

Western Kentucky CATHOLIC

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Over 700 Attend Youth 2000 Retreat at Brescia



Fr. Joseph Mary Brown, CSJ, leads the young people in an examination of conscience at this year's Youth 2000 retreat. Photo by Deacon Josh McCarty.

By Tami Schneider

Young souls clothed in brightly colored t-shirts braved the weekend with only a single carpet square between them and the hard floor. Their shirts spoke the beliefs of their hearts proclaiming: "Be Not Afraid," "Let the Fire Fall," "I love my husband and I don't even know him yet," "Abortion kills babies," "Catholic Warrior, Defender of the Faith," and "Get Holy or Die Trying."



Owensboro native, Postulant Melissa Bivins (second from left), listens to a talk with her Carmelite companions, Sr. Mary Faustina and Sister Mary Michael. God willing, Melissa will enter the novitiate this summer. Photo by Larena Lawson.

The Marian Shrine Committee, The Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry and Brescia University partnered for the 12th time to offer a weekend of prayer and renewal for young people ages 13-30.

This year, over 700 people attended from at least five surrounding states. The windy spring weather only added to the success of the weekend, allowing the participants to get outside during breaks and mealtimes.

"The Lord really wants to show His signs and wonders during this retreat," Br. Cyril, CFR, commented. And those signs and wonders abounded as the youth had an opportunity to pray the Rosary, pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, receive the Brown Scapular, crown the Virgin Mary, go to Confession, participate in the Mass, adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and sing praise songs to moving music. Tears of healing and conversion moistened many cheeks during the Sacrament of Reconciliation and throughout the Eucharistic Service on Saturday night.

Habits of gray, white, brown and black mingled among the participants as members of the Franciscan, Community of St. John, Dominican, Carmelite, and Ursuline orders led small groups and joined in games. Diocesan priests and seminarians also enriched the atmosphere with their presence by hearing confessions, concelebrating liturgies and leading small groups. These men and women called to the religious vocation gave participants food for thought throughout the weekend by offering profound statements in homilies and presentations, such as: "When you eat the Eucharist, you're eating love." "When you quote the Gospels, you're quoting the words of the Word Himself." "God has a plan for each one of you, and that plan is one of love."

As a third-year veteran of this event, I ask myself over and over what it is that attracts so many people to this retreat. Last year, over 450 came despite the year's worst snowstorm. This year we reached the cut-off limit for attendees, despite the dire economic situation. As Fr. John Mary, of the Community of St. John puts it with a humorous southern accent, "It's *Jesus!*" (He went on to explain that he was allowed to say it like that because he's a native Kentuckian himself.)

The weekend ended somewhat differently this year, because Bishop John McRaith did not celebrate the closing Mass. Following his retirement on January 5th, Diocesan Administrator, Fr. Mike Clark, appointed Fr. Andy Garner as the Diocesan Representative for Youth 2000. Fr. Andy, as the Director of Vocations and Seminarians for the Diocese, had a booth



Below, Deacon Josh McCarty led a small group of young adults in prayer before beginning a session on Theology of the Body during the Youth 2000 retreat. Photo by Tami Schneider.

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Pope Benedict XVI Sends Letter To World's Bishops: "A Word of Clarification."

Letter Of His Holiness Pope Benedict Xvi To The Bishops Of The Catholic Church Concerning The Remission Of The Excommunication Of The Four Bishops Consecrated By Archbishop Lefebvre

Dear Brothers in the Episcopal Ministry!

The remission of the excommunication of the four Bishops consecrated in 1988 by Archbishop Lefebvre without a mandate of the Holy See has for many reasons caused, both within and beyond the Catholic Church, a discussion more heated than any we have seen for a long time. Many Bishops felt perplexed by an event which came about unexpectedly and was difficult to view positively in the light of the issues and tasks facing the Church today. Even though many Bishops and members of the faithful were disposed in principle to take a positive view of the Pope's concern for reconciliation, the question remained whether such a gesture was fitting in view of the genuinely urgent demands of the life of faith in our time. Some groups, on the other hand, openly accused the Pope of wanting to turn back the clock to before the Council: As a result, an avalanche of protests was unleashed, whose bitterness laid bare wounds deeper than those of the present moment. I therefore feel obliged to offer you, dear Brothers, a word of clarification, which ought to help you understand the concerns which led me and the competent offices of the Holy See to take this step. In this way I hope to contribute to peace in the Church.

An unforeseen mishap for me was the fact that the Williamson case came on top of the remission of the excommunication. The discreet gesture of mercy towards four Bishops ordained validly but not legitimately suddenly appeared as something completely different: as the repudiation of reconciliation between Christians and Jews, and thus as the reversal of what the Council had laid down in this regard to guide the Church's path. A gesture of reconciliation with an ecclesial group engaged in a process of separation thus turned into its very antithesis: an apparent step backwards with regard to all the steps of reconciliation between Christians and Jews taken since the Council – steps which my own work as a theologian had sought from the beginning to take part in and support. That this overlapping of two opposed processes took place and momentarily upset peace between Christians and

Jews, as well as peace within the Church, is something which I can only deeply deplore. I have been told that consulting the information available on the internet would have made it possible to perceive the problem early on. I have learned the lesson that in the future in the Holy See we will have to pay greater attention to that source of news. I was saddened by the fact that even Catholics who, after all, might have had a better knowledge of the situation, thought they had to attack me with open hostility. Precisely for this reason I thank all the more our Jewish friends, who quickly helped to clear up the misunderstanding and to restore the atmosphere of friendship and trust which – as in the days of Pope John Paul II – has also existed throughout my pontificate and, thank God, continues to exist.

Another mistake, which I deeply regret, is the fact that the extent and limits of the provision of 21 January 2009 were not clearly and adequately explained at the moment of its publication. The excommunication affects individuals, not institutions. An episcopal ordination lacking a pontifical mandate raises the danger of a schism, since it jeopardizes the unity of the College of Bishops with the Pope. Consequently the Church must react by employing her most severe punishment – excommunication – with the aim of calling those thus punished to repent and to return to unity. Twenty years after the ordinations, this goal has sadly not yet been attained. The remission of the excommunication has the same aim as that of the punishment: namely, to invite the four Bishops once more to return. This gesture was possible once the interested parties had expressed their recognition in principle of the Pope and his authority as Pastor, albeit with some reservations in the area of obedience to his doctrinal authority and to the authority of the Council. Here I return to the distinction between individuals and institutions. The remission of the excommunication was a measure taken in the field of ecclesiastical discipline: the individuals were freed from the burden of conscience constituted by the most serious of ecclesiastical penalties. This disciplinary level needs to be distinguished from the doctrinal level. The fact that the Society of Saint Pius X does not possess a canonical status in the Church is not, in the end, based on disciplinary but on doctrinal reasons. As long as the Society does not

Continued on page 4

Diocesan Catholic Educators and Catholic Pastoral Center Staff Accept Salary Freeze



At a March 18 press conference in the Annunciation Center of the OCS K-3 campus in Owensboro, Mr. Ken Rasp responded to a reporter's question about how much money the salary freeze which Catholic educators accepted for the 2009-2010 year saved the school system and OCS parents. Mr. Rasp said about \$140,000. Staff Photo

By accepting a salary freeze, OCS employees have provided a proactive solution for all OCS families experiencing economic difficulty. Please join me in thanking the OCS employees for the wonderful gift they have given to all OCS families."

Mr. Rasp continued, "Owensboro Catholic Schools joins all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Owensboro, some of our sponsoring Parishes, and the Diocesan Pastoral Center in making similar decisions concerning a salary freeze for 2009-2010. We stand together in finding important ways to model Jesus and His love for all, especially the children, during these tough economic times.

"Due to the importance of this significant decision and its impact on a family's ability to choose Owensboro Catholic Schools as their education partner, Pre-Registration for the 2009-2010 school year has been extended to Friday, April 10, 2009."

Some examples of tuition rates announced March 18: A parish-sponsored family which has one child in a grade K-8 of the OCS system, with none in high school will pay a tuition of \$3,020 in 2009-2010. A parish-sponsored family with one child in high school will pay \$3,980; with one in K-8 and one in high school, the tuition is \$6,350. Catholic students from non-OCS parishes will pay \$4,450 for a student in grades K-6, \$5,130 in grades 7-8, and \$5,630 in grades 9-12.

\$850,000 in tuition assistance will be awarded on needs assessment by Private School Aid Service (PSAS). Owensboro Catholic Schools utilize a need-based tuition assistance system shifting parish subsidy dollars out of the general fund and endowment earnings into a tuition assistance fund allowing us to provide the \$850,000 in tuition assistance to families.

Owensboro Catholic Schools encourages all families to apply for financial aid. More than half of families applied and received financial assistance for the 2008-2009 school year.

- The Private School Aid Service (PSAS) Student Aid process will determine how the tuition assistance dollars will be awarded. All aid will be awarded by August 1, 2009.

For more information, contact Owensboro Catholic Schools • 1524 West Parrish Avenue • Owensboro, KY 42301 • Phone: 270-686-8896 • Fax: 270-686-8997 • www.owensborocatholic.org

The Owensboro Catholic Schools announced on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 new tuition rates for the 2009-2010 school year. The previously published 8% increase to the base tuition rate will be reduced to a 4% increase. The reduction in tuition is a direct result of all OCS faculty and staff sacrificing once again for the benefit of our families by accepting a salary freeze for the 2009-2010 school year. This level of dedication to the development of our students and commitment to our families is a testament to their willingness and professional approach in fulfilling the OCS Mission every day.

The OCS Mission statement is: "Owensboro Catholic Schools share in the mission of the Church in cooperation with families to provide a religious and academic education which prepares students to become responsible members of family, Church, and community."

In a prepared statement, Ken Rasp, OCS Director, explained that "The current economic crisis engulfing our nation, state and region is the impetus behind this important decision. A growing number of our families are being negatively impacted by lay-offs, furloughed hours and days, lost overtime opportunities, and a growing number of other financial issues. By

accepting a salary freeze, OCS employees have provided a proactive solution for all OCS families experiencing economic difficulty. Please join me in thanking the OCS employees for the wonderful gift they have given to all OCS families."

Mr. Rasp continued, "Owensboro Catholic Schools joins all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Owensboro, some of our sponsoring Parishes, and the Diocesan Pastoral Center in making similar decisions concerning a salary freeze for 2009-2010. We stand together in finding important ways to model Jesus and His love for all, especially the children, during these tough economic times.

