: A Pioneer Workshop." Instructors were Debbie Webb, Jody Ziegler, and Brenda Semar. The workshop included live animals such as llamas, alpacas and sheep so that participants could see their wool.



Lisa Cummings, left, and Sister Eva Boone, OSU, right, show their weaving projects to Sister Frances McDonagh, OSU, center.

Lisa Cummings, left, and Teresa Ward work with wool to prepare it for weaving.



Several workshop participants enjoy trying out the spinning wheels.



Patricia Ahern, seated, demonstrates weaving to Sister Mary Patrick McDonagh, OSU.



Becky Monetathchi, right, learns to card wool using a compact disc.



Lorren Gibson, a student at Holy Name School in Henderson, Ky., left, Learned some tricks about how to make yarn from wool sheared straight from a sheep from Debbie Webb, of Saint Augustine Parish in Grayson Springs. With the pair at the Mount Saint Joseph Picnic Sept. 9 were Sister Eva Boone, OSU, and Anna Conn of Morganfield, Ky. Anna was crocheting and Sister Eva was making yarn for knitting. Debbie raises the sheep from which she gets wool for spinning. Staff Photo



Runaway Quilters Retreat September 18-21: Julie Quisenberry from Calhoun looks at an Irish Chain pattern book as she works on her latest quilt.

## Living the Sacraments: The Catholic's Role Love Does Not Stop with Death

By Pat S. Smith



As All Souls' Day again approaches, I think of all those gone before as I begin to write this column. My parents departed for Heaven in their late 70's and my wonderful sister in her mid 60's. They all led good lives and were getting old. My sister was only in her 60's and in my mind, as I am approaching 59 soon, that was too young. But she was so ill and there was no hope for a cure from her PSP, progressive supranuclear palsy. I try to find comfort in that during this time each year, when we as Catholics are called to remember our dead. But what about the young ones who die and have so much living yet to do?

November 2007 will be the two year anniversary of my nephew Mike's death. Mike was only 44, a brilliant accountant, a loving husband and father to two children, Ann-Linton and Browning, both in their teens. Death did not stop to ask Mike if he was ready at this tender young age. He was diagnosed with colon cancer and died 31 days later. His death hit me really hard, but from my experience with the death of previous loved ones gone before, I know that his love for his wife and children, and for me, too, goes on. There is our hope when a young person dies an early death. Of course we must grieve, it is only natural, but eventually the grief fades into acceptance and we must cope and go on.

I can still feel the love of my sister and I pray to her and my parents often and I know they are listening and are praying for me and though not here in the physical sense, they are here spiritually and live on in my heart. I know too, that they do not want me to grieve them, but be happy in knowing they are with Jesus.

The very young and popular televangelist, Joel Osteen, said in his book of an experience he had after his father died. He said that one day he went by to see his mother and the house way empty, so he wandered around and wound up in the family room. Suddenly he could "see" his father lying on the floor and the paramedics working over him trying to save his life from a heart attack. But Joel's father, also a minister, died right there in the family room with his young son watching. He said that suddenly it all came flooding back and although it was a beautiful day he at once found himself reliving his father's death and became very despondent. Then he said he had to pull himself out of this mood and began to remember the good life his father had, and the many good times they had together, playing basketball and other activities.

Of course when a death is fresh in our physical minds, the grief must come. As time progresses it is not good to recall the death and the grief of the loss, but rather recall happy times and moments. Mother loved Christmas and the shopping and baking and secretiveness, Dad wore Old Spice cologne and was always tickled to receive yet another bottle at Christmas and on Father's Day. My sister loved life so much and yet she accepted her death and knew she was going to a better place, although leaving us behind to grieve and go on without her. I have so many happy childhood memories of us growing up together and when the anniversary of her death approaches (Easter 2003) I try to remember all our happy childhood days and how I practically lived with her and helped her take care of her children. My sister kept a journal for her children and grandchildren. As her illness progressed, it was easy to see that she was having difficulty finishing it. The day she died I sat with her daughter and read some of the journal. I'll never forget that one of the questions was, "When you go to Heaven, who would you like to meet and what would you ask them?" She had written, "When I die and get to Heaven, I would like to meet St. Mary. I would like to ask her what it was like to be so young and expecting a baby and how she dealt with this." That really touched me.

Fr. Jerry Calhoun once told me that I could pray to her and she would hear, and that she would not want me to stay in this saddened condition. I have tried to do that and recalling the good memories helps. I love my parents, my sister and nephew to this very day and know that they are waiting for me. It was a great sorrow for my nephew's wife and children to face, but I am sure they have lots of good memories and can feel Mike's love coming down from Heaven.

Our hope yes, is in Heaven and without that hope, how could we go on? Man was not meant to live forever, but to "practice" Heaven on earth and hopefully be ready when his name is called.

As a Catholic living the sacraments, and knowing that my soul is immortal, the ability to pray to our deceased and feel their love and prayers for us, sustains me. We are so fortunate as Catholics to have this very special day set aside, "All Souls' Day," to remember and honor our dead. What a wonderful celebration we have for them, knowing they are thought of and remembered in the Book of Life in our Catholic churches! So if you are experiencing grief, know that it is normal and know that the grief will pass. And pray to your loved ones; and know that they also are praying for you. Although death can take away many things, it can NOT take away our love for them and their love for us.

*Pat S. Smith is a member of Holy Spirit parish and worship with the Fathers of Mercy in South Union.*



**Sister Dianna Ortiz, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, a torture survivor and the founder of TASSC, the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, second from left, was in New York City September 28, to receive the 42nd annual Peace Award from the War Resisters League. The award was presented jointly to TASSC International and the CCR (Center for Constitutional Rights). Sister Dianna was joined at the War Resisters event by, l. to r., torture survivor Demissie Gebremedhin, torture survivor Frieda Ngwa, and TASSC volunteer Ted Stein. (Photo by Ed Hedemann) Submitted by the MSJ Ursulines**

### Sister Dianna Wins Peace Award

The War Resisters League honored Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, at its 42nd annual Peace Awards reception on September 28 in New York City. The award was given to the group she founded, the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC).

The Peace Award honors those who have taken leading roles in defense of human rights and whose work represents the league's nonviolent platform of action.

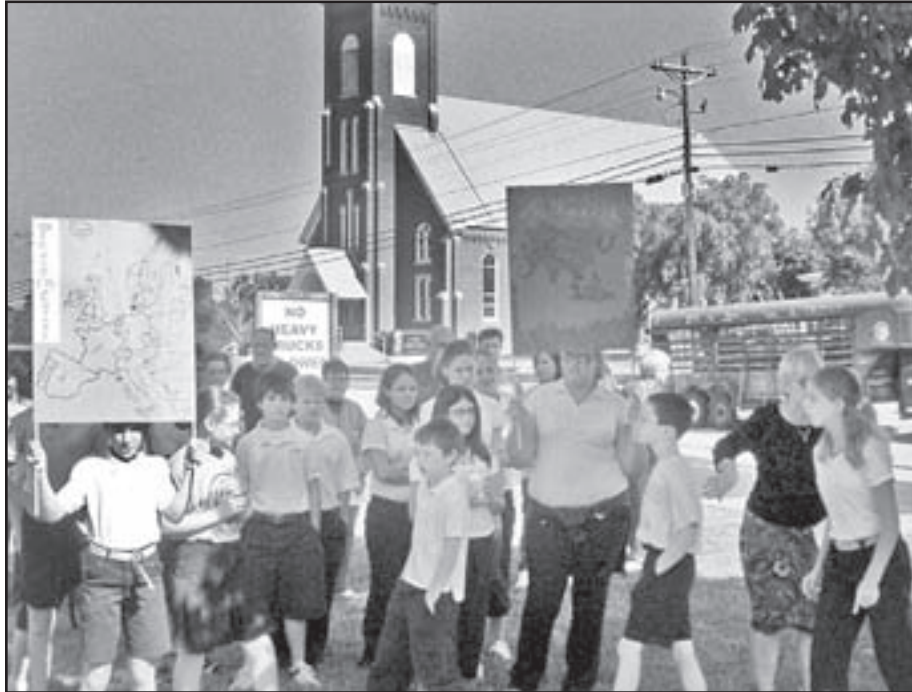
TASSC provides resources to torture survivors and is the only organization founded by and for torture survivors. Based in Washington, D.C., the organization has launched a campaign to repeal the Military Commissions Act which, in effect, legalizes torture. TASSC has a Truth Speakers program designed to help integrate the powerful voices of survivors into the discussion surrounding torture. It has also compiled documents on international treaties on the subject of torture and offers forums where survivors can gather and help each other heal.

The other recipient of this year's Peace Awards was the Center for Constitutional Rights, the country's premiere progressive legal institution. Its mission is to use litigation proactively to change the law for the better and to guarantee the rights of those with the fewest protections and the least access to legal resources. It has focused on the rights of detainees at Guantanamo Bay. For more information, contact the War Resisters League at 212-228-0450 or visit [www.warresisters.org](http://www.warresisters.org).

## Mary Carrico Elementary Involves Whole School in Prayer, Public Witness

Mary Carrico Elementary in Knottsville, Ky. participated in a whole school prayer service on Friday, September 21 to observe the International Day of Peace. In the photo at right, each continent was represented by a flag made by each classroom. We had a prayer service recognizing the need for peace within each continent as well as peace among all the continents. We sang songs and lit candles to pray for peace.

In September, the students in the picture below were chosen as Students of the Month from each grade for exhibiting Christian Living, Honesty, Respect for Adults and



Respect for fellow students. The students are featured with our principal, Mr. Clark, and they were able to each lunch with him and enjoy an ice cream s u n d a e . From Kindergarten: Drew Brown, 1st grade: Lilly Mudd (absent from photo), 2nd

grade: Breannah Hamilton, 3rd grade: Allanson Rhodes, 4th grade: Mikaelyn Aud, 5th grade: Mason Lanham, 6th grade: Madeline Millay, 7th grade: Daniel Robertson, 8th grade: Kasey Gilmore. Submitted by Mary Shupe, First/Second Grade Teacher, Mary Carrico Memorial School.

In the picture below, St. William parishioners and Bishop Soenneker Home residents participated in the Mary Carrico Living Rosary October 1 in the parish parking lot.



In the picture at right, Allanson Rhodes found a quiet moment while standing in line just before the Living Rosary to gather her thoughts from a busy school day and with her Rosary around folded hands began her prayer of petition to Our Blessed Mother Mary. The school community was observing the Month of the Holy Rosary, a time when Mary's children make appeals to the powers of Heaven to help us with our needs. Staff Photos



## Saint Romuald Pet Blessing

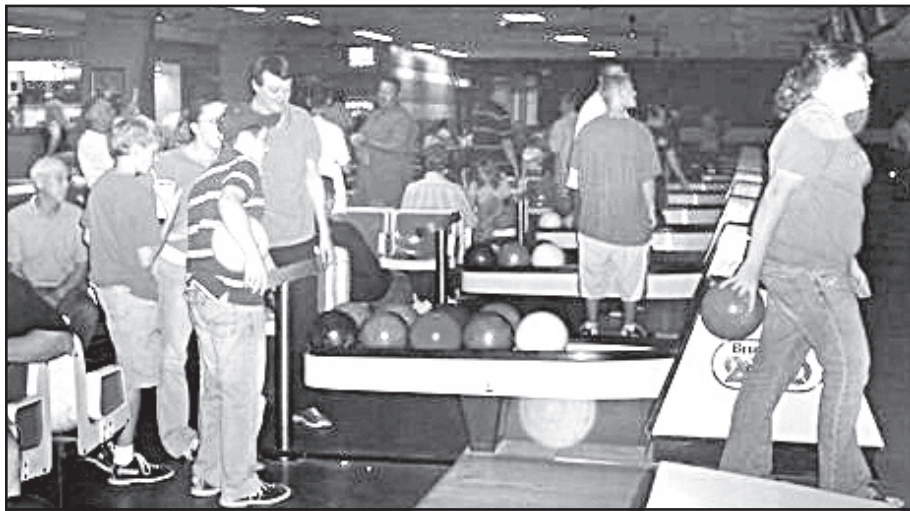


A Blessing of Pets at the time of the feast of Saint Francis, October 4, Saint Romuald School enlivens once again a tradition of the Pet Blessing.

Mr. Jim Mattingly, Diocesan Schools Superintendent of Schools, attended this year's Pet Blessing at Saint Romuald School in Hardinsburg, Ky. He commented,



"What was as neat as anything about the ceremony was the obvious pride the kids displayed in their pets. I bet they look forward for weeks to the day



when they can take their pet to school and show it off to everybody else!

In the picture at top right are ; Morgan Alexander and Christian Wheatley pose with "Denver." Above, center, Zach Payne waited in turn with his dog, "Hudson."

Above right, Saint Romuald pastor Father Tony Bickett sprinkled Holy Water on the pets and pet owners



## Religious Education Class Enjoys A Supper And Bowling With Pastor, Teachers

On September 22, 2007, Fr. Terry Devine took a high school CCD group to Henderson for a night of bowling and supper. Above left, our group is Bill Butler (seated), Grant Ervin, Phylisha Pike, Keaton Thomas, Fr. Terry, and Morgan Furgason. Checking the scores at right are Phylisha Pike, Grant Ervin (hidden), Morgan Ferguson, Holdan Buckman and Keaton Thomas. At left, Fr. Terry makes a strike or was that a gutter ball? Holdan was the hot-wing champion! Chaperones included Edna Messamore, Bill and Janet Butler.





**Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington delivers a keynote address at the Mid-Atlantic Catholic Schools Consortium's Sept. 19 summit at the University of Maryland in College Park. (CNS photo/Rafael Crisostomo, Catholic Standard) (Sept. 24, 2007)**

**By Chaz Muth, Catholic News Service**

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (CNS) -- Catholic school leaders from the mid-Atlantic region meeting Sept. 19 in College Park were reminded Catholic education is a unique institution that should be preserved for the good of the church, community, country and future generations.

If Catholic schools continue to take a piecemeal approach in dealing with dwindling enrollment in the urban and lower-income parish schools, more closings will be inevitable, Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl told educators, clergy and lay people of the Mid-Atlantic Catholic Schools Consortium at a summit on the future of Catholic schools.

"The cost of a Catholic education has to be in the reach of families and if they can't afford it, their children can't access it," Archbishop Wuerl said in the summit's keynote address. "If (rising tuition) continues, we'll only see schools continue in affluent areas for people who can afford it.

"This was not the vision of (St.) Elizabeth Ann Seton," he said, referring to the saint who founded the Sisters of Charity religious order in the United States and established the parochial school system in this country.

The Annapolis-based consortium invited 160 national experts, benefactors, laity, educators and clergy to formulate methods that will keep Catholic schools in the region academically superior, affordable and accessible, while maintaining their faith-based identity and value system.

In the past two years, 23 Catholic schools have closed in the Baltimore and Washington archdioceses and in the dioceses of Arlington and Richmond, Va.; Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va.; and Wilmington, Del. The closures represent a total loss of 2,607 students.