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Diocese Of Owensboro Priest Assignments For 2008-2009

PASTOR

Ibemere, Rev. Julian: Pastor to Rosary Chapel, Paducah, and St. Mary of the Fields Parish, La Center, Kentucky, effective January 6, 2009.

RETIREE

Clemons, Rev. Delma: Permission to retire from active ministry, effective December 31, 2008.

OTHER

- Bickett, Rev. Tony: Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, effective January 21, 2009.
- Venters, Rev. Darrell: Clergy Personnel Officer, effective February 17, 2009.
- Willett, Rev. David: Permission to resume service in the Archdiocese for the Military Services.



The Human Experience in Owensboro, KY The Meaning Of Life Is Discovered In The Experience

Come and meet the producer and one of the lead actors of "The Human Experience." Invest in the Experience!

Cost: \$2 - Tickets can be bought in advance or at the door.

Two showings: Saturday, May 2nd at 7:00pm
Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00pm

Taylor Lecture Hall - Brescia University, 717 Fredrica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

Taylor Lecture Hall is located in the Science Building at Brescia University.

For more information call Josh McCarty at 270-985-8824.

This event is sponsored by the Mike Horn Foundation, the Office of Vocations for the Diocese of Owensboro, The Disciples Response Fund for the Diocese of Owensboro, Brescia University, St. Maximilian Books, and Gideon Productions.

Marian Observance



Sr. Francis
Teresa Scully
DCJ

Carmel Home,
2501 Old Hartford Rd.,
Owensboro, Ky
Friday May 1st At 7 P.m.

Speaker:
Sr. Francis Teresa Scully DCJ
"Evangelization Under The
Patronage Of Mary"

Sponsored By
The Marian Shrine Committee



Rainbow Mass

Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools

When: April 30, 2009

Where: Owensboro Sportscenter

All of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Owensboro come together to celebrate the Mass. The theme for this year's celebration is

"Catholic Schools Celebrate Service."

All are invited.

Brescia University Alumni Weekend '09

APRIL 17-18, 2009

Calling all Brescia alumni veterans: contact Josh Clary immediately so we can recognize you at the 2009 Alumni Weekend brunch on Saturday, April 18.

Brescia University was founded to meet the educational needs of returning veterans. Brescia has since served many veterans and we would like to recognize you. We hope you can make Alumni Weekend, but even if you cannot, we would love to hear from you.

Josh Clary • Alumni Relations Director
270-686-2111 • josh.clary@brescia.edu



THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

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The Western Kentucky Catholic comes to your home as a direct use of your parish assessment dollars. "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

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Pope Benedict XVI Sends Letter To World's Bishops: "A Word of Clarification."

(Continued from page 2)

distinction, then, between the disciplinary level, which deals with individuals as such, and the doctrinal level, at which ministry and institution are involved. In order to make this clear once again: until the doctrinal questions are clarified, the Society has no canonical status in the Church, and its ministers – even though they have been freed of the ecclesiastical penalty – do not legitimately exercise any ministry in the Church.

In light of this situation, it is my intention henceforth to join the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei" – the body which has been competent since 1988 for those communities and persons who, coming from the Society of Saint Pius X or from similar groups, wish to return to full communion with the Pope – to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. This will make it clear that the problems now to be addressed are essentially doctrinal in nature and concern primarily the acceptance of the Second Vatican Council and the post-conciliar magisterium of the Popes. The collegial bodies with which the Congregation studies questions which arise (especially the ordinary Wednesday meeting of Cardinals and the annual or biennial Plenary Session) ensure the involvement of the Prefects of the different Roman Congregations and representatives from the world's Bishops in the process of decision-making. The Church's teaching authority cannot be frozen in the year 1962 – this must be quite clear to the Society. But some of those who put themselves forward as great defenders of the Council also need to be reminded that Vatican II embraces the entire doctrinal history of the Church. Anyone who wishes to be obedient to the Council has to accept the faith professed over the centuries, and cannot sever the roots from which the tree draws its life.

I hope, dear Brothers, that this serves to clarify the positive significance and also the limits of the provision of 21 January 2009. But the question still remains: Was this measure needed? Was it really a priority? Aren't other things perhaps more important? Of course there are more important and urgent matters. I believe that I set forth clearly the priorities of my pontificate in the addresses which I gave at its beginning. Everything that I said then continues unchanged as my plan of action. The first priority for the Successor of Peter was laid down by the Lord in the Upper Room in the clearest of terms: "You... strengthen

your brothers" (Lk 22:32). Peter himself formulated this priority anew in his first Letter: "Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you" (1 Pet 3:15). In our days, when in vast areas of the world the faith is in danger of dying out like a flame which no longer has fuel, the overriding priority is to make God present in this world and to show men and women the way to God. Not just any god, but the God who spoke on Sinai; to that God whose face we recognize in a love which presses "to the end" (cf. Jn 13:1) – in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. The real problem at this moment of our history is that God is disappearing from the human horizon, and, with the dimming of the light which comes from God, humanity is losing its bearings, with increasingly evident destructive effects.

Leading men and women to God, to the God who speaks in the Bible: this is the supreme and fundamental priority of the Church and of the Successor of Peter at the present time. A logical consequence of this is that we must have at heart the unity of all believers. Their disunity, their disagreement among themselves, calls into question the credibility of their talk of God. Hence the effort to promote a common witness by Christians to their faith – ecumenism – is part of the supreme priority. Added to this is the need for all those who believe in God to join in seeking peace, to attempt to draw closer to one another, and to journey together, even with their differing images of God, towards the source of Light – this is interreligious dialogue. Whoever proclaims that God is Love "to the end" has to bear witness to love: in loving devotion to the suffering, in the rejection of hatred and enmity – this is the social dimension of the Christian faith, of which I spoke in the Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*.

So if the arduous task of working for faith, hope and love in the world is presently (and, in various ways, always) the Church's real priority, then part of this is also made up of acts of reconciliation, small and not so small. That the quiet gesture of extending a hand gave rise to a huge uproar, and thus became exactly the opposite of a gesture of reconciliation, is a fact which we must accept. But I ask now: Was it, and is it, truly wrong in this case to meet half-way the brother who "has something against you" (cf. Mt 5:23ff.) and to seek recon-

ciliation? Should not civil society also try to forestall forms of extremism and to incorporate their eventual adherents – to the extent possible – in the great currents shaping social life, and thus avoid their being segregated, with all its consequences? Can it be completely mistaken to work to break down obstinacy and narrowness, and to make space for what is positive and retrievable for the whole? I myself saw, in the years after 1988, how the return of communities which had been separated from Rome changed their interior attitudes; I saw how returning to the bigger and broader Church enabled them to move beyond one-sided positions and broke down rigidity so that positive energies could emerge for the whole. Can we be totally indifferent about a community which has 491 priests, 215 seminarians, 6 seminaries, 88 schools, 2 university-level institutes, 117 religious brothers, 164 religious sisters and thousands of lay faithful? Should we casually let them drift farther from the Church? I think for example of the 491 priests. We cannot know how mixed their motives may be. All the same, I do not think that they would have chosen the priesthood if, alongside various distorted and unhealthy elements, they did not have a love for Christ and a desire to proclaim him and, with him, the living God. Can we simply exclude them, as representatives of a radical fringe, from our pursuit of reconciliation and unity? What would then become of them?

Certainly, for some time now, and once again on this specific occasion, we have heard from some representatives of that community many unpleasant things – arrogance and presumptuousness, an obsession with one-sided positions, etc. Yet to tell the truth, I must add that I have also received a number of touching testimonials of gratitude which clearly showed an openness of heart. But should not the great Church also allow herself to be generous in the knowledge of her great breadth, in the knowledge of the promise made to her? Should not we, as good educators, also be capable of overlooking various faults and making every effort to open up broader vistas? And should we not admit that some unpleasant things have also emerged in Church circles? At times one gets the impression that our society needs to have at least one group to which no tolerance may be shown; which one can easily attack and hate. And should someone dare

to approach them – in this case the Pope – he too loses any right to tolerance; he too can be treated hatefully, without misgiving or restraint.

Dear Brothers, during the days when I first had the idea of writing this letter, by chance, during a visit to the Roman Seminary, I had to interpret and comment on Galatians 5:13-15. I was surprised at the directness with which that passage speaks to us about the present moment: "Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. But if you bite and devour one another, take heed that you are not consumed by one another." I am always tempted to see these words as another of the rhetorical excesses which we occasionally find in Saint Paul. To some extent that may also be the case. But sad to say, this "biting and devouring" also exists in the Church today, as expression of a poorly understood freedom. Should we be surprised that we too are no better than the Galatians? That at the very least we are threatened by the same temptations? That we must always learn anew the proper use of freedom? And that we must always learn anew the supreme priority, which is love? The day I spoke about this at the Major Seminary, the feast of Our Lady of Trust was being celebrated in Rome. And so it is: Mary teaches us trust. She leads us to her Son, in whom all of us can put our trust. He will be our guide – even in turbulent times. And so I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all the many Bishops who have lately offered me touching tokens of trust and affection, and above all assured me of their prayers. My thanks also go to all the faithful who in these days have given me testimony of their constant fidelity to the Successor of Saint Peter. May the Lord protect all of us and guide our steps along the way of peace. This is the prayer that rises up instinctively from my heart at the beginning of this Lent, a liturgical season particularly suited to interior purification, one which invites all of us to look with renewed hope to the light which awaits us at Easter.