The consortium was formed to help the Catholic school system thrive in the future, by collaboratively seeking public and private funding, sharing educational methods and developing unique programs for the 340 schools and 117,687 students within the region, said Mary Ellen Hrutka, the consortium's executive director.

Bishops from several dioceses said they had tremendous contributions from parish collection baskets specifically designed for tuition assistance.

Archbishop Wuerl challenged members of the summit to create strategies to keep Catholic education technologically relevant, accessible and uniquely Catholic.

"In our institutions, we need to educate the mind, heart and spirit," he said. "We need to have a strong faith formation, even in the schools where a majority of the students are not Catholic. That is what sets us apart. The school is the instrument of faith formation and social justice."

Creative methods must be developed to foster and enlarge Catholic education, given the limited resources available within the church, Archbishop Wuerl said.

"The school must be Catholic, through and through," he said. "A diocesan-wide

policy for equitable distribution of educational costs must be developed to maintain affordability, and that serious diocesan-wide strategic planning has to take place to ensure the survival of schools in a manner that allows Catholic education to truly be accessible throughout the diocese."

The values taught in the Catholic school system offer all students confidence and its urban pupils hope for the future, Archbishop Wuerl said.

According to statistics from the consortium, 99 percent of Catholic school students in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware graduate from high school; 97 percent of the graduates pursue postsecondary education; and the schools have a \$1.3 billion economic impact in the mid-Atlantic states.

The summit is one of several projects launched by the consortium in 2007. Others included the publishing of a monograph detailing the challenges Catholic schools are facing; the launching of a federal programs project to maximize the current level of federal benefits coming to the region's Catholic schools; and initiating a Web site to share resources on its work.

Funding also has been secured to provide contemporary leadership development for school administrators and pastors to identify ways that religious orders can build up the Catholic schools, Hrutka said.

"We have a generation who has not appropriated the teachings of what we believe," Archbishop Wuerl said. "The word of God will give our students access to a world of grace. With every generation, the church starts all over again. It's available to each person in each generation."

Expressing great admiration for the presenters at the Sept. 19 summit, Richard J. Dowling, executive director of the Maryland Catholic Conference, said he was confident the assembly will produce a national model for Catholic schools.

"Given the level of expertise and the support of the bishops (for) this, it's a can't-miss enterprise," he said.

Archbishop Wuerl warned those attending the summit that some of their findings may be a hard sell to some parish schools and to contributors who don't understand that their tuition doesn't pay for the entire educational system.

"Our hope is the collective work will sustain the great gift of our schools," he said. "It's been a struggle from the very beginning of Catholic education in this country."

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## Nine from diocesan schools named Sen. Jeff Green Scholars

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Nine students from diocesan high schools have been named Sen. Jeff Green Scholars. Students earn this designation by achieving a 4.0 grade point average all four years of high school and scoring at least a 28 composite on the ACT.

As Sen. Jeff Green scholars, these students are eligible for \$2,500 a year in Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) awards. Students may receive up to \$10,000 toward their college expenses if they continue to do well in school.

The title honors the late state Sen. Jeff Green of Mayfield, who served in the Kentucky General Assembly from 1992 to 1997.

Local students who earned this prestigious designation are:

- \* Owensboro Catholic High School: Alexander Fenwick, Margaret Gray, Kimberly Kauffeld, Calvin Riney, Wesley Taul and Kathleen Thompson.
- \* Paducah St. Mary High School: Kristen Banco, Jessica Thompson and Steven Wade.

KEES awards are funded by net Kentucky lottery proceeds and may be used at most colleges and universities in Kentucky. In some cases, the award may be used at out-of-state schools if the major the student is pursuing is not available in Kentucky. No application is necessary for KEES awards, and students may access their KEES account information on [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) by setting up a Zip Access account.

For more information about KEES, write to KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602-0798; call (800) 928-8926, extension 7394; e-mail [kees@kheaa.com](mailto:kees@kheaa.com); or visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com).

## To Celebrate Our Priests

By Judy Willett

BARDWELL, Ky. - There are times in our lives when we feel the hand of God is working more generously in our lives than usual. To me one of those times is with the entrance of Father Masilamani Suvakkin as pastor of St. Charles in June of this year 2007. He came to us from being assistant priest at St. Frances De Sales in Paducah, Ky.

Fr. Masi was born February 14, 1996 one of 7 brothers, in the state of Tamil Nadu, in the town of Thondi, India, which compares in size to Paducah. He is the 3' son born to Jochim and Selve Mary who can trace their Catholic lineage to 42 A.D. when St. Thomas the apostle traveled to India. He was reared by his parents who are living and by his parish family of Our Lady of Voyage. Fr Masi served his parish as an altar server and the priest Fr. Vincent Amal Raj influenced him in his decision to join the priesthood and Fr. Vincent continues to inspire and communicates with him today.

He finished his higher secondary school and two years of minor. Then he finished Philosophy along with his B. A. Degree. After 4 years of Theology school he was ordained a priest in 2001 and ministered with seminarians who were under the formation for the priesthood, then onto South Africa for 3 years. May 2006 he ar-



**Father Masilamani Suvakkin**

rived here in the U. S.

His journey has brought him here to us in western Ky and we are privileged to have him here with us. No doubt we here at St. Charles will experience richer lives, and a wholeness of spirit under his direction due to his gentle and firm spiritual leadership. Thank You Dear God for bringing Fr. Masi to us.

*Judy Willett is a member of St. Charles Catholic Church in Carlisle County.*

## A Man Who Always Answers the Church's Call



By Mel Howard

The picture at left is one of Louis Edge, an 88-year-old member of Saint Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville, Ky. He and his wife Nora have raised 14 children and spoiled many grandchildren over the span of their 69 years of married life.

Louis is shown here in a picture his daughter DeeDee Midkiff took during the Sept 30 St. Mary's picnic.

Louis said that he started working parish picnics at age 5, and has only missed a few when they were cancelled by the parish. He has worked 81 picnics by his count.

Gotta be a record!

## Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon

**William and Rita Elder  
Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro, KY  
2007 Sophia Award Winners**

Bill and Rita Elder said, "We felt we didn't deserve the Sophia Award at all. There were more deserving than us."

"After hearing Bishop McRaith's wonderful homily, (at the Sophia Award mass) I really felt humble," said Rita.

The Elders were married 47 years ago at St. Elizabeth's parish in Curdsville, Ky., and have always been very active in their parish community.

"I've worked in every phase of the St. Vincent dePaul office," said Bill. "I finally had to retire, though, after 40 years of volunteering. But, I loved it while I was there. I've always helped at the picnics, bingo, ushering or anything else that comes up that I can do at church."

Rita's talent is sewing, and she uses her gift to make quilts for Hospice, church raffles, baby blankets, quilts and bibs for the Right to Life office. "I've been sewing for years, and I really love being able to contribute my talent for a good cause." Rita also is a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, sacristan and works at the bereavement meals at the church.

Bill retired as an electrical contractor but, he helps his son, Randy, "a little" in the construction business. Bill and Rita's home is a beautiful example of the father and son work. Both Rita and Bill like to garden. He likes to vegetable garden and she likes to flower garden.

The Elder's both agreed that their Catholic faith has kept their marriage together for some 44 years.

"We've never thought about divorce ever. Murder, yes! Divorce, no!" said Rita.



Bill laughed.

"We took our vows seriously", Rita said. "We made a commitment before God and we meant it." Bill agreed. The Elder's have 4 living children, 8 grandchildren and 4 step grandchildren.

The power of prayer is what has helped the Elder's throughout their lives. "I really believe in the power of prayer," said Bill.

"Yes!" Rita agreed. "Prayer has helped our marriage and helped in raising our children in the Catholic faith. Our son had a brain tumor and prayer helped him get better. We had been praying to be reunited with family members and our prayers were answered. Prayer is the commonality that we have as a couple. Without it, we just couldn't function."

The Elders enjoy their time at home now and are able to enjoy all of their grandchildren. They mostly travel to visit with family. "We are very thankful for all the blessings we have been given," said Bill and Rita.

## Circle of Friends Women's and Men's Retreat November 9-11

"God in the Ordinary: Insights from Evelyn Underhill" is the theme of a women's and men's retreat the weekend of November 9-11 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. English spiritual author Underhill's great insight was that it is within our ordinary lives that God is best found and our neighbor best served. Retreat director is Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU. Retreat begins Friday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. and ends Sunday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. The cost for the retreat, a room and meals is \$160 (or \$295 for a couple) or commuters can attend for \$110. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or kmccarty@maplemount.org. A brochure can be found online at [www.msjcenter.org](http://www.msjcenter.org)

## Thomas Merton Retreat November 5-7

"Sowing the Seeds" is a retreat based on the book *New Seeds of Contemplation* by Trappist Monk Thomas Merton. This book helps us take our pulse to see whether we are living in Christ. It contains some of Merton's best writing on the nature of the self. Retreat directors are Father Anthony Shonis and Ms. Marty Hill. Retreat begins Monday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. and ends Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 1 p.m. The retreat fee (includes room and meals) is \$160 or commuters can attend for \$110. To register, contact Kathy McCarty at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center: 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or kmccarty@maplemount.org. A brochure can be found online at [www.msjcenter.org](http://www.msjcenter.org)



**Louise "Lou" Alvey Jones**  
**St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro, KY**  
**2007 Sophia Award Winner**

Walking into the huge home of Lou and Russel Jones is like stepping back in time complete with the latest technology. The house is full of history and memorabilia from the Jones' careers.

I was met by daughter, Billie Alvey, who gave me a quick history of the house before her mother, Lou, came in.

Seated in front of a huge window, Lou Alvey told me, "You can see everything from here, and some things you don't want to see. We thought we would move from here and downsize after we got older, but the children didn't want us to. Russel is my second husband, and we have lived here over 34 years. It's so big we can have the family here anytime. It will sleep 28 pretty easily."

Billie is a nurse and is able to help out most of the time along with her 2 brothers and their family.

"I don't think I missed Sunday Mass in my life until I fell a couple of years ago and I've missed some since then. But I've always been a religious person and I have tried to let that be a part in all I do. I have always carried a rosary with me and I say it everyday," said Mrs. Jones.

"I remember we lived right across the street from Blessed Mother church when my 3 children were still at home. One very early Sunday morning, Monsignor Jarboe knocked on the door and wanted to borrow my car to take Communion to someone. I knew one of my sons had had the car at a party the night before and it still had tubs of drinks in it. With me in my housecoat, Monsignor and I unloaded the car. After that we were great friends and I would cook his breakfast every Sunday morning. Before that time he was hard to get to know.

"Mother has been involved in the community in so many ways. She was the business manager for the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra and director of the Owensboro Area Science and History Museum for 18 years. In addition, she also served on the boards of the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra and the Owensboro Regatta; was a member of the Symphony Auxiliary, the Symphony Guild, the Owensboro Museum of Fine Arts, and a charter member of the Altrusa Club. She was also involved with the United Way, the March of Dimes the Heart Association and was active politically," Billie said

"I worked for the Owensboro Chamber of Commerce for about 10 years as the Office Manager many years ago. That's how I met my husband Russel Jones, at a Chamber of Commerce function. The Chamber got a new Executive Director and he let the entire staff go. I was just devastated. So at about age 50, I went back to Brescia College to learn something new," said Lou with a smile.

"Russel and I have been married 34 years and we have been everywhere! We've been all over Europe and the United States," said Lou with a remembering smile.

"They were able to travel while they were still young enough to enjoy it." Said Billie. Russel Jones retired at age 84 and was the oldest practicing attorney in Owensboro.

"I remember the things that drew me to Russel were that he was so polite and kind. He always has been. For 34 years, we have never gone to bed angry with each other; we always work it out. I think I learned a lot from my parents by their example. If there was something that needed to be done, we would do it. We always helped our neighbors or anyone else that we could. We all went to Catholic schools and learned respects," said Mrs. Jones. Billie said her mother has always had that ethic in all that she has ever done.

"When I got the letter saying that I was going to receive the Sophia, my heavens, I was so happy. I read the letter 4 times. It was a great family event for us. I had 50 people there in our family. We had them come from Washington, Virginia, and Illinois. As a matter of fact, I had just come from a Mass at Brescia University Chapel where I was the godmother for my great-grandson's Baptism. They are from Monticello, Kentucky and they picked the same day as the Sophia Awards to have the baby baptized," she explained.



**Lou Alvey with  
Bishop John McRaith**

## Comfort & Hope... a message about grief

By Jeannie Boone

It has been the longest day, starting before first light, and now as the clock nears midnight I'm longing for rest. It's been a productive day in which much work was done, people were cared for, and the Lord gave me strength and provided a cool breeze to comfort the whole day through. I am thankful for the work, the strength, the comfort, and the fact that I have a bed waiting just down the hall. As November approaches swishing away the last dregs of summer I no longer feel the oppressive grief it once brought to my world and I'm thankful for that, too, yet I remember.

November in our faith community arrives with a remembrance of the dead and it also harks the cold of winter; it's that cold and dark season that seems to intensify the pain of loss, as if death has just taken everything and left us desolate... barren as the landscape outside our windows. As if nothing fits, or works; food has no appeal or taste, the hours are too long, the familiar becomes strange, and even the walls around us, that were once called home, seem foreign. People talk about the joy of heaven and remind us to be grateful for the time and relationship we had... we'll be together again... But, oh! the sorrow that consumes the heart, the pain of a loved one gone from this world.

Faith gives us a firm foundation but even that seems to wobble and rattle, especially when death was not expected and gave us no warning. Add to this equation the holiday season approaching with emphasis on joy, family, thankful hearts, love and hope. When a soul is crushed by the weight of its burden these things seem lost and beyond reach isolating the mourner even more. I do remember.

Though the winter be hard and cold there is the hope of spring and with it the comfort of new life, of renewal. That renewal in nature is brought forth by light and warmth; in the hearts of those who mourn it is brought forth by community, in prayerful and patient support. Sometimes you need to cry with people for a while before they can hear your words of encouragement.

As Christians we celebrate and thrive in the cycle and constant flow of work, harvest, rest and renewal... bound together in faith and part of a mystery greater than any can imagine. We believe and because we believe there is comfort and hope that we can and we will endure. When the days are dark, and the nights too long and lonely, we have to be there for each other.

St. Teresa of Avila, a voice from the fourteenth century, reminds us: "God has no hands but our hands to do his work today."

I am thankful and my heart is rewarded that I have this work to do. And when your heart is heavy with grief you will find that using that experience, sharing with others what you feel and have learned, is a labor of love and healing.

Email your experience or thoughts: [kyboones2@hotmail.com](mailto:kyboones2@hotmail.com)



**Jeannie Boone**

## Parish Music Director Position Open

Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro, KY has a position for Liturgy/Music Director open: This position is full time position with salary/benefits. 725 family parish is seeking a pastoral musician with an academic background in both music and liturgy. Openness to using both traditional and contemporary music a requirement, as well as keyboard, choral conducting skills, ability to supervise and train cantors, people skills, and the ability to work on a collaborative staff. For more information, contact Fr. Carl McCarthy at 683-5641, or mail your resume to 609 East 4th St. Owensboro KY 42303, or call the Office of Music of the Diocese of Owensboro, 270/683-1545

My greatest blessing in life, of course, is my family and faith. When my family all gets together here at the house, we do nothing but laugh and have a good time the whole time they are here. It's truly wonderful. I am so blessed by them all," said Mrs. Jones.

"We are truly blessed to have her." Says Billie.

I left the house learning two things: that my grandfather, Wathen Snyder, stood up at Mrs. Jones' parents wedding, and that some people just radiate love and happiness.

*Note: (The Kentucky House of Representatives presented a citation to Mrs. Jones for her receiving the Owensboro Diocese's Sophia Award.)*

## The Story of Ben

By Angie Pace

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - August 8, 2005 was the day that changed our lives! We were very excited for our ultrasound, expecting our fifth child. My husband and I were hoping for a boy, we already have been blessed with four, healthy, beautiful daughters. When the technician showed us the baby's sex, we were ecstatic, thoughts of a football star raced through our heads. It was not long until our joy was turned to worry and anxiety. The technician left us in that room for what seemed like an eternity. When he finally came back with a doctor, the doctor told us our baby had something wrong. Tests indicated fluid on our baby's lungs and a mass of some sort on his neck. We were immediately sent to Vanderbilt Hospital for further testing.

Despite that appointment, my husband and I decided to remain optimistic and hopeful that the results of those tests were a mistake and our son was fine. Unfortunately, the Vanderbilt results were not better, the doctors thought it was probably a chromosomal problem. We were shown a book with hundreds of diagnosis's due to chromosomal disorders. The doctor tried to convince us that terminating the pregnancy might be our best option. We would not listen to what he had to say. He encouraged us to have an amniocentesis, but we refused due to our fear of a possible miscarriage. We were going to accept what God gave us regardless of what was wrong with our baby, so knowing the results of an amniocentesis would not change that.

We immediately asked our family and friends to start praying and pray hard. Thanks to the internet, we had people all over the country praying for our little boy.

As for me, I prayed fervently for peace; not to worry too much, to listen to the doctors without getting upset, and to know that God had a plan for us. God is so good to us. He heard and answered my prayers quickly, I felt a comforting calm come over me. However, there were still a few days of worry and grief. We worried that our son would not survive his birth. We even talked about his funeral if the worst happened. Each doctor's appointment was mentally painful. The cardiologist continually gave us a sympathetic look and told us that things did not look good for our son. His heart was not developing and functioning properly. He also had a mass on his neck and his lungs were full of fluid. These were all very bad signs. The doctors were pretty sure that he had Trisome 18 or 21. We prayed and held on to the hope of a miracle ~ something to prove our faith to those pessimistic doctors.

We tried not to worry our daughters but wanted to prepare them for what might happen. Our second daughter, Amelia, struggled the most. Amelia suffered from



Starting at the far left and going clockwise: Abbigail, Angie, Ben, John, Amelia, Hope, and Meredith Pace. Submitted Photo

anxiety attacks that made getting her to school a torture. Thankfully God brought into our lives a wonderful Christian counselor Melissa, who helped us get Amelia through each day.

We thought about what challenges might face our family and our son, but chose not to dwell on the problems or continue to guess what "could be." It helped that I felt great throughout the pregnancy. The doctor's appointments were not so great, always depressing and hopeless. I would usually have a day of sadness, however by the next day I was feeling good again. We asked God to help us get through every step of our pregnancy, good days and bad days.

After several long months, on November 18, 2005 at a regular OB appointment the ultrasound showed the baby was in severe distress. We were rushed to Labor and Delivery and the doctor started my labor. We called our close friend, Father Baker, to come to the hospital in the event that our son did not survive.

I sent my husband to retrieve something from the car. All of a sudden the nurse said to me in a very calm voice, "The baby's

Continued on page 35



Trinity High School Y Club members in this picture are from left, Jenna Howe, Bridget Gray, Emily Carmon, Ashley Lanham, Payton Merritt, Michael Thompson, and Mallory Johnson. The group had been working with the rest of the club on Sept. 19, 2007 to beautify the school campus. Submitted by Lisa Armes

## Trinity Y Club Doesn't Ask "Why?"; They Get The Job Done

WHITESVILLE, Ky. - The 2007-2008 Trinity High School Y Club is off to a busy start. After having the first meeting and introducing 65 members into the group, they elected officers. Co-Presidents of the group are Ashley Lanham and Michael Thompson, the secretary is Erica Morris, the treasurer is Tara Connor and the publicity committee consists of Megan Elliott, Katie Higdon, Allie Morris and Myranda Isbill.

The group cleaned up the school and around the school on September the 19th. On September 22, the club worked at the Dream Riders Jamboree, helping in many booths at the event. Events scheduled for October include helping out at Trinity's Old Time Carnival on October 18-20th and babysitting during parent-teacher conferences on October 25th. In November we have scheduled the mix it up at lunch day and a blood drive. And in December we will decorate the school for Christmas and adopt a family in need.

See more about Trinity Y Club on page 41.

# The Story of Ben

(Continued from page 34)

rate is falling we are going to have to move very fast." Petrified, I called Johnny to come back immediately. It all happened so quickly, within minutes they delivered our son.

When I woke up my first question was "Is he alive?" Johnny said that he was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and he was holding his own. Next Johnny said, "They think our son has Down Syndrome." We were so relieved that he was alive that the diagnosis of Down Syndrome was as trivial as his hair color.

God's plans are so amazing to me! I think He gave us all of our trials and distractions throughout the pregnancy so the diagnosis of Down Syndrome was not that harsh. We were just overjoyed our son was alive!!!

We named our son Benedict Jackson Nathaniel Pace. With one boy in the family of all girls, you have to name him after several people. We just call him Ben.

I did not get to see Ben until the next day. He seemed so small, especially with the chest tubes, ventilator and several IVs. He was so sweet and beautiful to me. His sisters thought he was the best. They immediately fell in love with him. Amelia's attacks stopped, we guessed that knowing Ben and I were all right, calmed her fears.

We only spent five days in the NICU. Ben did have a heart condition that would need future repair and his lungs were compromised. As for the mass on Ben's neck, there was nothing there!!!

We brought Ben home to the care of four big sisters and Grandma, who we could not do without. He was so small, about 5.5 pounds. His breathing was labored and he did not eat well. Looking back, I think that our ignorance of medicine allowed us to enjoy Ben since we had little idea of how sick he actually was.

Still we had droves of family and friends praying for our little guy. We kept him away from everyone that winter to keep him from illnesses. But, by March his breathing was so poor that he needed the heart surgery. We had the sweetest doctors and nurses at Vanderbilt, they were all kind and caring. Ben's surgery was postponed twice, once due to fever the other due to Ben contracting roto virus. Our stay at Vanderbilt turned lengthy. Grandma, family and friends held down the fort at home. People brought in food, offered rides to the girls and best of all prayed. We quickly found that God blessed us with people in our lives that knew just how to help.

We were excited to come home after a lengthy stay, only to return to the hospital 24 hours later due to breathing problems. A few days later we were back home, this time Ben had an NG-tube and had to be on oxygen 24 hours a day.

Vanderbilt became our second home that first year of Ben's life. The doctors and nurses at the hospital are a special breed. They are kind and thoughtful, some have become like family. One nurse, Mary Beth, is our angel on earth; she made sure to see us at every visit. She answered questions for us, even if it was the tenth time we needed something explained. These people were truly placed in our life for a reason.

We believe that God does not give us more than we can handle, although sometimes it feels like we are pushing the limit. In all of Ben's hospitalizations, heart surgery, two heart catheterizations, three bronchoscopies, a G-tube and Nissen tracheotomy, and more needle sticks that I could possibly count, we still feel overjoyed and blessed to have Ben.

Ben still has many struggles, more times than not, he is crabby and his medical issues are a full time job. God bless his therapists who work with him through all his grouchy days. Our family has learned more about medicine than we ever wanted to know. The girls have been troopers; they are not bothered in the least that their brother has Down Syndrome. They have learned to change oxygen tanks, feed through a G-tube, and change a trach. The job they dislike most is being "the gofer". The girls are proud of their brother and love to show him off. When I asked my oldest daughter what she thought that God had shown us through Ben she said, "It shows us that God can do miracles and Ben is one of them." And then she added that she has learned that little brothers are a pain, but we still love him.

We are never sure why God presents us with the challenges that we face. For us when we see Ben's beautiful face light up, it is easy to forget all the problems and challenges and just enjoy our sweet little boy.



**John and Ben Pace.**  
**Angie Pace Photo**

## Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon

**Jim & Rose McCarter**  
**Precious Blood Parish,**  
**Owensboro, Ky.**

The McCarters are newlyweds as of August 18, 2007, but they have known each other most of their lives.

"I was married to David Warren for 51 years when he passed away. We had 6 children: 4 girls and 2 boys."

"That's just the opposite of what I have," said Jim. "My wife and I had 6 children: 4 boys and 2 girls!"

Jim is originally from Carlisle, Indiana and came to the Owensboro area when he graduated from high school to work with his uncle.

"Later I got a job at Mercy Hospital working for very low pay. I knew the Owensboro Police Department was hiring a few patrolmen so I applied and got the job. It was better pay and I needed that to raise my family." Jim said

Jim said he was never afraid when he was a police officer. "I was never in any shoot outs" or anything like that. But, I was involved in a murder case, and I'll never forget that." He said.

Jim retired from the OPD after 25 years of service. He then went to work part-time at the Cigar Factory Mall in the maintenance department where he worked for 17 years.

"My wife, Shirley, and I had been married 45 years when she passed away," Jim said.

"Shirley was actually my husband's niece and we went to Jim and Shirley's wedding," Rose explained.

Rose retired from GE and began working at a local bank in 1970 to see if she would like it. "I was still trying it out when I retired in 2000!" Rose said.

"Rose and I got reacquainted when we saw each other at O'Charley's one night. Rose said she was going to the movies and I asked to tag along...I'm still tagging along!" Jim said.

Jim was the recipient of the 2007 Sophia Award from Blessed Sacrament Chapel where he attended



before he and Rose were married. "I was very surprised and overwhelmed when I was contacted about the award. I still don't feel worthy. "Shirley was my spiritual director and I got involved with all the things she wanted to do. So I feel like the award was partly for her.

Rose attended St. Alphonsus parish in St. Joseph, Ky. When Rose and Jim got married they decided it was time they went to a neutral parish to begin their new life together. They were married at Precious Blood church and that is their new parish. They hope to get more involved in their parish as they were both very involved in their previous parish.

"We really like to travel." Jim said. "That's one thing that we have in common. We went to Las Vegas on our wedding trip. We've taken some bus trips and an Alaskan cruise."

Both Rose and Jim agree that their Catholic faith has been the main stay in their lives. "I don't see how I could not be Catholic. It's just part of me." Said Rose

"We are very lucky that all of our children get along with each other so well. But, they all grew up knowing each other...." They explained.

Rose and Jim explained that they both felt that their spouse approved their marriage to each other. That is a great feeling or blessing to them. The greatest blessing of course is their family and their marriage.

To Jim and Rose -Best wishes for a long and happy marriage.

## Pro Orantibus Day (“For Those Who Pray”) Scheduled for Nov. 21, 2007

Catholics throughout the world are encouraged to honor the cloistered, contemplative life on Pro Orantibus Day, on Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007.

“The purposes of Pro Orantibus Day (“For Those Who Pray”) are to honor cloistered women and men religious, at Mass and in other special ways, such as by offering up prayers, by visits to monasteries and cloistered convents, by sending cards or letters of encouragement, and by coordinating school or catechetical activities,” said Michael Wick, Executive Director of the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE. “We hope to inspire more young women and men to consider the contemplative life as a special gift to the Church and the entire world.”

Pope John Paul II established this worldwide ecclesial event in 1997, to be held on the Memorial of Mary’s Presentation in the Temple, as a way to provide spiritual and material support to “the Church’s vanguard” whose silent, separated life serves as “a leaven of renewal and of the presence of the spirit of Christ in the world.” As Pope Benedict XVI said in his Angelus message marking last year’s event, it is a wonderful opportunity “to express gratitude to those who consecrate their lives to prayer in the cloister, offering eloquent testimony of the primacy of God and of His Kingdom.”

There are over 3,600 monasteries around the world. The average age of those who enter cloistered life is 25 years old and most hold advanced academic degrees. In the United States, according to research done by the Office of the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, there are approximately 225 women’s and 63 men’s cloistered and monastic communities. Visit [www.cloisteredlife.com](http://www.cloisteredlife.com) for more information.

Here is Pope Benedict XVI’s talk about Pro Orantibus Day from the Vatican’s web site:

ANGELUS, Saint Peter’s Square, Sunday, 19 November 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The day after tomorrow, 21 November, on the occasion of the liturgical Memorial of the Presentation of Mary, we will be celebrating Pro Orantibus Day, dedicated to remembering cloistered religious communities. It is an especially appropriate opportunity to thank the Lord for the gift of the numerous people in monasteries and hermitages who are totally dedicated to God in prayer, silence and concealment.

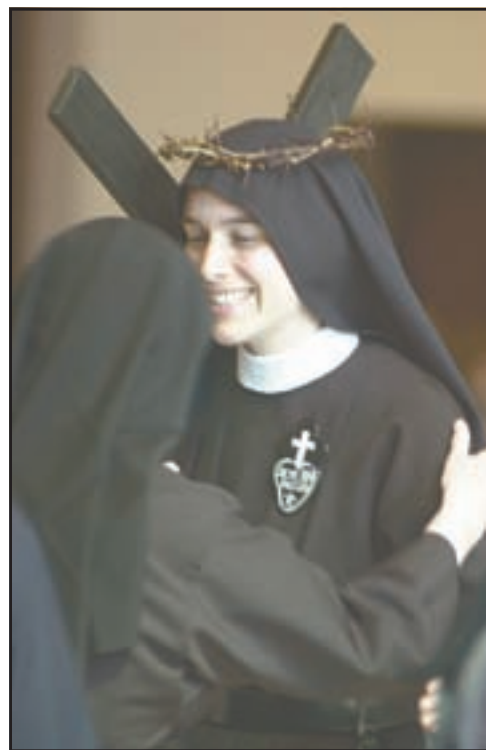
Some may wonder what meaning and value their presence could have in our time, when there are so many situations of poverty and neediness with which to cope.

Why “enclose oneself” for ever between the walls of a monastery and thereby deprive others of the contribution of one’s own skills and experience? How effective can the prayer of these cloistered Religious be for the solution of all the practical problems



### What is Cloistered Life?

**Cloistered life is a formal way of life recognized by the Church to invite men and women to find within the hidden life of the monastery a place where they can experience the loving exchange of hearts with Christ Jesus. In this enclosure, they find their true selves and experience a foretaste of heaven! The Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery, near Whitesville, Ky. are the only contemplative religious in the Diocese of Owensboro. Visit them online at [www.passionistnuns.org](http://www.passionistnuns.org)**



that continue to afflict humanity?