With a special Apostolic Blessing, I remain

Yours in the Lord,
BENEDICTUS PP. XVI
From the Vatican, 10 March 2009

2009 Parish Picnic Schedule

May 8-9	Barbecue Festival , Downtown, Owensboro, Ky.
May 17 11:00 a.m.	Carmel Home, Owensboro
May 31 11:00 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
June 6 4:00 p.m.	Precious Blood, Owensboro
June 6 Noon	Saint Joseph, Leitchfield
June 13 4:00 p.m.	St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro
June 20 4:00 p.m.	St. Romuald, Hardinsburg
June 20 3:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
June 20 4:00 p.m. Mass;	serving following-St. Peter, Waverly
June 27 4:30 p.m.	Immaculate Conception, Hawesville
June 27 4:00 p.m.	St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho
July 4 3:00 p.m.	St. Anthony, Axtel (Rough River)
July 4 3:00 p.m.	St. Anthony, Peonia
July 4 11:30 a.m.	St. Denis, Fancy Farm
July 11 4:00 p.m.	St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph
July 18 11:30 a.m.;	4:30 p.m. St. Charles, Bardwell
July 18 4:00 p.m.	St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley
July 25 4:00 p.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady
July 25 3:00 p.m.	St. Paul, Leitchfield.
July 26 4:00 p.m.	St. Anthony, Browns Valley
Aug. 1 11:00 a.m.	St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
Aug. 1 Noon	Blessed Sacrament, Owensboro
Aug. 4 5:00 p.m.	St. Martin, Rome
Aug. 8 4:00 p.m. Mass;	5:00 p.m. serving begins-St. Ann, Morganfield
Aug. 8 4:00 p.m.	Blessed Mother, Owensboro
Aug. 29 3:00 p.m. (EST)	Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington
Aug. 29 4:30 p.m.	St. Columba, Lewisport
Sept. 12 4:00 p.m. Mass;	4:30 p.m. serving begins St. Agnes, Uniontown
Sept. 12 11:00 a.m.	St. John the Evangelist, Paducah
Sept. 13 11:30 a.m.	Mount St. Joseph, Maple Mount
Sept. 19 Noon	St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro
Sept. 19 4:00 p.m.	Christ the King, Madisonville
Sept. 20 Noon	St. Thomas More, Paducah
Sept 25-26	Holy Name Fall Festival, Henderson, Ky.
Sept 26 3:00 p.m.	Immaculate, Owensboro
Sept. 27	St. Leo, Murray
Sept. 27 11:00 a.m.	St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Workshop on April 23 seeks to help churches save money, energy and God's Earth

Are you trying to find ways to save money at your church? Are you interested in learning ways to save energy? Are you trying to be good stewards of God's creation? Find out what other churches are doing in these areas during the "Save Money, Save Energy, Save God's Earth" workshop at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The one-day workshop on Thursday, April 23 is for representatives of churches of all faiths from the counties of Henderson, Union, Daviess, McLean, Ohio, Muhlenberg, and Hancock. The day is for pastors, maintenance personnel, parish councils, elders, education committees, or other interested members of the congregation.

Tim Darst, regional representative for Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light, will share ways to educate the congregation on energy issues and give examples of what other congregations across the United States are doing. Sister Amelia Stenger, developer of the GREENing Western Kentucky Project, will discuss environmental issues that effect all congregations, and give numerous ways to save money and energy at home. A representative of Kenergy energy cooperative will teach how to do an energy audit on the church and other buildings. He will give concrete ways to examine buildings to see how energy and money can be saved.

The cost for the day is \$20 per person, which includes lunch and materials. To register, contact Kathy McCarty, (270) 229-0200, or kmccarty@maplemount.org. Please register by April 18. The Retreat Center is 13 miles west of Owensboro on Kentucky 56. This workshop is a part of the GREENing Western Kentucky Project of Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

A Great Bargain!

By Ben Warrell

Is your family feeling the financial crunch? Are you looking for an affordable alternative for vacations this summer? Are you looking for a way to get your child closer to God? The answer to all of these questions is summer camp! The Diocese has a wonderful asset in the Gasper River Youth Camp. The cost for a week long session of summer camp is less than half of the national average for a week long camp experience. The campers eat great meals (lots and lots of compliments on the food after our first summer), learn new skills, participate in activities they can get nowhere else and, most importantly, their faith will grow while they are at camp. We had a parent call about two months after camp last year who said, "I don't know what you did with my kid but he talks about his faith all the time now. Thank you so much." It's not what we do; it's what God does to all the people who are involved with camp.

Our culture is saturated with messages that conflict with Church teaching. In fact, the average teenager is exposed to over 5,000 of these advertisements per day. One of the beautiful things about Gasper River is that all the media is cut off. There is no cell phone reception, no television, no internet, no texting, just a community of faith, fun and friends all centered on God. Every activity is processed, that is, related back to their faith in some way so that each camper can see that God is a part of every aspect of their lives, not just something to do in religion class or on a Sunday. The results are amazing. Every week last summer, there were tears on Friday from campers who didn't want to leave. They felt God so strongly at this place that they wanted to stay. We would talk to these young people and help explain to them that God is everywhere and they can feel God's presence more here because they don't have all the distractions they do at home. It's also a great teachable moment for how important it is to make time for God no matter where they are or what they are doing. That's one of our goals: have people come to Gasper River, learn about God and their faith and then take that back home to make a difference. We heard from several parents who could not get over the difference in their child from the time they dropped them off on Sunday and picked them up on Friday. The staff talked about how it's like a slice of Heaven, getting to see the Holy Spirit move in the campers throughout the week.

The summer camp opportunity is well worth the investment. Please check out our website at www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org for everything you need to register for summer camp and to check out our wish list. We are so thankful to all who have given to camp. Every gift helps keep our costs as affordable as possible. For all you get for your money, a week of summer camp is a great bargain!

2009 Summer Camp Schedule

Camp	Grades	Dates
Explorer Camp	Youth entering 3rd & 4th Grades	July 19th – July 22nd
Expedition Camp	Youth entering 5th & 6th Grades	June 14th – June 19th & June 21st – June 26th
Quest Camp	Youth entering 7th & 8th Grades	July 5th – July 10th
Camp LIFE	Youth entering 9-12th Grades	June 28th – July 3rd & July 12th – July 17th
Eucharistic Life Camp	Young adults 18 and over	June 1st – June 5th

Camp Ondessonk 50th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, April 18, 2009, 6:15 p.m.

Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Belleville, Illinois,
\$65 per person

Join Steve Jankowski, former KMOX Radio Personality and KSDK-TV reporter, who will serve as Master of Ceremonies for an evening of dinner, music, fun and reflection of the past 50 years. Bid on unique items in the silent and verbal auctions with auctioneer Dave Schumacher of Prindable Schumacher Auction Service. Begin the evening by celebrating Mass at the Shrine Church at 5:00 p.m. Specially priced lodging is available at the Shine Hotel. Registration information is available at www.ondessonk.com. Register for Summer Camp 2009!

Camp Ondessonk, the youth camp of the Diocese of Belleville, is taking registrations for our traditional rustic summer camps. Sessions are one week long and open to boys and girls ages 10-16. A special 3 day session for 8-9 year olds, and a Family Camp are available as well. Camp opens June 6, and runs for 9 weeks.

Two open houses will be held April 26 and May 3 from 11am-4pm. Call 618-689-2489 to register, or visit www.ondessonk.com.

Teens Encounter Christ

The Paschal Mystery in the Year of Saint Paul (Philemon)

By Father Eric D Riley, WKYTEC Spiritual Director, wkytec.org



As we continue our journey through the Holy Year of Saint Paul, 28 June 2008-29 June 2009, let us spend some time with the Letter of Saint Paul to Philemon. Saint Paul wrote this letter between AD 61 and 63. It is written to three individuals: "Philemon, our beloved and

our co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the Church at your house" (Philemon 1-2).

In this very short letter St Paul reminds us of some of the truths that are espoused by the TEC movement. Each one of us is gifted by God for a particular purpose in life. Every person baptized into Christ Jesus is baptized into His Mystical Body and has an important role to play in salvation history. Christ allows us to take part in His divine life by using our gifts and talents to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth. Christ invites us to make the world a better place by allowing the grace of Christ to manifest itself through our Christian witness.

No one is "useless" in the Kingdom of God, as St Paul uses a play on words in the Letter to Philemon when referring to the Christian slave "Onesimus" which may be translated as "useful." Paul is pointing out to Philemon that the one who may have been useless in the past because of his actions of disobedience toward Philemon, his master, has become useful in the work of furthering the Kingdom of God. Paul challenges Philemon to receive his slave back as a brother Christian, to forgive his transgression and to allow him to continue to be "useful" in the work of the Kingdom. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ and should never look down upon anyone as less than or useless in the Family of God. All of us are precious, gifted children of God whose worth does not depend upon what we can produce, but the fact that we are chosen by God and adopted into His Family, making all of us heirs to the Kingdom. We have worth because we are precious unto the Almighty God. Therefore, we must treat others with the respect that children of God deserve. By respecting the dignity of others we will also share with Christ in inspiring them to become the truest expression of themselves which will help them to become loosed from the deceit of the Devil and the shackles of sin.

We are called, like Philemon, to set captives free. No human being deserves to be enslaved. By our very nature each one is called to live life to the full in the image and likeness of God. By helping one another to encounter the love and mercy of Christ, by supporting one another in seeking the True and the Good, by setting examples of how to live in the Freedom Christ has gained for us we are answering the call of Christ in the TEC movement.

Together in Christ let us release the captives so that we may all live in the Freedom of the Kingdom of God.



Body Language:

Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture

By Christopher West

Technology and Human Conception

When Nadya Suleman gave birth to octuplets earlier this year, the Internet was abuzz with debates about the reproductive technology industry. But the debates focused primarily on how many embryos should be allowed to be transferred to a woman's body. Very few seemed to be asking the more fundamental question: Should we be producing children in a laboratory at all?

The pain and even anguish of infertile couples mustn't be undermined. However, as good as the desire for children is in itself, it doesn't justify any and every means of "getting" a child. The church's basic moral principle regarding reproductive technologies is this: if a given technology assists the marital embrace in achieving its natural end, it can be morally acceptable, even praiseworthy. However, if it replaces the marital embrace as the means by which the child is conceived, it's not in keeping with God's design.

Separating conception from the loving embrace of husband and wife not only provokes many further evils, but, even if these are avoided, it remains contrary to the dignity of the child, the dignity of the spouses and their relationship, and man's status as a creature. Let's look briefly at each (for further discussion, see my book "Good News About Sex and Marriage" (Servant, 2004)).

(1) Provokes further evils: Separating conception from the marital embrace doesn't necessarily entail the following evils, but more often than not it leads to them in practice: masturbation as a means of obtaining sperm; production of "excess" human lives that are either destroyed through abortion, frozen for later "use," or intentionally farmed for medical experimentation; an "eugenic mentality" that discriminates between human beings, not treating all with equal care and dignity; the trafficking of gametes (both sperm and ova) and frozen embryos for use by others.