Yet even today, often to the surprise of their friends and acquaintances, many people in fact frequently give up promising professional careers to embrace the austere rule of a cloistered monastery. What impels them to take such a demanding step other than the realization, as the Gospel teaches, that the



Kingdom of heaven is “a treasure” for which it is truly worth giving up everything (cf. Mt 13: 44)?

Indeed, these brothers and sisters of ours bear a silent witness to the fact that in the midst of the sometimes frenetic pace of daily events, the one support that never topples is God, the indestructible rock of faithfulness and love. “Everything passes, God never changes”, the great spiritual master Teresa of Avila wrote in one of her famous texts.

And in the face of the widespread need to get away from the daily routine of sprawling urban areas in search of places conducive to silence and meditation, monasteries of contemplative life offer themselves as “oases” in which human beings, pilgrims on earth, can draw more easily from the wellsprings of the Spirit and quench their thirst along the way.

Thus, these apparently useless places are on the contrary indispensable, like the green “lungs” of a city: they do everyone good, even those who do not visit them and may not even know of their existence.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us thank the Lord, who in his Providence has desired male and female cloistered communities. May they have our spiritual and also our material support, so that they can carry out their mission to keep alive in the Church the ardent expectation of Christ’s Second Coming.

For this, let us invoke the intercession of Mary, whom we contemplate on the Memorial of her Presentation in the Temple as Mother and model of the Church, who welcomes in herself both vocations: to virginity and to marriage, to contemplative life and to active life.



# Youth at SPP Stay Busy Serving Others

By Dawn C. Ligibel

Although the youth program at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville only began its year the first Wednesday in September, the high school and middle school youth have accomplished much in their first month.

Their many activities have included: preparing food with the Ursuline Sisters at Mt. St. Joseph on September 8 in preparation of their annual picnic; preparing care packages for the seminarians in our dioceses on September 12; playing softball with special needs friends on September 15 as part of the annual "Softball with the Stars" event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus; sponsored Bingo at a local nursing care facility also on September 15; washing parishioners' car windows during the weekend masses on September 22 and 23 and spreading God's word with prayer cards placed on the clean windshields; baking and providing desserts for the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Picnic on September 23; and serving lunch at the local Salvation Army on October 9, during their fall break.



Kayla Kalani and Brooklyn Gardner, members of the middle school youth program at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, dive in to help wash the pots and pans used to cut up potatoes, eggs, onions and green peppers, which were used for the potato salad served at the Ursuline Sisters annual picnic. Photo by Libby Downs.



Several youth from Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville participated in the annual "Softball with the Stars" event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on September 15. The Knights sponsor this event each year to help bring the community together in a friendly atmosphere while enriching the lives of special needs friends.



38 middle school youth from Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville traveled to Mt. St. Joseph on September 8 to help the Ursuline Sisters prepare food for their annual picnic. Accompanying the group is Youth Director Libby Downs. Photo by Sister Alicia Coomes.



Members of the middle school youth program from Sts. Peter and Paul chop green peppers at Mt. St. Joseph on September 8 in an effort to help the Ursuline Sisters prepare for their annual picnic. The youth pictured are (starting left and moving clockwise): Abby Craft, Harley France, Olivia Harris, Amelia Pace, Gloria Crawford, Chandler Unfried, and Antha France. Photo by Libby Downs.



At right, Amelia Pace, a member of the middle school youth program at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, cleans tables on September 8 after a long day of helping the Ursuline Sisters prepare food for their annual picnic.

## Mission Visions

### All Called To Share Christ's Mission

By Fr. Peter Ciuciulla, mccc

www.ComboniMissionaries.org

October has been World Mission Month now for over 80 years. It's a time when we as Catholics focus on the fact that we're all called to mission by Jesus Christ. This year Pope Benedict XVI is hammering this home in his papal message for World Mission Sunday. "All churches for all the world," he says.

I thought about this and got an image of an affluent parish here in my area, a huge church with all the amenities and enough priests so its members can choose from a schedule of six Sunday masses. Right next to that image floated another - my mission parish in Chad, Africa, a 6000 square mile expanse with two priests to serve its countless people. Quite a paradox!

Yet, Pope Benedict draws our attention to the entire church, and every member's obligation to missionary commitment. He speaks to every local Catholic church in every country on the globe. It's a bi-directional sense of evangelization now. The United States to Africa; Africa to Italy; Italy to Peru; Peru to the Philippines; the Philippines to Australia; Australia to China, etc.

Fifty years ago, Pius XII, through his encyclical *Fidei Donum*, called on churches rich in human resources to send priests to areas of the world where there was a shortage. And from our abundance, we answered that call. Vocations were plentiful, and the average age of priests was much younger than now.

Today numbers have declined and age has increased. We're rich in means but scarce in personnel. The young churches are poor in material resources as well as in priests, religious, and lay formation. And still the Pope calls us all to the missions. "The Church is missionary by her very nature." We are called to share from our poverty, no matter where we are, and that is correct. We share not because we have but because we love.

Emerging countries, enriched in the faith because of ongoing mission activity, are now participants in the missionary effort. Their priests and religious, though still small in number, are becoming part of the bi-directional evangelization effort. The energy is new, its level high, and Pope Benedict stresses the importance of their being a part of mission commitment. "The Good Shepherd invites the recently evangelized Churches to dedicate themselves generously to the mission *ad gentes*."

In the developed world, there is a need for re-evangelization, the Holy Father tells us. Materialism and secularism have worn our fervor down. Missionaries coming to us from other countries tell the Gospel story in a fresh way, from different perspectives and experiences. The Church's "exchange of gifts" - first evangelization and re-evangelization - can only serve to strengthen and expand God's Kingdom.

This reciprocity is a clear message that today's people of God go beyond collaboration to communion and co-responsibility, that we are not objects of evangelization but protagonists in our salvation story.

While the Holy Father tells us of the need for a physical missionary presence around the world, he also makes it clear that prayer is the first and foremost way to participate in the missionary action of the church. Prayer knows no boundaries, but we are bound by God to pray for the spread of the Kingdom.

He mentions particularly children, youth, cloistered men and women, and those who are sick or infirmed in any way. These church members can't offer material or physical support, but their prayers are an immeasurable gift and powerful beyond anything we can imagine.

This reflection is a preview of just a few of the mission concepts Pope Benedict's Mission Sunday letter holds for us. His message is full of food for thought and action, not just for October 21, but for every day of our lives.

## Building for the Love of God

### Glenmary Brother Larry Jochim Dead at 76

CINCINNATI (Oct. 6, 2007) As a member of the Glenmary Home Missioners' Brothers' Building Crew Brother Larry Jochim completed 46 major building projects over 40 years in over 30 Glenmary mission and ministry sites-some more than once-in 12 states. Brother Larry, 76, died Sept. 27 in Cincinnati after a brief illness.

A native of Poseyville, Ind., he joined Glenmary in 1948 and took his First Oath in 1950. "The Lord has blessed me in many ways," he said when summing up his 57 years of home mission ministry. "I've been given the chance to share in people's lives and been allowed to let others touch my life, and I'm so very grateful."

The self-taught builder began learning his craft growing up on his family's farm in Southern Indiana. After joining Glenmary he had to wait a few years before putting those skills to work. From 1953-1965 Brother Larry served as the prefect for brothers in training in Cincinnati. In 1965, he became a member of the Brothers' Building Crew. These crews, organized in 1957, were made up of skilled brothers who provided construction and building repair assistance to Glenmary missions in Appalachia, the South and the Southwest. They built churches, parish halls, rectories and did general repair work. Their contribution to a building project typically resulted in an estimated savings of 25-35 percent on construction costs. In 1971 Brother Larry became the director of Building Crew No. 1.

There are two projects that stood out in Brother Larry's memory: building the residence at Glenmary's Headquarters in Cincinnati and building the new church in Norton, Va. The residence was the largest project-15,000 square feet-that he, working full time with six other brothers, completed. The new St. Anthony Church in Norton, Va., which he referred to as "building the cathedral" was the most difficult because of the design.

But regardless of the project or the location, Brother Larry had a constant companion: a statue of St. Joseph the Worker. The eight-inch wood-carved image was hung by the brothers at the beginning of every new job. For Brother Larry, the statue became an evangelization tool. Because construction sites have a lot of foot traffic, different people would notice the statue and ask about it. Those questions gave Brother Larry the opportunity to talk about the Catholic faith.

"When I think of the qualities that St. Joseph must have possessed-quiet, unassuming, a skilled carpenter, a man of deep prayer, profound faith and common sense-I think of Brother Larry," says Glenmary president Father Dan Dorsey. "Brother Larry's one goal in life was to love and serve his God by humbly loving



Brother Larry Jochim

### Brother Larry Jochim's Assignments in Kentucky:

Vanceburg Nov. 1968-Dec. 1968

Grayson Oct. 1971-Oct. 1972

Beaver Dam Oct. 1972-July 1973

Fordsville Oct. 1975-Aug. 1976

Vanceburg June 1978-March 1979

West Liberty May 1990-April 1992

and serving God's people. I think he more than achieved his goal!"

For Brother Larry, religious life always came first and building came second. "You can always hire someone to build for you," he said, "but you can't hire someone to pray for you."

He didn't see his ministry as just about buildings, he also saw it as a way to build community by soliciting help from the parish he was working in. Parishioners working together for the love of God made the parish draw closer together, he said.

Brother Larry never stopped picking up pointers from other builders and his fellow Glenmary brothers including Brothers Bob Hoffman, Ralph Riehle, Dennis Craig, Joe Steen and Virgil Siefker. In 1997 he began thinking about ending his work with the Building Crew. The ladders, he said, were just getting too high.

In January of 1998, he was assigned as a parish brother at Immaculate Conception Church in Hugo, Okla. He took senior membership in 2001 and remained in Hugo until moving to Nashville, Tenn., in 2004. Even during his "retirement" he found ways to keep himself busy repairing and doing small construction projects.

When he celebrated his 50th jubilee in 2000, parishioners in Hugo gave him a quilt that memorialized his building ministry with Brothers' Building Crew. Each block of the quilt is dedicated to the state in which Brother Larry worked.

Reflecting on his years as a Glenmary home missionary, Brother Larry said his life had been more than he ever anticipated it could be. "God gave me a special grace to move easily from job to job, place to place," he said. "That grace opened me to so many wonderful experiences and people. I've been blessed."

Brother Larry is survived by sisters-in-law Sarah Jochim, Agnes Jochim, Ruby Jochim and Marie Jochim, nieces, nephews, friends and his Glenmary brothers.

Visitation took place on Tuesday, Oct. 2, in Our Lady of the Fields Chapel at the Glenmary Residence, 4085 Glenmary Trace, Fairfield, Ohio. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, Oct 3 at St. Matthias Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Memorials are requested to Glenmary Home Missioners, P.O. Box 465618, Cincinnati, OH 45246.

# Counselor Advises Those Feeling Isolated, “Reconnect With Sense of Community Church Provides”

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - Gordon Williams and his younger brother were raised in the German Town area in Louisville, Kentucky. That is a very close knit Catholic area of Louisville. Gordon describes his childhood and early years as very wholesome and a positive experience. He attended Catholic grade school, high school, and college in Louisville and postgraduate studies at St. Louis U. He looks on his Catholic education as having a very positive influence on his life. While in college between the first and second semesters, he received his draft notice and ended up in Vietnam. His chosen field of study was psychology, “I chose this profession because I wanted to help people and carrying a gun to kill is not in my nature,” he told the recruiting officer. While in basic training, he learned

about the Chaplains’ Assistants Program and was accepted.

Gordon and Linda had married and when he left for Vietnam, he left her and their 1-month-old son. “The year I spent in Vietnam was tough, but it allowed me to observe how people react to such difficult situations and so much stress and how they connected spiritually. I saw more than one battlefield conversion. Being there and being a part of what was happening, you are directly confronted by your own mortality at a young age. I tell people in my practice that the most profound service I ever attended was when the Chaplain and I flew into a base that had suffered a lot of casualties the night before. We had a Mass and everyone was very focused on the Mass and grateful for the opportunity

to take the sacraments.”

After Gordon returned, he resumed his education and earned his Ph.D. in psychology and has been practicing for 30 years. He has divided his practice between private clients and clients at the Veterans Administration Clinic in Paducah. “As a psychologist who is a Catholic, I try to live by the knowledge I acquired going through the Catholic school system and my many other life experiences. The people I work with have taught me an enormous amount. I think I learn more from them than they learn from me.” He continued, “At this stage of my life, I am tired because it is hard to do this type of work and on the other hand I look forward to doing it as long as I can.”

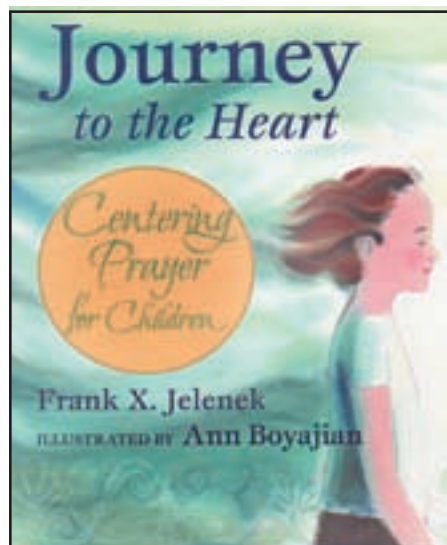
Gordon and Linda have been married 39 years and have 2 sons. Linda remarked, “I moved in with my parents when he left but it was very difficult being without him; it was a tough year. Our son was 13 months old when Gordon came home. He had no clue who Gordon was; it was a few months before he was comfortable with his dad.” Gordon added, “I will never forget the look on his face when he saw me, he had such a look of confusion and doubt. I won’t ever forget that. That is the reason I work with young men coming back now and their families. There is a huge need to help these families when the husbands are gone and also when they come home. Things are changed and the divorce rate is high among these families.”

When asked how he handles the stress in his life he replied, “I spend time with my family, my two dogs, and my church. I have become reconnected with the importance of spiritual needs and the sense of community that church provides. That is so important. One of the things I hear so much in my office is there is a sense of isolation in our society. People are looking for a way to become more connected, and being involved in a church is one way to do that. I speak to my clients about becoming involved with a spiritual group. I use the passage from the Bible that Jesus tells the Pharisees, ‘Let the man among you who has no sin be the first to cast a stone.’ People really relate to that. All of us need to be critical of ourselves, but we need to learn from our mistakes. All of us have done things in our lives that we regret but criticism without change is useless energy, criticism with change is growing emotionally.”



Gordon and Linda Williams. Edie Keeney Photo

## The first and good book to show children how to practice centering prayer



*“This is a wonderful invitation to children of all ages to enter into contemplative prayer and find inner peace, much needed in our troubled world. We can trust that God will work in the 6-minute silent prayer time of your readers – this is an outstanding opportunity to offer children.” –Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler, Director, Contemplative Outreach Ltd.*

“In every heart there is God’s kingdom, a holy place to pray. Your soul is the home of God inside you, each and every day. - .”

This simple, colorful, practical book uses rhyme and illustrations to teach children how to practice prayer of the heart, contemplative prayer, or “centering prayer.” Journey to the Heart: Centering Prayer for Children (Paraclete Press / October 2007 / Large paperback / 32 pages / \$12.95 1-800-451-5006) by Frank X. Jelenek, illustrated

in full-color by Ann Boyajian, shows children ages 3-10 how to quiet down and listen for God’s voice in their lives. Popular in both Catholic and Protestant parishes, schools, and families, centering prayer has been taught to adults for decades (after it was “re-discovered” in the 1970s by Thomas Keating, OCSO and M. Basil Pennington, OCSO). But Journey to the Heart is the first resource designed specifically for children, and will be a blessing to all who are interested in their spiritual lives.

Nine-year old Austin Hopler read the book and says, “Journey to the Heart tells you God is with you and loves you. Just remember God brought you to life so you should care and love Him too. Take time to pray with Him as I do.”

Frank X. Jelenek is a member of Thomas Keating’s Contemplative Outreach, dedicated to teaching and practicing centering prayer to people of all ages. He lives in New Jersey where he works for Scholastic Book Fairs and shares his passion for books and prayer with his twenty nieces and nephews.

Ann Boyajian is also the illustrator of Samantha’s Friendship Fun (in the American Girls™ series), More Spice Than Sugar (Houghton Mifflin) and many other books.



## The Value of A Smile

**A lesson about living in community: smile at the first person you see today and the last person you see tonight. If you’re alone today, use a mirror.**

**At left, a Passionist Nun of Saint Joseph Monastery, Whitesville, Ky. with a community pet. Passionist Nuns Photo**

## Kentucky bishops write pastoral letter on 'work and justice'

By Catholic News Service

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) -- Kentucky's bishops said in a new pastoral letter that a worker's labor needs to be honored, and that the state should ensure that more people can escape poverty.

"We honor employers who provide an opportunity for meaningful work and who provide safe, humane working conditions, just wages and benefits, including retirements benefits, health insurance and liability insurance," the bishops said in "Just Work: A Pastoral Letter About Work and Justice." The pastoral, dated September 2007, was released Sept. 20.

"The pursuit of justice where 'each person receives what is his or her due' is a demand of the Gospel," the bishops said. Quoting Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), they added that the state has a fundamental obligation to pursue "a just social order" that ensures "each person his share of the community's goods."

"The authentic development of people is advanced by the work of Kentuckians and the political leadership that is directed toward greater justice," they added. Examples the bishops highlighted included a raise in the state's minimum wage, changes in Kentucky's income tax structure that took more than 500,000 low-income residents off the tax rolls, a dedicated funding stream for an affordable housing trust fund, and a law banning human trafficking.

The bishops also lauded the rejection of "right to work" laws, which give workers the ability to opt out of union membership. "Catholic social doctrine teaches that unions are an 'indispensable element of social life, especially in modern industrial societies,'" they said, quoting Pope John Paul II's 1981 encyclical "Laborem Exercens" ("On Human Work").

The Kentucky bishops identified poverty, health care, immigration and state revenue collection as areas where "structural injustices" exist. They cited public opinion research that indicates that the majority of Americans believe that "addressing poverty is the single most important priority facing our country."

Kentucky's poverty rate is nearly one-third higher than the national rate, they said. Kentucky fares worse than the nation as a whole with its rate of babies with a low birth weight, child and teen deaths, teenage births, high school dropouts and children in poverty. "For the last 40 years, Kentucky's Appalachian counties have seen very little change in poverty rates, with 20 percent or more of its residents remaining poor," the bishops said. "Our poverty rate is particularly troublesome because it runs counter to the large national gains made against poverty in the late 1990s." The bishops also called it "profoundly disturbing" that income growth is concentrated in the top 5 percent of the population. "The disparity thwarts long-term growth and inhibits rising living standards for the typical family," they added.

The Kentucky bishops repeated a position they expressed in a joint 2005 pastoral letter, asserting that "all persons have a moral right to basic physical and behavioral health care. ... Some states have begun to provide broad health care coverage approaching universal coverage, leaving other states like Kentucky behind. The time for focused action in achieving universal health care is now."

On immigration, the bishops said "responsible, comprehensive reform of the immigration system is possible" but "the divisive rhetoric about immigration" stalled it. They added a new policy should include broad-based, earned legalization of undocumented persons, a temporary worker program, reductions in the waiting times for family reunification for immigrants, and restoration of due process for immigrants. In arguing for a more progressive tax system, the bishops quoted Jesus' admonition in the Gospel of Luke: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."

"The state of Kentucky should seek and maintain revenues sufficient to meet the basic needs of all, especially the poor and vulnerable," they said. "Many of Kentucky's working poor do not have enough for their families. We have opportunities in Kentucky to implement policies to (ensure) that the needs of citizens are better met." The bishops said, "Catholic social doctrine provides sound principles to guide us in being neighbor to those in need and in building a more just social order."

Acknowledging that Catholics can disagree on how to apply those principles, they harkened back to Pope John XXIII's 1961 encyclical, "Mater et Magistra," on Christianity and social progress, saying the faithful should "strive to find points of agreement for effective and suitable action, and not wear themselves out in interminable arguments, and, under pretext of the better or the best, omit to do the good that is possible and therefore obligatory."

The pastoral was signed by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville and Bishops Roger J. Foy of Covington, John J. McRaith of Owensboro and Ronald W. Gainer of Lexington.

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## Site offers hope to parents whose unborn child has medical problems

By Paul Storer Catholic News Service

ROMEOVILLE, Ill. (CNS) -- When she was pregnant, doctors told Monica Rafie and her husband, Darian, that their unborn child "had heart defects that were incompatible with life."

The couple relied on their faith and opted to have the child. As an infant, Celine, now 6 years old, required surgeries for her cardiac abnormalities as well as intensive neonatal care.

"We wanted to give Celine as much of a chance as we could," said Rafie. The parents remained at little Celine's bedside as the newborn recovered. And, their extended family provided support while they remained at the hospital.

Rafie, a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Lombard, realized later that the love and compassion of her family gave her and her husband the strength necessary to continue to brave the ordeal. So she launched a Web site in 2002 -- [www.benotafraid.net](http://www.benotafraid.net) -- to show parents the same kindness during traumatic times in their own lives.

The site, which she operates from her home, "offers hope from a Catholic perspective," Rafie told the Catholic Explorer, newspaper of the Joliet Diocese.

Along with stories of the parents, the site is packed with information about organizations that can help parents cope with the emotional and financial ramifications of their circumstances.

In September alone, 2,735 people visited the site. More than half were visiting for the first time, according to Rafie, the mother of four children.

Among the organizations she lists on her site is Elizabeth Ministry, a woman-to-woman mentoring program. Its ministers interact with mothers during the joys and trials of pregnancy, she explained.

Jeannie Hannemann, founder of Elizabeth Ministry, said resources for parents to help them through critical pregnancy situations are certainly needed. She noted that more than 90 percent of those who receive negative results from prenatal exams opt to abort their unborn children.

In an effort to help these parents, members of Elizabeth Ministry facilitate meetings between parents who have experienced trials during pregnancy and expectant mothers and fathers dealing with alarming prenatal diagnoses.

Rafie said her Web site works to inspire visitors "to choose life. The rest is God's work."

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A Caring Connection

Kentucky Catholic Charities (270) 852-8328 or toll free 1-877-803-5064  
Pregnancy and Adoption Network [www.kycatholiccharitiesadoption.org](http://www.kycatholiccharitiesadoption.org)



## Vatican Council on theology of Church

By **Father Martin A. Linebach**



*Father Linebach is director of the Archdiocese of Louisville Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations.*

On Tuesday, July 10, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released a document clarifying the Catholic Church's doctrine on the nature of the Church entitled, "Responses to some questions regarding certain aspects of the doctrine of the Church."

The three-page document contains an introduction followed by five questions with five answers. The document signed by William Cardinal Levada, prefect for the congregation, can be found on the Vatican's official Website, [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

While there has been considerable media attention and reaction to the document, if not misinterpretation, it simply reaffirms the teaching of the Second Vatican Council's "ecclesiology" or theology of the Church.

In keeping with the format of the document, I highlight three questions and attempt to answer them with the goal of offering some clarification and understanding. First, why did the congregation publish the document at this time? Secondly, what is a benefit from the document? Third, what might be viewed as a continuing challenge or opportunity that rises out of the document?

First, why did the congregation publish the document at this time when it seems to reiterate what has been expressed in *Dominus Iesus* published in 2000? In short, questions were presented to the congregation for clarification from unnamed sources.

The questions asked for an explanation of specific expressions or "terms" the Church uses in her magisterial teaching that were misunderstood or perhaps not used correctly in on-going Catholic theological studies. To this end, one might say the congregation was affirming and clarifying Church teaching as a result of an in-house debate, much as any concerned teacher assists inquisitive students.

Secondly, the responses clearly affirms "that the Church of Christ is present and operative in the churches and ecclesial communities not yet fully in communion with the Catholic Church." Contrary to

various interpretations or reactions to the congregation's document, it does not imply or assume that there is no salvation outside the Roman Catholic Church. The document reinforces the Second Vatican Council's teaching that other churches or ecclesial communities have "numerous elements of sanctification and of truth" which are found outside the Catholic Church.

Thirdly, the document serves as a catalyst for continued scholarly ecumenical dialogue stemming from the clear, consistent self-understanding of the Catholic Church. The Christian churches and communities will not achieve the unity that Christ prayed for until some challenging differences are reconciled. As with most

relationships on the path to healing, this will at times be painful.

Thus, the language of the congregation's document seems to have reopened old wounds when rendered in print once again. Part of this is due to the theological language, which is necessarily complex and technical. Difficulties arise when a document of this sort is released through the general news media, which even in the most sensitive stories frequently opts for the controversial and emotional in an effort to get our attention.

Although I can only state intuitively yet faithfully, I believe the congregation's document was not intended to be arrogant or hurtful, but authentic and helpful. The commitment by the Catholic Church, both universal and local, to the ecumenical enterprise holds the hope to both heal and unify through the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit.

When His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI received a group of Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders in February at the Vatican, he said to them, "The people of today expect from us a message of concord and serenity, and the concrete manifestation of our common will to help them." He continued, "In this way, we will be able to advance in interreligious and intercultural dialogue, a dialogue that today is more necessary than ever; an authentic dialogue, respectful of differences, courageous, patient and persevering, which draws its strength from prayer and is nourished on the hope that dwells in all those who believe in God and who put their trust in him."

May we work toward that end, and may God prosper the work of our hands.

## Kentucky Catholic Bishops Publish Pastoral Statements on Human Life and Labor

### Reverence for Life... A Need for "A Heart That Sees"

October is the month for the Respect Life program, a time of education started by the Catholic bishops in 1972. The Bishops of KY have issued a new statement, *Reverence for Life... A Need for "A Heart That Sees."* The Bishops emphasize, "abortion is the fundamental human rights issue, for to diminish respect for the right to life of the unborn is tantamount to diminishing respect for life in all other contexts. The heritage of the Catholic social doctrine is not limited to questions touching upon economic and political rights. It is concerned with human life issues – abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, the death penalty, and the violence of war fall within the scope of social morality." The KY Bishops call for the elimination of unjust laws that allow abortion, providing services to pregnant women, and compassionate care for the dignity of all who are wounded by the violence of abortion. This Statement and the 1999 Kentucky Bishops pastoral letter, *Reverence for Life: The Pursuit of Justice*, and CCK's Pro-Life Prayer Services for Times of Transition are available on the CCK web page at: [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org)

### Just Work: A Pastoral Letter About Work and Justice

Honoring the value of work in our lives, the four Catholic Bishops of Kentucky have issued a pastoral statement entitled *Just Work: A Pastoral Letter About Work and Justice*. The Bishops celebrate "our participation in God's creation by the work we do in caring for our neighbor individually through our acts of charity and in caring for the human family collectively as a state through our acts of justice." They call on Catholics and others of good will to see anyone in need as a neighbor who deserves their care. The Bishops expressed their gratitude to all those who come to the aid of persons in need and praised their charitable actions. But, after noting that Kentucky has made recent public policy progress towards a more just social order, they point out that there are areas where structural injustices impact the lives of thousands of Kentuckians and require attention: • poverty, • health care, • immigration, and • revenue to meet human needs.

The social love that propels our charity, the Bishops said, demands that we pursue a just social order where "each person receives what is his or her due." Citing Pope Benedict XVI's plea that poverty is a "plague against which humanity must fight without cease," the Bishops reflected on the significant poverty of our state, one of the poorest in the nation, and called for public policy initiatives to address the state's persistent poverty. "Poverty ranks as Kentucky's most distinctive problem as it endangers the future of our Commonwealth. Persistent poverty weakens human dignity." The Bishops identify several changes in public policy that will promote justice and work for the betterment of the common good: • creation of a refundable state earned income tax credit; • expansion of individual development accounts; • improving the skills of our children and displaced adults; • providing adequate income supports; and • improving early childhood care and education.

"We express our deep gratitude to the working men and women of Kentucky for your good, generative work throughout the year," the Bishops said. "We appreciate the infusion of life into our Commonwealth through your labor. Together, we have much more work to do."

The complete text of *Just Work: A Pastoral Letter About Work and Justice* is available at [www.ccky.org](http://www.ccky.org).

The Summer issue of *Witness* is available now. It highlights Bishop McRaith's prayer at the annual Fancy Farm parish picnic, two statements of the Kentucky bishops. The first is about human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine. The second was a letter reminding those acting on behalf of the church of the limits to political activity as a result of the Church's IRS tax exemption status as a non-profit religious organization, as detailed in their policy statement issued earlier. There are also articles on poverty, immigration and interreligious dialogue.

Source: September 29, 2007 press release from the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.



## The Right to Enough Food

By Robert Gronski

The U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops address the question of hunger and food in their 2004 reflection *For I was Hungry & You Gave me Food*: "Every person has a right to life and to the material and spiritual support required to live a truly human existence. The right to a truly human life logically leads to the right to enough food to sustain a life with dignity. The poverty and hunger that diminish the lives of millions in our own land and in so many other countries are fundamental threats to human life and

dignity and demand a response from believers."(p.16)

More than 800 million people suffer from hunger and malnutrition, and the majority are children. Ending chronic hunger is an achievable goal if nations, industrialized and developing ones, work together and make the right policy decisions. Throughout the 20th century, American farmers took great pride in helping to feed the world. But in this new century of globalization, what is the rightful response to food security and a dignified life?