(2) The dignity of the child: To seek a child as the end result of a technological procedure is to treat the child in some way as a product. For those involved, this creates – consciously or unconsciously, subtly or not so subtly – a depersonalized orientation towards the child. Products are subject to quality control. When you spend top dollar for a new computer, you want it in mint condition. You don't care about the specific computer you pulled out of the box. You want one that works. If it's defective, you'll take it back for a refund or exchange it for another one.

Similarly, the temptation is all too real for a couple paying thousands (even tens of thousands) of dollars for these procedures to want a "refund" or an "exchange" if their "product" is defective. I don't mean to imply that every couple who pays for these procedures stoops to this level. The temptation to apply "quality controls" can be resisted. But a depersonalizing mindset is built into the very nature of the procedure.

(3) The dignity of the spouses and their relationship: The technological generation of human life is simply not marital. In other words, the child is not the fruit of his parent's marital union, but the product of a technological procedure performed by a third party apart from their union altogether. As a former professor of mine put it, "Spouses can no more delegate to others the privilege they have of begetting human life than they can delegate to others the right they have to engage in the marital act" (William May, "Marriage: The Rock on Which the Family Is Built," Ignatius Press, 1995).

The marital embrace is not simply the biological transmission of gametes. It is a profoundly personal, sacramental, physical and spiritual reality. To divorce human conception from this sublime union shows a lack of understanding of the deepest essence of married love.

(4) Man's status as a creature: God alone is the "Lord and Giver of Life." Spouses have the distinct privilege of co-operating with God in pro-creating children, but, as creatures themselves, they aren't the masters of life. They're only the servants of God's design. Through technological fertilization, we set ourselves up as operators instead of co-operators, creators instead of pro-creators. We deny our status as creatures and make ourselves "like God."

None of this is said to condemn anyone. We simply "know not what we do." The church, following Christ, proclaims mercy to all. But truth must be spoken. And as we come closer and closer to Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World," the church's teaching on reproductive technologies appears more and more like true wisdom than mere fingerwagging.

Pilgrims of Hope Meeting



Pilgrims of Hope is a lay association of the faithful, working in community to facilitate the relationship between the Diocese of Owensboro and the Church in Jamaica.

You need not have taken a mission trip to Mandeville to join us in our efforts to pray for and respond to "the cries of the poor" in Jamaica. Join us for prayer, study, and reflection on missionary spirituality and contribute your enthusiasm for assisting the missions of Jamaica in their work for the poor.

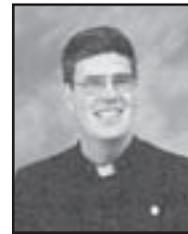
When: Saturday, April 4, 2009

Where: Christ the King Catholic Church in Madisonville, Ky.

Time: 1-3 pm.

Catholic Ecumenism

Catholic Ecumenism – Part 2 - Lessons from the Decree on Ecumenism



**By Fr. Tony Bickett,
Ecumenical Officer**

This is the second article in a series that I am writing to share with you what the Catholic Church teaches us about ecumenism. The first chapter of the Second Vatican Council Decree on Ecumenism concerns principles which guide Catholics in our work towards the restoration of unity among all Christians.

The decree begins with considering what we share in common with other Christians. For the most part the Apostles' Creed summarizes the core of our common faith. All Christians profess belief in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Jesus came to give us new life and to unite the whole human race. At the Last Supper, on the night before he died, Jesus prayed to his Father for all who would believe in him: "so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me" (John 17:21).

The Decree then reminds us of the gift of the Eucharist, which both signifies and makes real the visible unity we share in Christ. Also at the Last supper Jesus gave his followers a new commandment to love one another.

After the resurrection Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to be our advocate and to gather us together into his body, the Church, and into a visible unity of faith, hope, and charity.

St. Paul, while he was in prison, also prayed for the visible unity in the Church. St. Paul encouraged the Christians at Ephesus to bear "with one another through love,

striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

The Apostle teaches us that "there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all." (Ephesians 4:4-6). In baptism we have been made one in Christ Jesus.

The Decree stresses that it is the Holy Spirit who guides Church unity. There are different gifts but only one Holy Spirit.

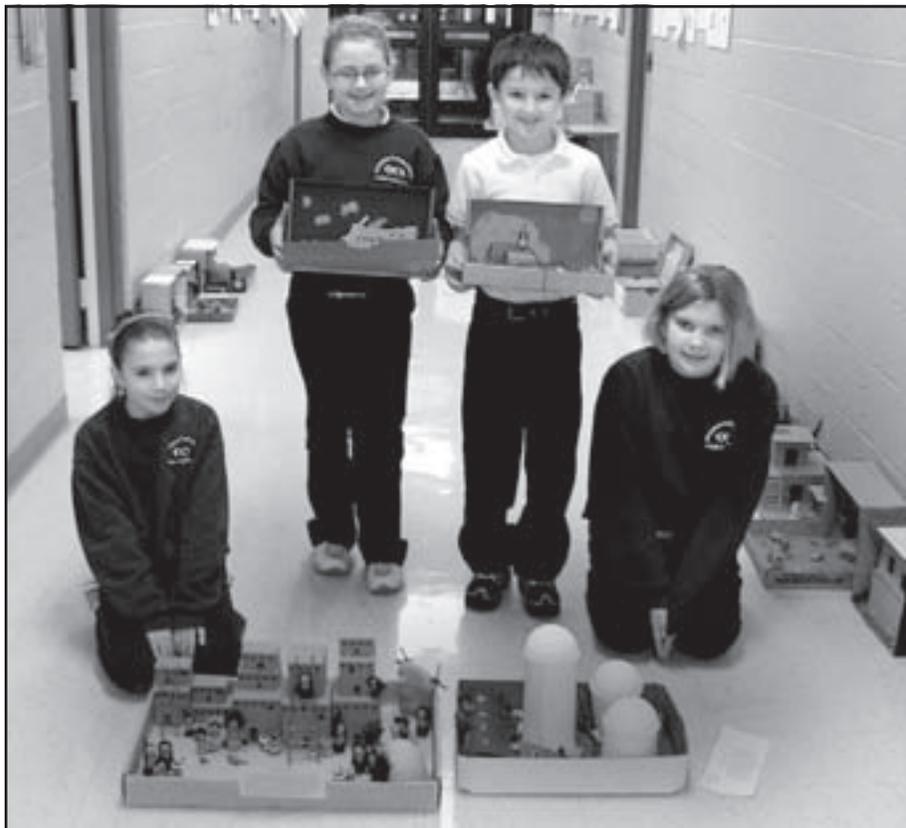
The Church was established by Jesus Christ and built upon the eye witness and faith of his twelve apostles. Their successors, the bishops, have continued to lead the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless Jesus Christ remains forever the chief cornerstone and the shepherd of our souls.

In this spiritual work of ecumenism it is important to remember that divisions among Christians are not new. Even Jesus had to deal with rivalries among his own twelve. From the very beginning there arose certain rifts which the Apostles had to address and work toward reconciliation.

The Decree tells us that people born into Protestant Churches today cannot be accused of separation and that we must embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. All who are baptized are members of Christ's body and are in communion with the Catholic Church even though this communion is less than the fullness desired.

The Catholic Church acknowledges that many means to salvation exist outside of the Catholic Church including the Scriptures, the working of the Holy Spirit and the quest for Truth. And yet we believe that the Catholic Church has been entrusted with the fullest means of salvation for all seekers.

Your help is needed in the work of ecumenism. Get involved and contact me at ftonyb@yahoo.com or go to <http://www.owensborodio.org/ecumenism.html>



Students in Mrs. Salisbury's 4th Grade Social Studies classes at the Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus made dioramas depicting events that happened in the western region of the United States. Maggie Booth, Allie Kuntz, Will James and Maleia Ward show their dioramas. OCS Photo

EMPTY BOWLS 2009

Thursday, April 23, 6:30 pm

Settle Memorial United Methodist Church, 4th & Daviess St, Owensboro

Choose a bowl made by local potters, share a meal of homemade soup & bread. Your donation of \$15 supports this community project to raise money for local hunger prevention efforts.

Keep the bowl as a reminder of hunger in the world.

A joint project of Brescia University Art Department and local volunteers.



Brescia University Alumni Weekend 2009

Brescia University's Third Annual Alumni Weekend is scheduled for April 17-18, 2009. Friday evening's festivities will include the dedication of Alumni Hall, dinner in the Quad, and dancing around the fountain. Saturday will include a brunch honoring alumni who are veterans and the 2009 annual alumni award recipients. Alumni Weekend will culminate with a reception and banquet Saturday evening recognizing our previously-honored and new Distinguished Alumni. The deadline to register is April 6th. For a registration form or more information, visit www.brescia.edu or contact Josh Clary at (270) 686-2111.



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Vocation Director
Sister Alicia Coomes



Ursuline Sisters
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8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Ky. 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org
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Owensboro Catholic High School National Honor Society Named Kentucky's Outstanding Chapter

The Francis R. Cotton Chapter of the National Honor Society at Owensboro Catholic High School took top honors at the recently completed State convention of high school NHS chapters. The categories in which the Chapter excelled were: Visual Arts – 1st Place Taryn Thompson; Painting – 1st Place: Paul Brown; Speech – 2nd Place Parker Whitehouse; Variety Show – 1st Place Swing Dance (Whitney Kirkwood, Garrett Booth, Adam Haynes, Meredith Mullican, Parker Whitehouse, Kate McNulty, Maggie Glaser, Adam Clark); English – 1st Place, Melinda Thompson; Academics – 1st Place, Quiz Bowl, (David Hardy, Paul Brown, Michael Ringlein, Al Smith, Melinda Thompson); Chapter Scrapbook – 1st Place, Outstanding Service Project – Play Pump; Kentucky's Outstanding Chapter – OCHS NHS. The National Honor Society is based on the four pillars of its charter; academic achievement, service, leadership, and character. The club is sponsored by Bev Howard and Kurt Osborne. Photo by Mel Howard



OCHS Foreign Language Students Compete in Foreign Language Regional Festival at Western Kentucky University

Congratulations to the OCHS Foreign Language students (picture at left) who placed in regional competition at Western Kentucky University on February 27.

Spanish - Cultural Video - 1st place - Melinda Thompson, Jessica Ralph, Colleen Berry, Michael Ringlein, Robert Payne, Kate McNulty and Kaley Robertson .

German – Reading: 1st place - David Hardy; 2nd place - Michael Ringlein; 3rd place - Taryn Thompson; German Dance - 1st Place - David Hardy,; Chelsea McFarland, Katie Oakes, Adam Reynolds, Michael Ringlein, Taryn Thompson, Alex Tignor, Jordyn Mosley.

French II - Literary Recitation – 2nd Place – Chris Hayden; Oral Proficiency – 3rd Place – Chris Hayden; Dialogue – 3rd Place - Peyton Booth and Allen Rakotoniaina ; Listening Proficiency; 2nd Place - Allie Payne 3rd Place - Stacey Schepers; Writing Proficiency – 2nd Place – Alec Bahnick; Reading Proficiency – 2nd Place – Will Bickett.

French V - Reading Proficiency – 1st Place - Kristin Miller ; Listening Proficiency; 1st Place – Kristin Miller; 2nd Place – Paul Brown; Individual Cultural Project – 1st Place - Ryan Knott.

Individual Art – 3rd Place – Paul Brown-Group Cultural Project – 1st Place – Kristin Miller, Ryan Knott and Paul Brown

OCHS Band Receives Distinguished Rating – KMEA 2nd District Concert Band Festival

Congratulations to the OCHS Concert Band on receiving a Distinguished Rating at the 2nd District Kentucky Music Educators Association Concert Band Festival on Tuesday, March 10. The band also received a Distinguished Rating in the sightreading portion of the competition. The Distinguished Rating is the highest rating a band can achieve.

Participating students were: Nathan Lasley, Megan Alvey, Kevin Thompson, Emily Rose, Martha Hughes, Marissa Wilson, Morgan Oller, Jacob Wood, Erin Ballard, Michael Crowe, Melinda Thompson, JT Wells, Wren Osborne, Alex Riccio, Rae Bennett, Keilan Rone, Michael Decker, Jennifer Phillips, Cory Burdette, Paul Brown, Alex Coomes, Kent McCarthy, Hunter Steele, Dylan McKay, Charissa Storm, Adam Wahl, and Austin Johnson. The Concert Band is directed by Ed and Katie Hauser. OCS Photo

Bishop McRaith is a kid at heart. I say this, and I can prove it.

In the late fall of 1993, I was class sponsor to a group of active, fun-loving sophomores at Owensboro Catholic High School. We wanted to have some kind of social gathering that, according to the kids, was "something we hadn't done." Bishop McRaith had told me several times he would love to have the students come out to his farm for a visit. When I approached him about a hay ride and marshmallow roast, he was as enthusiastic as the teenagers.

So one cold autumn night I loaded about 50 of them on an OCHS bus and we hit the road for the St. Raphael area where we were met by the bishop and his two assistants, Cloe and Mike Thompson. Bishop McRaith had his tractor hooked up to a trailer, and it was full of bales of straw. He welcomed the kids and told them to get aboard. They scrambled on and took off, leaving several parents and me to tend the fire and get the hot chocolate and marshmallows and sticks ready.

Bishop McRaith took the kids all around the area. We could hear them laughing and squealing and singing as they traveled with the biggest kid of all. After a long wait they returned, their breaths steaming in the cold night air, and everyone grabbed a stick and a marshmallow and began the roasting. After a cup of hot chocolate, the



kids began with "Let's do it again! Let's do it again!"

I was hesitant to overstay our welcome and figured that the Bishop had better things to do than to haul a bunch of boisterous teens behind his tractor. So my response was, "No. No. We've got to get going back to town."

And then I heard more "Please, Miss Mac, one more ride. Please!" And above the shrill voices of the sophomores a deeper voice came from the man sitting on the tractor, louder than all the rest. "Please, Miss Mac, one more ride!"

And they took one more ride. What a wonderful impression of their bishop those kids experienced that night!

Before we left, we gave Bishop McRaith and his assistants each an Honorary Sophomore

t-shirt. Sometimes I think we should have added to the Bishop's shirt the words, "A Kid At Heart."

- Mary Hilda McFarland

Owensboro Catholic High's Honorary Sophomores Bishop John McRaith and his two assistants, Cloe and Mike Thompson posed for Miss Mac's camera in 1993.

At left, a hard-working pair, Bishop John McRaith on his John Deere. Submitted Photos



J.M.J.

The Burial

The cemetery
lay peaceful and quiet.
The blanket of snow
covered it with beauty and warmth.
It was a place of waiting.
It was a place of meditation.
Today
it was a place of gathering.
All who came were silent
save one
who was completely silent
yet in silence spoke clearly.

Footprints in the snow.
Many footprints,
all in one direction,
all toward a special place.
It must be a sacred place
for all footprints lead to it.
The footprints
gathered in one spot.
There was a waiting.
There must have been a good-bye
for the footprints showed
a lingering.
The snow was pressed
into the ground.
All footprints were as one
as all were present
for one
who was present no more
yet present
beyond footprints.
She had walked her journey.
All footprints were one for a time,
uniting in a pause.

Then footprints again
in pairs or groups of three
all away from the gathering spot,
away from a sacred place,
the grave
where one who was loved
had been reverently placed.
Memories would long linger
of this reverent act of burial.
One who was loved
was laid gently
in the loving arms of mother earth.
Earth- mother,
received her daughter
to hold till the call of resurrection.

As the delicate snow
would adorn the cemetery
until called by the warmth of the sun
to new living,
so her body
would lay
embraced in the arms of mother earth
until called by the Father of life
at the end of time.

Footprints
leading away from
the sacred place were lighter,
dancing to the music of hope,
for she
whose body was reverently placed
in the arms of mother earth
sang with angels.

Finis.

- Msgr Bernard Powers



Boys Diocesan Basketball Tournament Champs

Holy Name's 8th grade boys' basketball team won the Diocesan tournament held in January. Pictured above in front row: Marshall Chandler, Demetrius Carter, Isaac Wilkerson, Quin Thomas Back row: Head coach Bruce Thomas, Alex Wimber, Edwin Parrillas, Chad Sellars, Asst. coach Kim Terry, Alex Partenheimer, Carlos Merino, Asst. coach Justin Scott. Holy Name defeated St. Romuald in the championship game. Owensboro Catholic Middle placed third, St. Joseph of Bowling Green placed fourth, and St. Ann of Morganfield won the consolation bracket. Submitted by Mary Caton

2009 Chrism Mass Announcement

Following consultation with the College of Consultors and the Office of Worship, the decision has been made to change the venue of the diocesan Chrism Mass during this time sede vacante.

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. Please limit your invitees to clergy plus three representatives from each parish/religious institute. A light luncheon will follow the Mass in the Undercroft. The blessed oils may be picked up in the Undercroft as well. For further information, please contact Martha Hagan, 270-683-1545 or e-mail martha.hagan@pastoral.org.

- Very Rev. J. Michael Clark, Diocesan Administrator

Welcome, RCIA Candidates and Catechumens

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Michael and Audra Foster family have been going through the RCIA process at Our Lady of Lourdes. The mother, Audra Foster, is already a fully initiated Catholic. The father, Michael Foster, and oldest daughter, Olivia Foster, have been baptized in the Baptist faith and will be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church at Easter. Michael will also receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Olivia is attending Owensboro Catholic Middle School this year as a 7th grader and will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year with the other 8th graders. The youngest children, Alexa and

Seth Foster, will be baptized at Easter, and Alexa will receive her First Communion. Not only are the Fosters a beautiful family sharing in their faith, but they closely resemble the way the early Church functioned in welcoming whole families into the Church. This picture was taken at the Rite of Acceptance here at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

L to R, back row: Audra Foster (fully initiated Catholic), Michael Foster (Candidate); front row: Olivia Foster (Candidate), Alexa Foster (Catechumen), and Seth Foster (Catechumen). Submitted by Drew Hardesty, DRE, for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



In Your Charity, Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Norbert Clifton Howard

Norbert Clifton Howard, born July 6, 1930, in Whitesville, died March 7, 2009, in Frankfort, after a long illness. Cliff did coursework and held degrees from the following universities: St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind., University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. Cliff spent 13 years as a Roman Catholic priest, teacher, counselor, and school administrator in the Diocese of Owensboro.



Upon retiring from the priesthood, Cliff married Joan Emily Hixson of Lexington and they settled in Frankfort. He then went to work in state government at the Cabinet for Human Resources. He was a lifelong counselor to many individuals in need, which included work at Frankfort Regional Medical Center and New Decisions. Cliff has served on numerous boards and civic clubs in his home communities, most notably a longtime volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America.

He started teaching history in 1957, which sparked an interest in the American Civil War. For the last 24 years he and his wife studied Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, trying to understand our country from the president's perspective. He often said that "Peace is the answer." He has been the recipient of numerous

national and local awards throughout his career.

Cliff is survived by his wife of 38 years, Joan Emily Hixson Howard; three children, Mary Howard, Doug Howard (Karen), of Frankfort, and Angela Howard Fay (Chip) of Big Rapids, Mich.; and four grandchildren, Maddie, Graham, Lucy, and Alex. He is also survived by a sister, Marcella Howard Schepers of Whitesville and brothers David Howard of Whitesville, Joseph Howard of Bardstown, John C. Howard of Owensboro, Mac Howard of Vine Grove and Steve Howard of Jasper, Ind. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Elve Payne and John Louis Howard

of Whitesville; and two brothers, Francis Howard of Moorestown, N.J., and Louis Howard of Murray, Ky.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on March 10, 2009 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Frankfort by pastor Fr. Charles Hollowell with three Owensboro diocesan priests concelebrating: Fr. Joe Mills, Fr. Phil Riney, and Msgr. Bernard Powers. Burial was in the Lexington Cemetery.

If one wishes to make a donation, please consider Mother Catherine Marie, CP, at St. Joseph Passionist Monastery, 8564 Crisp Road, Whitesville, KY 42378, or the Mary Todd Lincoln House at P.O. Box 132, Lexington, KY 40588.

Church encouraged to use digital media, teach ethical communication

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As the Catholic Church works to become more present in the new digital media, it also must help teach people to be ethical communicators, said Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state. Formation is crucial, he said, especially now that the world of communication is crossing new "frontiers that are in need of serious ethical grounding." The cardinal's remarks came March 13 at the end of a five-day meeting in Rome to discuss how the church should respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by modern media. One aim of the gathering was to set the groundwork for a possible document by the council that would update its 1992 pastoral instruction, "Aetatis Novae" ("At the Dawn of a New Era"). In his talk, Cardinal Bertone said that the world has recently experienced enormous revolutions in communication technology that have "radically transformed, if not overturned," the media and communications landscape. Any kind of new document or instruction "would be of little service without the constant contribution of educating pastoral workers -- priests, religious, laypeople -- who are personally involved in the field of media," he said.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration



**At the Chapel of Divine Mercy
Sunday, April 19th, 2009, 2 - 4 PM**

Blessing and Veneration of Divine Mercy Image, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (at 3:00 PM), Homily, Prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Confessions heard throughout the Service.