In this harvest time of year when the American bounty seems plentiful, we are often asked to make charitable donations as a way to share our own blessings of food. We respond through contributions to local food pantries as well as to overseas appeals. The National Catholic Rural Life Conference believes we can also act when it comes to federal policy. International food aid is the U.S. Government's major response to reducing global hunger. In the name of the American people, the federal government provides more than 3 million metric tons of U.S. agricultural commodities annually. However, the \$2 billion spent each year in such assistance includes paying for time-consuming and long-distance shipping.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has found that overhead expenses consume about 65 percent of our emergency food aid funding. That means most of the \$2 billion goes elsewhere than actual food purchases for those who hunger. The U.S. Farm Bill, currently under revision by Congress, has become a battleground over how the United States as the top international donor of food aid should help the world's hungry. The current system of food aid benefits as much as anyone the handful of corporations who control commodity crops or the cargo ships. Their lobbyists and farm commodity groups who have a stake in the current system aggressively lobby to maintain the status quo.

The U.S. Bishops and NCRLC are concerned because agriculture and food policies in



Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Mass., is seen during a recent grocery shopping trip in Washington. He and Rep. JoAnn Emerson, R-Mo., who co-chair the Congressional Hunger Caucus, challenged their colleagues in both the House and the Senate to live for a week on groceries purchased with \$21 in food stamps. (CNS photo/Laura Hayes, courtesy of The Hatcher Group) (May 25, 2007)



Angel Allcarima of Caritas Peru, right, explains to Walter Blake of Catholic Relief Services the system for allocating earthquake relief supplies at a warehouse in San Andres, Peru, Sept. 26. CRS and Caritas continue to distribute tons of food and basic supplies to tens of thousands of people displaced by an Aug. 15 earthquake. The U.S. Catholic Bishops are urging Congress to consider using food from local areas as part of its food aid program. (CNS photo/Patricia Zapor) (Oct. 4, 2007)

the U.S. should not adversely impact the agriculture and livelihoods of others around the world. NCRLC takes seriously the argument that large shipments of food aid will often depress food prices below levels in which local farmers can earn a decent return and begin to rebuild the local economy. Recently, the relief agency CARE turned down \$45 million in U.S. government funding to make the point that this could be more rightfully spent purchasing available supplies within the countries or regions affected by pockets of crop losses. The Bush Administration also acknowledges this rightful response, but no reform is forthcoming in the U.S. Congress. The House version of the Farm Bill does not change the outdated food aid system, and the Senate is only considering a pilot program of local food purchases rather than setting new and effective policies.

NCRLC believes we need a reformed Food Aid section in the Farm Bill that specifies a proportionate way to purchase "U.S. food aid" from farmers overseas. This provides more timely assistance while benefiting local producers and their nation's food security. U.S. farmers won't lose out. U.S. crops will still be used as emergency aid, stored near countries at risk of food shortages. At the same time, a rightful response is for Congress is to set aside funds (NCRLC agrees with \$600 million a year) for longer-term food aid programs designed to bolster agriculture and health in fragile countries. These initiatives can be done in the visionary spirit of Joseph who oversaw the grain reserves of the Pharaoh.

Consider standing in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in developing countries by encouraging Congress to reform food aid programs. At the same time, stand in support of farmers and ranchers in your own communities who work to develop local economies through farmers markets, community supported agriculture, food co-ops, and direct marketing. In the end, it is the care of community and care of creation that will lead to food security for all.

List of websites for more information on Catholic social teachings and food issues: Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty>; U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Social Development and World Peace: [www.usccb.org/sdwp/](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/); Catholic Relief Services: [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org); National Catholic Rural Life Conference: [www.ncrlc.com](http://www.ncrlc.com); World Food Day, October 16, 2007; "The Right to Food": [www.fao.org/wfd2007/](http://www.fao.org/wfd2007/)

Robert Gronski is the National Catholic Rural Life Conference's policy coordinator.

## Candidato Presidencial, Alan Keyes Habla en Defensa a La Vida

Por Tami Schneider

OWENSBORO, KY - Candidato Presidencial de Los Estados Unidos, Alan Keyes, habló a cientos de personas en el Banquete Otoñal Anual de Recaudación de Fondos del Derecho a la Vida de Owensboro. Sus palabras dinámicas llegaron a los oídos de alrededor de 425 personas, quienes se reunieron en el Centro Deportivo en la Avenida Parrish. Todos estuvieron ansiosos de ver lo que iba a decir un político en defensa a los niños no nacidos. El Obispo John J. McRaith asistió el banquete y comentó, "Fui inspirado por el gran número de personas quienes se reunieron para el Banquete Pro-vida, personas de muchas religiones, de muchos caminos de vida se reunieron para rezar y ser renovados a nuestro compromiso de proteger la vida y especialmente la vida de los que no han nacido."

El Dr. Keyes empezó preguntando cuantas personas amaban a Dios. Después preguntó cuantos amaban a su país. Insistió que los dos no pueden ser separados. "De algún modo nos ha entrado la idea de que Dios y la patria no pueden ser unidos," dijo Keyes. Ilustró como este país se fundo sobre el principio que hemos sido dotados por nuestro **Creador**. La misma Declaración de la Independencia dice esto, sin embargo, nuestro propio gobierno no permite que enseñemos sobre el Creador en las escuelas. El Dr. Keyes hizo la decisión de hablar en defensa de la Declaración porque se da cuenta que "como un Americano negro, yo estaría en las cadenas de la esclavitud si no fuera por la Declaración." El espera ayudar a restaurar el concepto que "debemos todo lo que somos y todo lo que ten-



Keith Evans, orgullosamente carga en brazos su bebe, recién nacida durante la cena pro-vida. Fotos por Tami Schneider.



El Sr. Hoskins presentó el premio anual de La Vida a Rita Heinz, la Directora de Programas de Caridades Católicas. Rita ha caminado personalmente con muchas mujeres ofreciendo apoyo, consejos y un oído que escucha.

al pueblo, purifiquen la asamblea; junten a los ancianos del pueblo, reúnan a los pequeños y a los niños de pecho. Que salga de su alcoba el recién casado, y la recién casada de su cámara nupcial. Lloren, sacerdotes, ministros del Señor entre el pórtico y el altar; y digan: 'Compadécete, Señor, de tu pueblo.'" (Joel 2:12-13, 16-17)

El Sr. Hoskins presentó el premio anual de La Vida a Rita Heinz, la Directora de Programas de Caridades Católicas. Desde su principio en enero del 2001, Las Adopciones de Caridades Católicas han proveído consejería y apoyo para varias mujeres experimentando un embarazo de crisis. El Sr. Hoskins alabó sus esfuerzos notando que Rita **(continuado en la página 3)**



Candidato Republicano, Alan Keyes, habla con un grupo de mujeres antes de cenar durante el Banquete Otoñal Anual de Recaudación de Fondos del Derecho a la Vida de Owensboro. Después de la cena, el Dr. Keyes dio una plática sobre la necesidad de incluir a Dios en la política. También habló fuertemente en defensa a la vida.

emos a Dios."

"El aborto representa la supresión eficaz del niño." El aborto elimina al niño de la ecuación de esa relación particular. El Dr. Keyes hizo una correlación directa entre el aborto y la homosexualidad. De la misma manera que el aborto suprime al niño, la homosexualidad quita por completo la posibilidad del niño.

También hizo un paralelo entre la Guerra contra el Terrorismo y la lucha de acabar con el aborto, como pertinentes a una misma causa moral. Con el terrorismo, igual que con el aborto, gente inocente se muere. "Representan el mismo principio de maldad."

El Dr. Keyes también señaló que muchos políticos creen que el compromiso a la causa pro-vida es simplemente **un** asunto. El proclamó que no solamente es un asunto sino el principio fundador de nuestra nación. Incluso se atrevió decir que si tan solo nos olvidamos de este principio, "nuestro país **tiene que fallar**."

La tarde continuo con unas palabras de parte del Presidente de Derecho a la Vida de Owensboro, Ed Hoskins, quien recordó a todos los presentes que nos falta solamente un juez del Corte Supremo para revocar Roe contra Wade. Invitó a su Directora Ejecutiva, Dana Goodlett que compartiera unas palabras también. Ella leyó de la Biblia, del libro de Joel: "Ahora bien, afirma el Señor, vuélvase a mí de todo corazón, con ayuno, llantos y lamentos. Rásguense el corazón y no las vestiduras. [ ] Congreguen

## Demos Gracias A Dios Por Nuestra Fe y Por Su Misericordia Amorosa

Estimados Amigos,

Mientras escribo esta carta a todos ustedes, tengo en mente que muy pronto nos encontraremos en el mes de noviembre. Celebramos muchos días importantes en noviembre, pero quiero llamar atención especial a la Solemnidad de Todos Los Santos, el primero de noviembre, a la Conmemoración de los Fieles Difuntos el 2 de noviembre y la Celebración del Día de Gracias el 25 de noviembre.

La Solemnidad de Todos Los Santos nos recuerda que hay santos desconocidos en el cielo, y la Iglesia nos recuerda que la santidad queda dentro del alcance de cada persona. A través de la Comunidad de los Santos, nos ayudamos mutuamente a lograr la santidad. Nuestras esperanzas se resumen en la oración colecta para la Solemnidad de Todos los Santos: "Padre todopoderoso y eterno, hoy regocijamos en los santos hombres y mujeres de todo tiempo y lugar. Haz que sus oraciones nos traigan tu perdón y tu amor." El Día de Todos los Santos nos recuerda que al final de nuestra peregrinaje, de esta vida a la vida eterna, estamos llamados a ser santos. Nuestras oraciones se unen a las de los que ya están en el cielo, que vivimos nuestras vidas en esta tierra de manera que un día nos uniremos con ellos por toda la eternidad en el cielo. No dejen pasar ese día sin rezar a estos santos. Muchos de ellos son de nuestras mismas familias; son personas con quienes compartimos la práctica de la fe mientras recorrimos en esta vida. Están con nosotros ahora, igual que estuvieron en ese entonces.

El 2 de noviembre, celebramos el Día de Los Fieles Difuntos, el día en que la Iglesia (la cual incluye todos nosotros) intercede por todos aquellos quienes se están purificando, sufriendo en el purgatorio mientras esperan el día cuando se unirán a la compañía de todos los santos. La celebración de la misa, la cual revive el sacrificio del Calvario, siempre ha sido el medio principal por la cual la Iglesia realiza el gran mandamiento de la caridad hacia los muertos. Ellos también son parte de nosotros, y a través de nuestras oraciones, sufrimientos y penitencias, podemos seguir extendiendo una mano a aquellos que nos han precedido. De nuevo, algunos de ellos para quienes intercedemos pueden ser miembros de nuestras familias, amigos y otras personas quienes hayan recorrido con nosotros durante la jornada y ahora están esperando el momento de unirse a todos los santos. Estos dos días nos recuerden que siempre debemos rezar por y a los muertos, especialmente aquellos quienes hayan tocado nuestras vidas mientras estuvieron con nosotros en la tierra. Mientras recordamos aquellos que han estado cerca de nosotros de manera especial, también intercedemos por todos aquellos quienes se han ido antes de nosotros, desde el inicio de los tiempos. La Iglesia sigue enfatizando la importancia de ofrecer misas por el feliz reposo de los difuntos.

Esto nos deja con El Día de Gracias. Hay tantas cosas por las cuales debemos ser agradecidos, pero tantas veces pensamos en las cosas materiales en el Día de Gracias.

**En este Día de Gracias, espero que demos gracias —  
no solamente por las cosas materiales,  
o incluso por nuestras familias y amigos,  
aunque sí, somos muy bendecidos por tenerlos, —  
pero que demos gracias por *nuestra fe*  
y todo lo que la fe supone.**

Unámonos con nuestro Santo Padre, en este Día de Gracias, dando gracias a un Jesús siempre amante quien se comparte con nosotros a través de la Eucaristía.

Mientras demos gracias por nuestras múltiples bendiciones este Día de Gracias, de nuevo damos gracias por nuestra fe y todo lo que pertenece a la vida de fe. Me gustaría llamar su atención a dar gracias por el gran don de la misericordia de Dios. *Nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Benedicto XVI ha llamado por primera vez en la historia un Congreso Mundial de la Misericordia en Roma del 2-6 de Abril, 2008.* ¿Cuántas veces recibimos la misericordia de Dios pero fallamos en agradecerle por este don que

es clave a nuestra salvación?

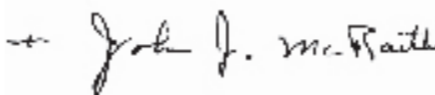
Recibimos su misericordia de manera especial en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación. ¿Cuántas veces aprovechamos de este gran don del sacramento de la misericordia? El amor misericordioso de Dios era el sujeto de la Reflexión Dominical del Santo Padre el domingo, 16 de septiembre, 2007. La intituló, "DIOS ES AMOR MISERICORDIOSO." Después dirigió nuestra atención al Evangelio de San Lucas, donde en el capítulo 3, el Evangelista Lucas junta tres ejemplos de los cuentos de Jesús de cómo Dios es misericordioso. Se refirió a la parábola de La Oveja Perdida y a La Moneda Perdida y por fin al Hijo Pródigo. El Santo Padre dijo en su reflexión, "En este pasaje del Evangelio, casi parecemos oír la voz de Jesús revelándonos la cara de Su Padre y nuestro Padre. Básicamente, este fue la razón por lo cual vino al mundo: para hablar-nos del Padre, de hacerlo conocido entre nosotros, sus hijos perdidos; y de reavivar en nuestras corazones la alegría de pertenecer a El, la esperanza de ser perdonados y restaurados a nuestra dignidad completa, con el deseo de morar por siempre en Su casa, que es también nuestra casa."

Sí — la misericordia de Dios nos dice cuanto Dios nos ama y como debemos amarnos unos a otros. Como se nos está demostrado el don de la misericordia, somos llamados a demostrar la misma misericordia a los demás. En nuestra pagina del Internet (<http://www.owensborodio.org/>), pueden encontrar un vínculo a <http://www.worldapostolic-congressonmercy.org/>, una pagina que da mas información sobre El Congreso Mundial Apostólico de la Misericordia. Esta pagina lo dice muy bien: "La Divina Misericordia tiene el poder de cambiar al mundo. Es una Revolución del Amor capaz de arrancar la maldad de su raíz y de sembrar la bondad en su lugar. El Papa Benedicto XVI explica 'Es la misericordia de Dios encarnado en Jesús que por sí solo puede revestir el balance del mundo del bueno al mal, empezando con ese 'mundo' pequeño y decisivo que es el corazón del hombre.'" Van a oír más sobre el Congreso de la Misericordia en los meses por venir. En cuanto al Congreso, le he pedido al Padre Bruce Fogle que sea nuestra persona a contactar con la Conferencia de los Obispos.