**Fathers of Mercy / 806 Shaker Museum Rd. / Auburn, KY 42206
www.fathersofmercy.com**

Welcome, RCIA Candidates and Catechumens

Welcome to Saints Joseph and Paul Church!

In the picture at near right, Lacy Rogers will be welcomed into the Catholic Church this Easter. She is one of three catechumens anticipating their baptism at Sts. Joe and Paul. She has appreciated the support of the community and especially that of her sponsor, Dianne West, a Sts. Joe and Paul parishioner.

In the picture at far right, we see Wayne Arnett (catechumen) with his wife and sponsor, Charlotte. Both photos submitted by Kristi Butler for Sts Joseph and Paul Parish.



Lacy Rogers, at right, with her sponsor, Dianne West.



Wayne Arnett (catechumen) with his wife and sponsor, Charlotte.



Father Tony Jones, pastor of Parish of The Immaculate, assisted by Pete Day, stopped at the 12th Station during recent Stations of the Cross at Immaculate. Dave McBride photo



Father Tony Jones prayed with catechumens and candidates during the 10 A.M. Mass Rite of Sending at The Immaculate Church in Owensboro. From left, Michelle Morris, Kevin McDonough, Kaylynn Thomas, Joey Hatfield, Jak McCormick, Amy Cook, Nick Boling, Mason Nofsinger, and Evan Harvey. These are nine of the 28 who are preparing for Easter Sacraments. Photo by Dave McBride

A Men's Day Out

In the photos above and below here, the annual 'Dogs and Suds' Party for men only was held one week prior to Super Sunday at Parish of the Immaculate in Owensboro.

The event featured a lot of food, a bean bag throwing contest and games of chance for those inclined. Father Tony Jones, pastor, started the event as a means of providing those men interested with having their own day out. Dave McBride Photos



Jason Baize, Parish of The Immaculate's Youth Minister, registered youngsters at the parish's Family Center. Photo by Dave McBride

Welcome, RCIA Candidates and Catechumens

By Michael Chestnut

PADUCAH, Ky. - Sunday, St. Thomas More Parish here celebrated the Rite of Sending at the 11AM Mass, which is an important way to connect the RCIA candidates and the parish. As Lent is near, Parishioners are encouraged by the example of faith of the candidates to renew their devotion in their own Lenten observances. The catechumens and candidates are encouraged by the support and prayers of the parishioners, whom they are beginning to see more fully as "their family." The catechumens and candidates gave voice to this in our time of sharing after the dismissal, as well as their longing for full communion at Easter. Each year I overhear parishioners describing their excitement about those entering the Church and how they have strengthened the faith of lifelong Catholics. This is certainly true of the sponsors and those that work directly with RCIA.

The Rite of Sending is a way to connect the parish with the Diocesan celebration of the Rite of Election (which was celebrated later in the afternoon at Rosary Chapel). Ordinarily celebrated by the bishop, this year the Rite

was celebrated by our Diocesan Administrator, the Reverend Mike Clark.

At this ritual the catechumens are presented, they and their sponsors are questioned as to their readiness, they sign the Book of the Elect, and then are elected to the Easter sacraments – and are henceforward referred to as the Elect. This grants them certain canonical privileges and connects them in their formation to the diocese.

The candidates, already our brothers and sisters in Baptism, are presented, questioned with their sponsors as to their readiness, and welcomed. An opportunity to share testimony by sponsors and others was given, and many of them shared the moving stories of people's journey to Catholicism as well as how much the sponsor's spiritual lives had been enriched by the faith and courage of their candidates.

As one who has made the journey to Catholicism, it is a great gift and joy to accompany others on their journey and I am so proud of each one in our RCIA this year for their courage in their respective journeys to continually say "yes" to the Holy Spirit and follow where He leads.



Above, St. Thomas More, Paducah, Ky. Parish Director of RCIA/Adult Formation, Michael Chestnut, names the Catechumens and Candidates. At top right, a picture of the whole group - 1st Row: Susan Ybarzabal, Kim Olsen, Christian Waggoner, Tammy Roberts, Emeline Ojeda, Isabella Ojeda, Annetta Dale; 2nd Row: Jim Shumaker, Suzanne Yopp, Beth Walker, Melanie Brewer, Heather Overby, Heather Cook, Lille Watson, Beth Ojeda, Sr. Lucy, Albert Dale; 3rd Row: Todd Nelson, Jay Page, Emmy Lax, Jacob Hein, Gene Young, Todd Ojeda, Jennifer Guess, Joel Guess; 4th Row: Rose Ann Walker, Lauren Adams, Joan Wientjes, Michael Chesnut, Lori Wiggins, Fr. Pat; Jim O'Rourke, Lisa O'Rourke, Ernie Mitchell, Holly Shockley, Chris Shockley. In the picture at lower right, Fr. J. Patrick Reynolds sends Catechumens and Candidates on to the Rite of Election. Missy Eckenberg Photos



The St. Thomas More RCIA Rite Of Sending Catechumens For Election and Candidates For Recognition By The Bishop was celebrated Sunday, 22 February 2009. The list of Catechumens are: Annetta Dale – With Albert Dale; Tammy Roberts – With Lillie Watson; Susan Ybarzabal – With Heather Overby; Christian Waggoner – With Heather Cook; Emeline Ojeda – With Maria Avra; Isabella Ojeda – With Sr. Lucy (Stand In). The list of Candidates are: Beth Ojeda – With Maria Avra; Todd Ojeda – With Ernie Mitchell; Bret Avra – Michael Chesnut; Phillip Bradberry – With Laloni Schmitz; Melanie Brewer – With Beth Walker; Ansly Ellis – With Kevin Wurth; Robert Frensley – With Judy Frensley; Jennifer Guess – With Holly Shockley; Joel Guess – With Chris Shockley; Jacob Hein – With Lori Wiggins; Emmy Lax – With Joan Wientjes; Todd Nelson – With Rose Ann Walker; Lisa O'rourke – With Jim O'rourke; Kim Olsen – With Heather Cook; Jay Page – With Lauren

Adams; Suzanne Yopp – With Jim Shumaker; Harry (Gene) Young – With Mabel.

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - Lent and Easter are just around the corner. For all Catholics Lent is a time of looking inward to review our relationship to God. It is a time to recommit our selves through prayer and penance to a deeper relationship. Many weeks before Lent there are individuals who have begun a journey that will lead them to a deeper relationship with God through embracing the Catholic faith. These candidates and catechumens have been meeting with the RCIA team and their sponsors weekly on this journey of formation that will reach a climax at the Easter Vigil when they will receive the sacraments of initiation. Those who have not previously been baptized will be baptized, all will be confirmed and receive the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. Each individual making this journey has a sponsor. Being a sponsor is like being a trusted friend. A sponsor accompanies the candidate or catechumen on this journey, offering support, prayer and allowing the Holy Spirit work through him/her to accomplish His will.

Sister Martha Keller explained, "One of the most rewarding experiences in my 16 years involvement in the initiation process is watching the movement of God in the lives of those who are attracted to the Catholic faith. Each person has a unique story of coming to an awareness of God's call to consider this rich expression of faith. My role as director is to invite them to deepen this awareness of God's call and share with them our Catholic story to see if it resonates with their own desires and story. It is an amazing journey, always with some marvelous moments of conversion and transformation not only within the heart of those who inquire about our faith, but always within my own heart. It is a great privilege to welcome such faith filled people to our community of faith and work with such faith filled sponsors and team who readily share the treasure of the Catholic faith and their relationship with God."

Jane Blaine was asked to be a sponsor for one of the candidates. "When Sister Martha asked me to be a sponsor my first thought was that I couldn't do it, it was too much responsibility. I seldom go out in the evening and she was talking about every Tuesday night until Easter. My second thought was she just couldn't find anyone else. Sister suggested I take a few days and pray about it and she offered to give me a booklet that explains what being a sponsor really means. My third thought was it wouldn't hurt to read it. When I began to pray for discernment I found the Holy Spirit alive and quite active. He helped bring to mind the many gifts God had freely given me; the precious gift of faith that was the glue, which held me together; the experiences of a long-lived life with the ups and downs and the all arounds of raising a large family. After all of these, how could I say 'no' I won't share my gifts?" Jane added, "It's been a couple of months since the formation meetings began and I am very blessed. Instead of thinking I don't want to go out



L to R, back row - Howard Travis, Ted Hendrickson, Sr. Martha Keller, Christine Bickerstaff, Robert Alexander, Marty Hill; L-R, front row - Martha O'Neill, Rita Walter, Solly Hendrickson, Susan Myrick, Ann Hedden, Jane Blaine. Edie Keeney Photo

tonight, I now look forward to being together with the group and hearing the honest heartfelt questions the candidates ask and to witness their growing faith."

Ann Hedden commented, "This is the first time I have been a sponsor and it has been the greatest joy and blessing that I have experienced. As you walk the journey with your candidate seeing hearts and minds opened to learning the Catholic faith you find how much your faith is being enriched. You begin to see how God has begun His work through you. It has been a real blessing." Ted and Soledad (Solly) Hendrickson shared their thoughts about being sponsors, "God called me through Sister Martha to be a sponsor. We all have God's grace. His grace is not for keeping, it is for sharing," Solly said. Ted remarked, "I am a convert myself and I know that RCIA can sometimes seem awkward and difficult. The fellowship, support and testimonials of the team and sponsors made conversion a wonderful spiritual experience that never stops."

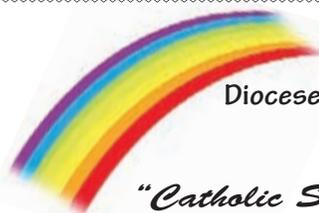
Robert Alexander shared this about his experience,

"To be able to be a sponsor is such a gift from God. Witnessing young adults seeking Him, many about the age of Jesus when He was crucified. It is a very humbling experience to be allowed to share these special moments; to share the word of God from heart to heart. God rewards

those who diligently seek Him." Laura Shaw spoke about her experience as a RCIA sponsor, "It has been a powerful time. I have relearned my Catholic history, Sacraments and doctrine. As a product of a Catholic home and 12 years of Catholic education I had heard and learned these beliefs and values before but hearing them and exploring them with a searching candidate has been a truly enlightening time and has rekindled a deeper love for my Church. I have been blessed and honored by being with the RCIA group. I strive to live my Catholic faith every moment and this experience has added a deeper and beautiful dimension of faith for me. For me to witness another person developing a relationship with Jesus and the Catholic Church has been powerful, exciting and an awe-inspiring experience."

David Hadfield commented, "In my mind a perfect example of pure faith has always been when I have watched young children making their first Holy Communion, I see the look on their faces as they come away from the altar. They look so happy and wonderful. However, last Easter, I myself had an overwhelming

experience watching my wife making her first Holy Communion. That is when I made up my mind that I wanted to play a part in the RCIA program. This gives me time to make my faith grow and to have a small part in the wonderful journey into the Catholic faith that the candidates are making. This is my second time to be a sponsor."



Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools

Rainbow Mass

"Catholic Schools Celebrate Service"

You are invited to celebrate with the Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools at the 2009 Rainbow Mass on Thursday, April 30.

Mass will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Owensboro Sportscenter, 1215 Hickman Avenue, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Bishop McRaith's life of ministry guided by Holy Spirit

By Matt Weafer

For Bishop John McRaith, retirement won't be much different than the past 26 years. He'll have fewer responsibilities, especially when the new bishop takes his seat as administrator of the 32-county diocese, but those responsibilities were just a part of God's calling.

Bishop McRaith's main job was to let the Holy Spirit work through him to spread the Good News, the love of Jesus Christ, which he will continue to do in retirement.

Even as the leader of the diocese, Bishop McRaith said he never felt like he was in control.

"When I think that I'm in charge," he said, "I'm in trouble. . . . We have to go back and remember that the Holy Spirit is in charge of the mission of the church." And he defined that mission simply as spreading God's love.

"When I realize through my faith that I know God is in charge then I know I only have to do the best I can," he said. "And that doesn't mean I don't make mistakes. We all make mistakes."

For just more than a quarter of a century, Bishop McRaith dedicated his life to spreading the Good News in the Diocese of Owensboro, reaching out to the people that needed it most.

Sister Joseph Angela Boone, Director of Administration, said, "He has started a lot of ministries in the diocese that had never been here before."

Some of the ministries the bishop helped found include the Family Life Office, the Communications Office, the Social Concerns Office, the Religious Education Office, the Office of Wisdom, the Stewardship Office, and the Safe Environment Office.

"He has been a very strong advocate for Hispanic ministry," Sr. Joseph Angela said. "Another big thing that he has accomplished was getting just wages for the employees in the diocese, including staff and teachers." But his most admirable trait, she said, was his patience with the people of the diocese, especially in administrative positions.

When he founded the Diocesan Pastoral Council, which currently has about 30 people from eight deaneries, Sr. Joseph Angela said, organizing the body into a coherent focus was difficult at its inception in the late 80s.

"His patience in trying to get that started was unbelievable," she said.

The Bishop's goal for this council



Our retired Bishop John McRaith made a note to himself at a desk in his residence in Owensboro. Matt Weafer Photo

was to bring forth concerns and suggestions from the grassroots level from parishes and deaneries.

"(But the members') reasons for being there was to carry out the mandates of the bishop," Sr. Joseph Angela said. "But he did not mandate things. He wanted solutions to come from the grassroots."

Sr. Joseph Angela recounted her first meeting with the Diocesan Pastoral Council: "It was prior to 1989 when I came. One member said, 'Bishop, just tell us what you want us to do, and we'll do it.' That's not what he wanted. He wanted the people in the pews to come up with ideas. He wanted the body of the church to be aware of what needed to be done. He was very very collaborative."

Fr. John Vaughan said, "He's a great listener and believes in broad consultation. That's one of his trademarks that has served us well."

Bishop McRaith treated consultation not as a challenge but as a necessity to truly let the Holy Spirit work through the Diocese.

"We are a people with diverse abilities and diverse roles with a lot of questions," Bishop McRaith said. "And the Holy Spirit or God or Jesus expects us to live as one body. That will always be the challenge, not to let petty differences get in the way of serious work that needs to be done and to bring the Good News to all the people of God."

Catholic Schools Superintendent Jim Mattingly remembered Bishop McRaith saying in one of his homilies at CPC morning Mass, "We don't have to have all the answers. But if we have faith in God, the Spirit will lead us to the answers."

While Bishop McRaith accomplished much during his time with the Diocese, he takes credit for very little. "I just have immense gratitude for how the people have accepted me and how they have worked with me and how they have helped me grow in

the model of God," he said. "There's a real sadness in leaving the ministry that I did have as the bishop, though I'll still be a bishop."

For the next year, Bishop McRaith will still help with confessions and the Chrism Mass or "whatever they want me to do," he said. "I'll wait to be asked."

With so many years invested into the dioceses, Bishop McRaith said picking out a favorite memory was too difficult. "There are so many things that have happened over those 26 plus years," he said, "some of it very very exciting and challenging, but generally we've had some great celebrations."

He said some of his favorite celebrations were when people traveled from across the diocese to celebrate as one. He also said one thing he wished he could have devoted more time to during his ministry was ecumenism.

"We've tried to put a great emphasis on the need for unity and oneness both in how we live out our lives whether bishop or priest or laity," he said, "but also it's an absolute essential to carry out the mission of the church. So there's been great effort put into building a sense of unity and culture of unity, if you will. How effective it's been only God can judge that."

The group of people that will directly feel the effects of the Bishop retiring the most is the staff that works with him every day. "I'm going to miss working with the staff and working closely with the priests and the consultative bodies, and the laity I'll miss a lot," he said.

Sr. Joseph Angela said, "He has great devotion to the liturgy and is generous in celebrating the Eucharist with the staff here as often as he possibly can whenever he is available. That was one of his great contributions, I thought, that made him so great. He wanted to celebrate the Eucharist everyday. I appreciated it and a lot of other people did too."

For the future, Bishop McRaith said he will say Mass where he's invited or in his chapel. He also said that while he has lived at his house on 5th St. his entire career with the Diocese, the new bishop has the choice to live there. "If he would want the house," Bishop McRaith said, "he would have the right to have it. If he doesn't, I would probably remain here."

And while he has too many fond memories to single any out, he also had many trying times.

"The sexual abuse scandal was probably the most trying time because you're working with hurting people, trying to do the best you can to reach out to those who are hurting and help them in ways that we could," he said. "I certainly learned the pain of those who have experienced sexual abuse and those who have experienced any kind of abuse that affected their lives."

While the Owensboro Diocese was just one of many dioceses mixed in the scandal, the image of the entire Catholic Church suffered in the public eye. But the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops worked along with many others to redeem the sanctity of the Church.

"It depends on who you ask of course, but I think the bishops have done a great job of helping the diocese put together programs, safe environment programs which will hopefully not only be helpful to the church but as well as any entity that is dealing in particular with children," Bishop McRaith said. "I think that a tremendous amount of effort was put in on the part of many people to make the programs we have. The

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A life of ministry guided by Holy Spirit

The Western Kentucky Catholic, April, 2009 15

(Continued from page 14)



Bishop John McRaith shown here at work at his desk in his residence. Throughout his time as Bishop, he made it a practice to personally and publicly thank all those who helped him or the diocese in any way. Bishop John also spent many hours preparing his articles for this paper as well as his homilies for diocesan events or daily Mass. Seeing him with pen in hand or at a computer making messages was a common sight for diocesan staff. Matt Weafer photo

sexual abuse policies are probably some of the first since 1985. We've had a policy but it hadn't been updated."

But for the individuals directly affected by the scandal, there were more important things than the Church's image.

"(Bishop McRaith) was a perfect model of listening to people and not making them feel that it was all their fault," Sr. Joseph Angela said. "If you listen to someone sometimes that's all they need. Someone to listen to them and believe they are telling the facts as they really are."

She said the Bishop even offered to pay for counseling for anyone involved in the scandal.

"That's when we set up the safe environment office," Sr. Joseph Angela said. And all the employees and volunteers had to have a criminal background check."

"The many people I have talked to made me much more aware of the seriousness of the problem, the magnitude of it," Bishop McRaith said.

Former editor of Owensboro's Messenger-Inquirer Dan Heckel said, "When the church was struggling to get through the abuse scandal, I was always impressed that the Bishop never avoided any of the reporters at the Messenger-Inquirer. Anytime a reporter called him, even though he knew it was going to be an unpleasant question, he always made himself available. That's rare these days, but Bishop McRaith has always stood a bit taller than the rest of the crowd."

Bishop McRaith's calm composure and gentleness permeated every aspect of his ministry.

"He was very very collaborative," Sr. Joseph Angela said. "He had extreme patience. He would listen to you and maybe if you were completely on

the wrong track, he would very gently say 'but' and you would see the Holy Spirit coming out of him. He had a gentle way of educating you to the real thing and not what you thought it ought to be."

His dedication to the Holy Spirit as his constant guide and his compassion helped form his and the Diocese's argument against abortion, another difficult issue during the bishop's ministry.

"I think we need to see that Roe v. Wade was just one of the great injustices and the most serious injustice that was ever perpetrated on the people," Bishop McRaith said. "We're very much a church that believes in the dignity of the human person, the right of every human person to be treated with dignity the dignity that a child of God should have."

The bishop said that while there are many global issues the Catholic Church is hoping to impact, abortion is the first.

"Only in working on all of those issues will we make strides toward success," he said. "But the first issue is abortion because you have to be born before you can receive any injustices. This is the most defenseless group of people that deserve our best efforts to be their voices because they don't have one."

Perhaps surprisingly, the bishop's argument against abortion stems from stewardship.

"It really comes down to the question of who owns what, and God owns everything, which is the truth, and we are stewards of him," he said. "Once we get it through our heads that God owns everything, we'll begin to divide up resources and we'll play a major role in shaping the future of the world and never to forget two things: how much God loves us, and from scripture, never to forget (that God said), 'You have not chosen me; I have chosen you.'"

As good stewards, good choices become obvious.