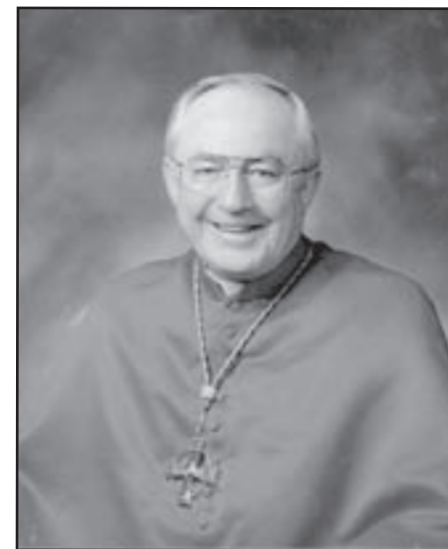
Que don tan grande, por lo cual debemos agradecerle a Dios en este Día de Gracias y cada día de nuestras vidas. Que don tan grande nos ha dado en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Hoy no es un día solamente para darle gracias a Dios por su misericordia amorosa sino de reflexionar sobre como recibimos el Sacramento de la Reconciliación—un gran don de la misericordia—y de reflexionar sobre la manera que perdonamos a los demás, si es como Dios nos ha perdonado. Este gran don de la misericordia es algo sobre lo cual debemos ser especialmente agradecidos en ese Día especial de Gracias.

Les deseo a cada uno de ustedes un feliz Día de Gracias. Que juntos, no solo recibamos la misericordia de Dios, sino que lo demostremos a los demás, para demostrar nuestra gratitud.

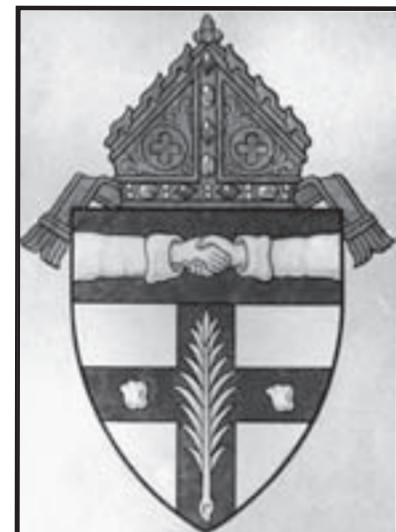
Sinceramente en Cristo,



El Más Reverendo John J. McRaith  
El Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro



+El Más Reverendo John J. McRaith, D.D.  
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro



ha caminado personalmente con muchas mujeres a través de sus embarazos y el momento de dar a luz, ofreciendo apoyo, consejos y un oído que escucha. Se hace disponible los 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana, incluso durante sus vacaciones! Richard Murphy, el Director de la Oficina de Asuntos Sociales de la Diócesis de Owensboro, y un colaborador de Rita nota que “ella ha involucrado todo su corazón y toda su alma en este ministerio y realmente merece este premio.”

Muchos de los que asistieron salieron con mucha energía y vitalidad por las palabras de Alan Keyes. Algunas personas mencionaron que era refrescante oír alguien hablar la verdad. Una joven católica, Katie Riney, dijo: “Admiro su valentía en hablar la verdad, que todos necesitamos oír, especialmente cuando se trata de votar.” Joe Bland, MA, esposo, papa y maestro de religión de Trinity High, dijo: “Me gusto como vinculó la decisión de Roe contra Wade en el '73 a la caída de la familia, a la caída de la moralidad. Al rendir nuestra posición moral sobre el terrorismo, estamos rindiendo nuestra posición moral sobre el aborto. Me recuerda de *Humanae Vitae* (por el Papa Pablo VI). Si cedemos y rendimos sobre la anticoncepción, vamos en bajando en un camino resbaloso.” Rachel Evans, una esposa joven y madre, apreció la conexión que hizo entre la anticoncepción, el aborto, la homosexualidad y la Guerra. “Es un espiral que va para abajo,” dijo Evans. Estuvo sorprendida de oír un político decir lo que tantas veces había pensado. Kathryn Crowe, quien asistió al evento con su hija, una adulta joven, dijo, “Es un testigo tan bueno que realmente va a ser sometido a prueba. Su Fe le va a soportar.” Un momento después agregó, “Me hizo pensar que simplemente no podemos rendirnos.”

El grupo incluyó ambos católicos y protestantes, con varias parejas que orgullosamente trajeron sus bebés recién nacidos. San Francisco de Asís enseñó: “Predica el Evangelio siempre. Cuando sea necesario, usen palabras.” Estos matrimonios dieron testigo de la causa pro-vida por su ejemplo, su apertura a la vida encarnado en sus preciosos bebés.



**Michael Edge, Keith Evans and John Edge, se ponen en fila con sus bebés recién nacidos. Ese hecho hizo sonreír a muchas personas y dio ejemplo de la causa pro-vida. Foto por Tami Schneider.**

## Mario y Compañía

Por Pablo Witte

Hace más de tres años, poco después de que yo había llegado a la Parroquia de Santa Susana en Elkton, Santiago Ramírez, un hombre de fe y oración, me acercó un domingo para compartir algo de importancia. Como Santiago normalmente no decía mucho, yo sospechaba que el asunto de que quería hablar era realmente importante. Me dijo Santiago, Sabe, Don Pablo, que mi hijo toca el teclado?

Me sorprendió esa revelación porque, de veras, no sabía que Mario, un joven de 20 años, tocaba un instrumento musical. No sabía mucho de Mario todavía, siendo él aún más callado y tímido que su papá. Él y su papá trabajaban en un aserradero y trabajaban mucho. No se me ocurrió que les quedaba suficiente tiempo para pensar de otra cosa sino trabajar.



**Tolentino José, quien relevó a Mario en su ministerio de teclado, y Mario Ramírez.**

Le invité a Mario para que viniera a ensayar su música en la iglesia y él aceptó la invitación con su sonrisa característica. Yo pensaba que no iba a tomar mi invitación en serio, sin embargo, el próximo viernes llegó y con otros de la parroquia comenzó a ensayar cantos para la misa.

Este grupo de hombres y mujeres, que se juntaba casi todos los viernes durante un año, formaron un coro que iba a mejorar muchísimo el culto dominical en español. Más de la mitad del grupo provenía de Oaxaca, de comunidades zapotecas cerca de Puerto Escondido. Hablaban su idioma materno, el zapoteco loxicha, y el español. Los cantos que ensayaban eran de un cancionero redactado en el estado de Oaxaca, un libro que contenía más de mil cantos. Uno de los compañeros de Mario, Gorgonio, un catequista de su comunidad en Oaxaca, apoyado por su hermano Fernando, les enseñaba los cantos a los demás. No sé cuantos cantos conocía Gorgonio, pero me imagino que sabía de memoria centenares de cantos y refranes de ese libro, algunos bastante largos. Cuando salió para México un miembro zapoteco del coro, llegó otro de la misma comunidad para reemplazarlo y seguir enseñándonos más cantos. Me impresionó tantísimo el vigor con que el grupo ensayaba cantos y la cantidad de cantos que aprendían. Mario, desde el principio, perfeccionaba su adiestramiento al tocar el teclado hasta tocar dos teclados a la vez.

Mario y su papá salieron para México hace un mes que fue para nosotros una gran pérdida pero no nos dejaron abandonados con nada. Otros jóvenes del grupo aprendieron tocar la guitarra y uno de ellos, Tolentino, ha aprendido tocar el teclado motivado por la maestría de Mario. No lo toca tan bien como Mario todavía pero no tengo duda de que el grupo de jóvenes va a mejorar su música aún más con el propósito de darle la máxima gloria a Dios posible.

Mario me dijo que al regresar a México, se iba a dedicar a tocar en la iglesia allá y que iba a formar un grupo de músicos para tocar durante las fiestas religiosas. Me agrada saber que aprendió mucho acerca del ministerio de música aquí en la Parroquia de Santa Susana.

Santiago y Mario representan para mí lo mejor de México y hay otros como ellos. Todavía nos quedan personas de fe de alta calidad de México y de otros países latinoamericanos que enriquecen a la sociedad de los Estados Unidos y que bendicen a los católicos de este país.

## Los Santos (Imágenes) Viven

Por el Padre Carmelo Jimenez

Hoy quiero hablar de la manera como los indígenas tratan a los santos (imágenes). Cuando yo llegué a San Juan Chamula, me quedé impresionado del sincretismo que dentro del templo se vive. Imágenes vestidas como las personas, con atuendos de gala algún tiempo y otro, con atuendo de trabajo. La gente arrodillada frente a una imagen rezando por alguna cosa en especial, algunas veces tienen huevos, gallinas, sodas, posh (alcohol), ramas. Los indígenas le hablan al santo, le piden como si estuviera vivo, lo amenazan si no les cumple su petición.

Recuerdo el día que llegué, el sacristán mayor me llevó al templo y me dijo muy alegre: “Ya tenemos la casa para tu santo.” Yo me preguntaba ¿cuál era la casa de mi santo? Me llevaron al templo, al altar, lleno de flores e imágenes, entre ellas la de San Juan Bautista, en grande, de tal manera que sobresalía por encima de todas las imágenes, y en la urna de San Juan, una imagen pequeñita de Jesucristo. A los pies de San Juan se notaba algo así como un Sagrario, el sacristán mandó a una persona a encender la luz y vi que aquel espacio tenía como un metro cúbico, la puerta muy bonita, tallada en madera y pintada con colores muy vivos. En su interior un tubo de pvc, con su coladera. Yo me sorprendí y pregunte porque le habían dejado el tubo, lo cual a mi parecer se veía feo. Como respuesta obtuve otra pregunta que me aclara: “¿No vas a meter ahí a tu santo? Entonces ¿Dónde va a respirar?”

Ya no pregunté más, entendí que si “yo metía a mi santo (el Santo Sacramento) ahí” tenía que tener un lugar por donde le llegara aire para que pudiera respirar porque si no, se me iba a morir de asfixia.

Poco a poco fui entendiendo su mentalidad respecto a las imágenes y llegué a hacerme algunas conclusiones como:

1. **Los santos son personas vivas**, por lo tanto hay que tratarlos como tal. Si están vivos sienten, por eso hay que ponerles ropa de frío cuando hay frío y ropa fresca en el tiempo de calor.
2. **Los santos son personas que viven con nosotros pero pueden ver a Dios**, por eso, se les habla como personas normales, y son enviados a llevar la noticia a Dios, pero si Dios no lo escucha y no le concede lo que pidieron van a ser castigados humanamente, por lo tanto tienen la obligación de cumplir la petición.
3. Desde este sentido, **la oración se convierte en un dialogo confiado con alguien que está cerca.**
4. **Los santos viven como la gente**, de tal manera que cuando hay una fiesta se les pone sus trajes de fiestas y esos días no se les puede pedir nada, solamente se les ofrecerá algo para tenerlos contentos y disfruten de la fiesta. Pasando la fiesta se les pondrá su ropa de trabajo y es cuando ellos tienen que escuchar a la gente y pedir a Dios.
5. Ellos creen que **la fotografía tomada con flash es robarles el alma**, por lo tanto a los santos se les protege con un espejo, si alguien tomara una fotografía, el espejo rechaza la luz del flash y así no le roban su alma.

De todo esto ¿que podemos sacar de bueno según nuestra fe? Podríamos decir que esto es como para dar risa, sin embargo no están muy de lejos de lo que proclamamos. Nosotros en el credo Niceno-Constantinopolitano afirmamos: “espero la resurrección de los muertos y la vida del mundo futuro,” aún más, en el credo de los Apóstoles se dice: “Creo en el Espíritu Santo, en la comunión de los santos, el perdón de los pecados, la resurrección de la carne y la vida eterna.” Todo esto mentalmente no nos da ningún problema, pero ¿cómo vivimos la comunión con los santos? ¿Como se hace palpable en nuestros días?

El 1 y 2 de noviembre son fechas muy buenas para reflexionar en la comunión con los santos. Sería bueno olvidarnos un poco de las brujas, de los espíritus malignos, de los espantos, de los monstruos, y buscar esa comunión con aquellos seres queridos que dieron testimonio de fe en la tierra y que ahora gozan de Dios nuestro Señor, y que intervienen a favor nuestro con su intercesión, pedirles de todo corazón, con una oración confiada de que ellos viven y con el cariño y amor que nos tuvieron aquí en la tierra así también intercederán ante Dios por nosotros.

Los indígenas no entienden muchas explicaciones, ellos viven su fe día con día en ellos que dan a conocer ciertas verdades de nuestra fe. Nosotros entendemos más de razones intelectuales pero nos falta vivir más esas realidades. No quiero que pensemos en hacerlo como ellos, pero que manifestemos con hechos lo que profesamos en nuestra fe.

### Ministros en Comunidades Hispánicas Quieren Servir



Los ministros en las comunidades hispanas se reunieron por primera vez con el nuevo Director del Ministerio Hispano, Luis Ajú. Hablaron sobre cómo mejor servir a sus comunidades y responder a sus necesidades. Desde la derecha son: Luis Ajú, Tami Schneider, Hmna. Adelina Rito, Hmna. Imelda Quechol, Hmna. Ma. Ofelia Hernández, Patti Murphy, Hmna. Panchita (Fran) Wilhelm, P. Fid Levri, Paul Witte, Abraham Brown, Chris Gutiérrez P. Stan Puryear, José Gallegos, y P. Carmelo Jimenez.

Por Luis Ajú

La reunión de los Ministros Hispánicos, el 16 de octubre en el Centro Pastoral de la Diócesis de Owensboro, es una de las semillas que se plantó, para servir mejor a las Comunidades Hispánicas. Se llevó a cabo esta reunión importante porque es necesario tomar un tiempo para ver nuestro servicio realizado y ver en el futuro que podemos hacer para mejorar nuestro servicio de amor al prójimo.

Se realizó esta reunión para sentirnos como hermanos apoyándonos unos a los otros en el Ministerio, así como también recibir el apoyo de la Diócesis y del Sr. Obispo John McRaith, que afortunadamente nos brindó desde sus palabras el aprecio y agradecimiento a todos quienes trabajamos en el campo de la justicia y amor a los Inmigrantes Latinos. También se hizo ver que la comunidad Hispánica, a través de los agentes de la Pastoral, se sientan parte de la Iglesia Católica de este país. No obstante las diferencias culturales que existen podemos caminar juntos por amor a Dios. Además muchos expresaron que la comunidad hispana no aporta el soporte económico de manera significativa pero que sí aporta como colaboración su Vida de Fe, que inspira y refuerza a otros muchos. Que Dios bendiga a cada uno quien está dando su tiempo, amor y talento para llevar el mensaje de amor y esperanza a todas estas comunidades.

### Los Miembros del Comité de Revisión Diocesano

#### Están Listos para Contestar Llamadas

Los miembros del Comité quienes tratan las alegaciones de abuso sexual en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Larry Abel, Chair, Ms. June Bell, Vice-Chair, Dr. Charles Bohle, Sr. Vivian Bowles, OSU, Ms. Susan Clark, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. William Craig, Jr., Dr. Carroll Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Sr. Jacinta Powers, OSU, y Rev. Pat Reynolds. Ms. Louanne Gelarden sirve como enlace entre el Obispo y el Comité de Revisión.

A cualquier persona que quiera comunicar con el Comité de Revisión Diocesano se le pide que llame al Centro Pastoral Católico al 1-270-683-1545 y pregunte por un miembro del Comité de Revisión. Si quiere hablar con un miembro particular del Comité, lo puede mencionar a la recepcionista. En cualquier caso, la recepcionista en el Centro Pastoral Católico entregará la información de la persona que llamó al Comité de Revisión para seguimiento. Los que llaman pueden escoger mantenerse anónimos para la primera llamada a la recepcionista del Centro Pastoral Católico. No se harán públicos los números telefónicos de los miembros del Comité.

También pueden comunicarse con el Comité por email al: [reviewboard@pastoral.org](mailto:reviewboard@pastoral.org). Asegúrense de incluir su información personal. No les contestaremos directamente por email porque nunca se puede garantizar la confidencialidad al usar email. Nos comunicaremos con ustedes por teléfono.

## Reflexiones Sobre El Matrimonio



**Julio Barrera, seminarista mexicano para la Diócesis de Owensboro, parado afuera del Instituto de Arte en Minneapolis. Foto sometida.**

Por Julio Barrera

El hablar de la familia no es nada fácil, pues cada una tiene diferente visión de cómo se debe vivir según las experiencias que ellas viven, además que interviene otros factores para su desarrollo. En nuestra Iglesia, por gracia de Dios, tenemos un punto en común, que la familia es considerada como “Iglesia Domestica” (así la llama el Concilio Vaticano II) pues en la familia es donde por primera vez escuchamos hablar de Dios, sus mandatos y de Jesucristo su Hijo quien le otorgo el grado supremo de Sacramento. ¿Como es eso posible? Pues precisamente ahora lo sabremos.

El Papa Juan Pablo II escribió más de dos mil quinientos discursos y entre ellos muchos que hablan del valor de la familia basándose sobre todo en la Sagrada Escritura y en el mismo Mag-

isterio de la Iglesia Católica. Nuestro Dios creó al hombre y a la mujer, entendemos muy bien que hay diferencias entre el uno y la otra, que son diferentes, pero a la vez complementarios y que son ayuda el uno para el otro. Realmente es muy importante detenerse y pensar en esta característica, pues en verdad; la complementariedad es uno de los puntos centrales del matrimonio. Aquí cabe mencionar lo que dice la Sagrada Escritura “*No es bueno que el hombre este solo*” (Gen. 2, 18) pues por eso Dios, le dio al hombre a la mujer como compañera y ayuda.

Así como el hombre y la mujer delante de Dios son lo mismo, así deben ser a los ojos del mundo, pues los dos gozan de inteligencia y voluntad, en esto somos semejantes a Dios nuestro Padre, por lo tanto, tenemos una gran dignidad, la cual debemos cuidar como un gran tesoro, pues se manifiesta en la libertad y a su vez en la gran responsabilidad cotidiana. La vida que tenemos y cualquiera que sea su manifestación la tenemos que respetar, pues es un don, un regalo de parte de Dios para conocer su infinita bondad.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica en su numero 2203 dice: “*Al crear al hombre y a la mujer, Dios constituyo a la familia humana y la doto de su constitución fundamental. Sus miembros son personas iguales en dignidad. Para el bien común de sus miembros y de la sociedad, la familia implica una diversidad de responsabilidad, de derechos y deberes.*” Es cierto que Dios fundó a la familia desde el principio cuando creó al hombre y a la mujer, pues así lo dice la Sagrada Escritura en el primer libro, Génesis (origen) en el capítulo 2, verso 22, estableciendo un tipo de sociedad de la cual todos formamos parte.

¿Cómo se da el Matrimonio? El inicio del matrimonio es mediante las comunidades de amistad, pues es una realidad que, nadie se casa con un desconocido, entonces, lo primero, es conocer al afortunado o afortunada según sea el caso y si después de un tiempo razonable, después de conocerse lo suficiente y se cumple con las expectativas, entonces se da el siguiente paso que es la aceptación de un compromiso más serio. Este es un buen momento para preguntarme si YO cumplo con todas las características para hacer feliz a mi pareja, pues en esta realidad nos hemos hecho muy egoístas y en algún momento buscamos el interés propio. Si superamos estas relaciones iniciales del conocimiento mutuo es tiempo de hablar de matrimonio con toda libertad.

El fin del matrimonio es ser feliz, realizarse humanamente, pero esta realización ya no es individual, sino que, tú debes ser

(continuado en la página 6)

## Nuestras Experiencias Con La Gente De Guatemala

Por Daniel Dillard

Nos pusimos en camino para un viaje que terminaría en un país donde no conocíamos a nadie, no entendimos la cultura, no hablamos casi ni una palabra del lenguaje, e íbamos a estar allí por once semanas. Se entiende que estábamos un poco nerviosos cuando dejamos las comodidades de Estados Unidos por lo desconocido, que fue Antigua, Guatemala para aprender el español.

Nuestras preocupaciones no tenía porque. La gente de Guatemala eran unas de las personas más amables que habíamos conocido. Los maestros eran maravillosos, y aunque nos frustramos de vez en cuando, aprendimos mucho español. Josh mencionó varias veces durante el verano que la razón por lo cuál aprendimos tanto era porque tuvimos clase de español varias veces al día. Primero, tomamos desayuno, la primera clase de español, después tuvimos la clase actual de español, la cual era cuatro o cinco días a la semana de instrucción personal, después almorzamos – la tercera clase de español, y después oímos la misa – otra clase de español y después cenamos, la última clase de español. Cuando estás realmente sumergido en una cultura y un lenguaje, es difícil **no** aprenderlo. Sin embargo, aprender el español era solamente el principio de nuestras experiencias este verano.

Nuestra experiencia con la fe de la gente de Guatemala nos demostró la verdadera humildad. La gente de allí fue generalmente muy pobre pero a pesar de la pobreza, eran personas de inmensa fe. La parroquia que asistimos tenía cuatro misas diarias y llegaron al menos 80 personas para cada misa. Y cuando tuvimos la procesión del Cuerpo de Cristo, duró por tres horas y medio, durante la cual nos encontramos con alrededor de 10,000 personas. Uno de los momentos más especiales para mí personalmente del viaje a Guatemala era llevar el Sagrado Sacramento. Ver la devoción y amor de Dios que tenían los guatemaltecos nos inspiró mucho.

Tomamos varias excursiones unos con la escuela de español de Probigua, y otros nada más nosotros dos. Algunos de los mejores momentos de estos viajes eran ver las ruinas Maya, visitar un castillo español antiguo construido para luchar contra la piratería, tostar bombones sobre los flujos de lava (cuando subimos el volcán activo, Pacaya) y visitar la familia de Basilio Az, un seminarista Guatemalteco estudiando para nuestra diócesis. Donde sea que viajamos y donde sea que nos quedamos, nos impresionaron dos cosas consistentemente: la belleza natural del país, y la hospitalidad de la gente. No tenían mucho, pero lo que tenían quisieron compartir.

Al final, disfrutamos mucho de nuestro tiempo en Guatemala pero cuando se acabó nuestro tiempo estuvimos listos de regresar y seguir nuestra preparación para el sacerdocio. Le pedimos a Dios que use nuestras experiencias que vivimos en este viaje para servir más fielmente a ustedes como sacerdotes en la Diócesis de Owensboro.



**Daniel Dillard y Josh McCarty visitan la familia de Basilio Az en Guatemala.**

## Reflexiones Sobre

### El Matrimonio (continuado de la página 5)

la realización de la otra persona que has elegido para compartir tu vida. Es decir, te debes desvivir por el bienestar de tu pareja, que viva lo mejor posible contigo, experimentando el gusto y la felicidad del matrimonio, el gusto de haber unido sus vidas para siempre a pesar de las dificultades que día a día se van encontrando en el camino. Hay algunos elementos que debe reunir el matrimonio y creo que el principal es la vida en pareja, pues por una parte es una forma de colaboración, de ayudarse el uno al otro y así permanecer a lo largo de la vida. Y por otra parte es una forma de asociación humana que nace de la libre decisión de un hombre y una mujer a conducir establemente una vida. Así, pues, nace el gran amor conyugal que no es más que el amor íntimo que se tiene la pareja en sí misma, por tanto aquí interviene en gran medida la afectividad sexual que en realidad desemboca en la decisión de vivir unidos. Esto es, que la vida en pareja descubre el valor del otro en gran magnitud en los valores sexuales complementarios presentes en el otro miembro de la pareja. Cuando se da esta unión por medio del matrimonio como institución o en nuestro caso, como Iglesia Domestica, los dos miembros de la pareja deben entregarse completamente el uno al otro, sin reserva, en la intimidad de su hogar, pues el fuerte vínculo se alcanza mediante la complementariedad sexual. Para tener seguro el amor, es necesario el diálogo como también las relaciones de tipo sexual, es importante aclarar que no solamente debe estar la sexualidad como centro, sino que debe ser elemento importante pero no único. Esto constituye un solo camino para que el vivir en pareja sea sinónimo de vivir bien, vivir felizmente. Esta labor no sólo corresponde a uno de los dos miembros de la pareja, sino, ya que es un trabajo duro y difícil, debe ser para los dos.

Hasta ahora no he mencionado nada sobre los hijos, pues es otro elemento dentro del matrimonio y otra etapa por vivir, pues el casarse, en un primer momento, es la realización del uno con el otro y nada más, pero el amor conyugal, llega cada vez más a su perfección que se manifiesta en la procreación de los hijos, cooperando con Dios en la labor de la creación.

Así que entonces primero es formar un “nosotros” constituido por el valor de la persona mediante la complementariedad sexual entre el hombre y la mujer, pues esto, da paso a la concepción y ya que es tanto el amor que se tienen los miembros de la pareja, se llega a la necesidad de manifestarlo dando vida a un nuevo ser que viene a plenificar y perfeccionar el amor y además crea un nexo, un lazo, una unión mas fuerte que es indisoluble, así como lo dice nuestro rito del matrimonio, pues Jesucristo le otorgó el título supremo de Sacramento bendiciéndolo en las bodas de Cana de Galilea, donde realizó su primer milagro (Evangelió de Juan 2:1). Además nuestro Señor Jesús mandó la indisolubilidad del matrimonio pues en el Evangelio narrado por Mateo, capítulo 19 de los versos del 4 al 9 (Mt. 19, 4-9) nos explica claramente la novedad del matrimonio en ese tiempo y sus características. Pues

como mencioné antes, Cristo le confirió el grado supremo de Sacramento en esta unión del hombre y de la mujer y puesto que es sagrada, nadie la puede disolver sino Dios a través de la muerte.

Cuando nos hacemos conscientes de esta unión sacramental y hay hijos, fruto de esta relación, trae consigo la responsabilidad por parte de los dos a educarlos en todos los ambientes: cultural, social, religioso, inculcándoles valores para la vida y su realización. Como pareja tiene que decidir cuantos hijos tener sin caer en los pecados que van en contra de la vida, especialmente el aborto asistido, ya que esto también es de suma importancia por que la responsabilidad es de los dos, y en nuestra cultura desafortunadamente muchas veces se comete el error por parte del hombre de dejar sola a la mujer o mejor dicho abandonarla presionándola a cometer algo terrible e irreversible.

Ahora llegamos a un punto interesantísimo que no a muchos les gusta que se aborde, pues son los “Pecados” o posiblemente les gustan y por eso los comenten. Objetivamente son los pecados que van en contra del matrimonio y de la vida. Para eso recordamos las citas básicas de la Biblia: “*Creó, pues, Dios al ser humano a imagen suya, a imagen de Dios lo creó, hombre y mujer los creó.*” Génesis 1, 27.

Dios creó hombre y mujer, hay una gran diferencia entre ellos, pero hay una complementariedad perfecta. Dios en su infinita voluntad quiso que se constituyera el matrimonio por un hombre y una mujer de UNO y UNA. Pecados contra este mandato: Uniones homosexuales. “...y los bendijo Dios con estas palabras, sean fecundos y multiplíquense” Génesis 1, 28

Dios nos manda que el matrimonio debe ser para la multiplicación

y procreación con la debida responsabilidad, pues tener un hijo es una gran bendición. Pecados contra este mandato: Anticonceptivos, Concepción artificial. “*Por eso dejará el hombre a su padre y a su madre y se unirá a su mujer y los dos serán una sola carne*” Mt. 19, 5 ¿Qué significa esto? Es realmente difícil de entender para muchos. Pues el matrimonio es una cuestión de elección y de libertad, es decir la capacidad de poder sostener un hogar.

El casarse es un acto de responsabilidad, la unión sacramental del matrimonio es un acto de Amor y Conciencia. Pecados contra este mandato: 1.) Cuando no hay una verdadera formación sobre el matrimonio y sólo se unen por gusto, además la responsabilidad que esto trae consigo. 2.) Por otro lado, la coacción, tanto física como moral, es decir, que alguien te force a casarte y que tu realmente no quieras. 3.) En cuanto a lo de “*Una sola carne*” significa FIDELIDAD y es una característica muy común el NO encontrarla en nuestro entorno, pues, en nuestra cultura no es tan “mal vista” la infidelidad por parte de los hombres, pero ¿por qué no, si es un pecado?, esta característica de la unidad es muy profunda, pues cualquiera puede cometerla.

Pecados en contra de este mandato de la unidad y que no deja de ser grave: Infidelidad, Poligamia (hombre), Poliandria (mujer), Bigamia (hombre), Biandria (mujer), Adulterio, Abandono de hogar

Estos pecados también los pueden llegar a cometer las mujeres, pero ciertamente, no es tan común como en los hombres. No hay ninguna razón posible para justificarse, o disculparse ya que lo haces con plena conciencia y además vivir tan normal y tan tranquilo como si todo estuviera bien, pues realmente te estás ofendiendo a ti mismo y a la persona que le juraste fidelidad delante de un altar y que no es cualquier lugar pues, el juramento lo hicieron delante de Dios, en la casa de Dios. “*Lo que Dios unió que no lo separe el hombre.*” Mt. 19, 6

Aquí hago referencia principalmente a la indisolubilidad del matrimonio, es decir que no hay poder humano en la tierra que pueda deshacer la unión sagrada. Lo único que puede separarte de la persona que amas es la muerte. Pecados en contra de este mandato: Mentalidad divorcista, todas las rupturas en el vínculo matrimonial.

Nuestro Dios quiso que el matrimonio se elevara a un nivel de sacramento es decir sagrado, por medio de Jesucristo. Así que por matrimonio debemos entenderlo por medio de la palabra “*sacra-do.*” “*Sean, pues, imitadores de Dios, como hijos queridos, y vivan en el amor como Cristo los amó y se entregó por nosotros como oblación y víctima de suave aroma*” Ef. 5, 1-2

Es fácil entender la cita bíblica anterior, pues Cristo siempre fue y es fiel a nosotros, de tal manera que se entregó voluntariamente a una muerte de Cruz para librarnos y purificarnos de nuestros pecados por amor a nosotros, Jesús decidió sufrir todo por amor a nosotros. Pues el amor es signo y el signo visible de Cristo es el amor por la Iglesia. En comparación, así debe ser el amor marital, deben ser signos del amor auténtico delante de sus hijos, de las demás personas y de uno mismo, sin reserva, teniendo como fin último, la esperanza de pertenecer y al mismo tiempo ser hijos verdaderos de Dios y coherederos con Cristo Nuestro Señor. Amen.



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