"It's very misunderstood when you talk about steward-



People who work, pray, and worship together for many years gain a knowledge of one's prayer styles and work routines, especially when the leadership style is one of collaboration as is Bishop John's. Here an old friend, Sister Joseph Angela Boone, OSU, diocesan Chancellor and Director of Administration, ministered at Mass side by side in the Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel. The two made a very good team for the benefit of the entire diocese. Staff Photo

ship," he said. "People think you're talking about trying to give money, and that's the furthest from the truth. It's the question of where do we get our gifts from, and they came from God and they were given to us not for our own honor and glory but for the building up of the body of Christ, which means reaching out to everyone who's being treated unjustly and unfairly and who are not being able to use their gifts to the fullest."

For Bishop McRaith, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Good News of the Lord, and stewardship all roll into one. "It's so simple people don't listen to it," he said. "To live out the answer is going to mean suffering and pain. It's going to mean a close loving relationship with Jesus and truly carrying out the great commandment to love each other as Jesus has loved us."

As for his hopes for the future bishop, Bishop McRaith said he hopes to see "someone who truly loves the wonderful faith-filled people that are here, and that includes the laity, priests, religious, and the deacons. I just pray that he will find them as faith-filled as I have found them to be."

Sr. Joseph Angela said, "It will be hard for anyone to follow him. His generosity is great."



Owensboro Serra Club Invites You To Adopt A Priest

The Serra Club of Owensboro has launched a program to provide prayerful support for the priests of our Diocese called ADOPT A PRIEST. A lapel pin has been designed as shown. The initials of the priest and his date of ordination have been engraved on the back of each pin. Along with each pin, a card and envelope will be included, designed especially to be sent by the wearer to the adopted priest.

The Serra Club is asking that you pray daily for your adopted priest.

To order a pin, send a check or money order for \$15.00 to: Serra Club of Owensboro, 4213 Spring Bank Drive, Owensboro, KY 42303

St. Benedict and the Ice Storm of 2009

By Suzanne Rose

Biographical details about St. Benedict are sketchy. He was born in the town of Nursia in Italy, sometime between 480 and 490. At the appropriate age, his parents sent him to the metropolis of Rome to advance his studies. However, the decadence of big city life scandalized St. Benedict, who chucked his studies and retreated to a cave in the wooded hills of Subiaco to live as a hermit. His dedication to God filtered through the countryside and attracted the attention of a group of monks, who approached him with the request that he return with them as their abbot. St. Benedict's first attempt at communal life must have been rocky, for these monks eventually decided the only way to deal with St. Benedict was to poison him. St. Benedict returned to his hermitage. Eventually, another group of monks gathered around him, and with them, St. Benedict established the hilltop monastery of Monte Cassino. There, tempered by his first experiment at communal life, St. Benedict wrote a book of spiritual values governing conduct in monastic communities. These guidelines are similar to the rules all families must have if its members are to develop caring relationships, cultivate the gifts of all, and grow in holiness. Because written accounts of his life are sparse, one comes to know St. Benedict best through familiarity with his Rule for monastic life.

The winter storm that shut down power for Kentuckians through a wide swath of the state had been predicted for days. We waited with anticipation as ice pelted windows and lights flickered. Transformers boomed around us as the afternoon waned. And then, an explosion of light reflected across the icy expanse of the backyard, and the house fell dark. The booming around us ceased, and only the sound of branches cracking under the weight of ice broke the silence of a town gone dark.

By morning, the remaining heat in the house had dissipated. We spent our energies during day 1 of the ice storm strategizing the best use of our resources to keep warm, to bathe, to cook meals. Overnight, a snowfall had created a dreamscape of white and ice. The doors to the house had frozen shut, streets were impassable, schools were canceled, and nature demanded we stop to admire. I reflected on Fr. Mike's recent homily about the differences between the way children and adults view a winter snowfall – children accepting the gift of winter playtime; adults worrying about work stacking up in the office -- so while my family accepted the challenge of survival in the cold of winter, we also relaxed to enjoy a day off from our weekday routine.

Overnight, the logs in the fireplace burned to ash, and the flames of day 1 smoldered in embers. We awoke on day 2 to an unrelenting cold. After building a new fire and carrying in logs chopped from trees toppled during the recent inland hurricane winds, my husband left for work. My daughter and I huddled together under a blanket, reading books as long as daylight permitted. Despite the deeper cold, the inconvenience still seemed an adventure. However, when my husband returned from work, he brought with him somber news of the disaster broadcast from his battery-operated radio. Our situation was not isolated; much of western Kentucky lay in cold and darkness because the ice storm had not only brought down power lines but had also damaged poles, towers, and stations. Estimates ranged from 2, 4, even 6 weeks to rebuild the power structure and restore electricity and phone service to everyone affected by the ice storm. Our spirits plummeted as we realized the longevity of the cold we would have to endure.

As week 1 wore on, our spirits darkened with each approaching nightfall. I encouraged my family to consider this inconvenience as an opportunity to live in solidarity with the poor. I remembered the unreliability of electricity I experienced in Mandeville and reflected on Msgr. Mike's cheer as he shared the flexibility necessary to work each day shadowed by unpredictable power outages. Yet the longer I pondered on my experience as one of solidarity with the poor in Mandeville, the more I thought about Jamaica's warmth. Even if the power went out in Mandeville, I might sit outside and enjoy the breezes of a warm night. By day 5, wrapped in



University of Mary's sculpture of St. Benedict, created by Greg Mueller, illustrates the enduring wisdom of the Rule of St. Benedict and the Benedictine values. <http://www.umary.edu/UM/AboutUMary/benedictinevalues.htm>

multiple layers of clothing and looking forward to another bone-chilling night, the global solidarity perspective failed to bolster my family's spirits as I had hoped.

Week 1 ended without relief from the cold. Beginning a second week without heat was difficult to face as temperatures plunged to the lowest level yet this winter season and winds whipped against the house. My husband tossed and turned each night, anxiously reviewing methods for increasing the heat in our home. My husband, God bless him, works long hours outdoors in the elements every day, and he looks forward to a well-earned rest and a hot meal in a warm house at the end of a cold winter day. He suffers from arthritis in the re-knit bones of an old injury, and his frustration grew as his pain increased with the passage of each frigid morning. Each morning, we jostled for space before the mirror nearest a window to see if hair, untouched by blow dryer or straightening iron for 8 days, could be coaxed into some semblance of style. Our new lifestyle wore on us as we searched with flashlights in the dark recesses of closets for clean clothes suitable for work; laundering became a pressing concern. My teenage daughter's complaints of boredom added volatile fuel to her father's frustration, as a second long week of school cancellations and early darkness stretched in front of her. I became adept at short evening excursions that amused both teenager

and her father, while getting us home in time to stoke the logs in the fireplace before the fire died out.

My family's discontent disturbed the shaky inner calm I was trying to maintain, so I composed a litany of those in the community who needed to be served before me by the army of repairmen— the hospitalized, those in nursing homes, the elderly, families with small children. As I recited this litany again and again, it occurred to me— St Benedict was speaking to me, instructing me in the way a Christian should experience the ice storm. I have never visited Italy. So, in my imagination, Italy remains a land of warm, sunny days, olive trees, architectural beauty and the prayers of saints. Despite my visions of life basking beneath a warm Italian sun, St. Benedict had experienced both deprivation and danger. Yet, he left us the record of his wisdom in his Rule, teaching us to “persevere” so that we may “run on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love .. that we may deserve also to share in His kingdom” (RB Prologue 49-50).

Each day, Benedictines read a prescribed portion of the Rule, to consider anew the wisdom St. Benedict offers for confronting the vicissitudes of the day, those small annoyances as well as the largest obstacles, with Christian grace. The readings during the ice storm covered the 12 degrees of humility – that ladder to heaven that can only be ascended by descending in self-importance. The 4th degree of humility reminds us to quietly embrace our difficulties and suffering as we wait upon the Lord. St. Benedict reminds us that patiently enduring all adversities tries our faithfulness to the path of the Lord's commands. During these dark nights, I found myself tried by ice, for I had truly indulged a lifelong aversion to cold. I listened to St. Benedict remind me that I must endure this winter adversity “without growing weary or running away” (RB 7.36).

The 7th degree of humility requires that we place everyone's needs before our own, accepting ourselves as the least important of God's creatures, while the 6th degree of humility stresses that we must learn to “be content with the poorest and worst of everything” (RB 7.49). My life is privileged with an acceptable wardrobe, cupboards of tasty tidbits, visual entertainments, and technological innovations. The ice storm stripped these away, removing the clutter of technological distractions and niceties, reducing me to simple desires for unspoiled milk and clean clothing. I felt myself conformed

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Saints Among Us

St. Benedict and the Ice Storm of 2009

(Continued from page 16)

to St. Benedict's observation that "after being exalted, I have been humbled and covered with confusion" (RB 7.53). In the midst of this spareness, St. Benedict reminded me to bless the Lord for my lowliness: "It is good for me that You have humbled me, that I may learn Your commandments" (RB 7.54). I returned with new fervor to my litany of those who deserved to be restored to electrical power before me, adding names of all whom God wished me to consider of greater importance than myself.

And I repented of my greatest violation against St. Benedict's Rule: grumbling and murmuring. Our sufferings must be endured in the silence of our hearts in order to be found worthy to ascend the ladder to heaven. St. Benedict recognizes the frictions that arise from living in close proximity to others and that situations legitimately deserving of "grumbling" occur, so he warns monastics to refrain from "vexing" one another lest they become the occasion of another's sin. Yet my grumbling about inconveniences and murmuring over discomfort could not be excused on the grounds of someone's vexing behavior. I grumbled about the decrees of God governing his creation! My sin was against the Great and Holy God, questioning His wisdom of snow and ice and winter cold. "Praise the Lord from the earth ... you lightening and hail, snow and clouds, storm winds that fulfill his command ... Let them all praise the Lord's name for his name alone is exalted, majestic above earth and heaven" (Psalm 148 7-8, 13). I failed to raise my voice, with all of God's creation, in praise of His Glory. My murmuring challenged God's promise "The Lord sends a command to earth; his word runs swiftly! The snow is spread like wool, frost is scattered like ash... Again he sends his word and they melt; the wind is unleashed and the waters flow" (Psalm 147: 15-16, 18). Jesus warned of the folly of anxiety about our physical circumstances, asking, "If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why are you anxious about the rest?" (Luke 12:26). This anxiety, this grumbling and murmuring about the ice storm, revealed my lack of faith in the Father's care for me as one of his creatures. Anxiousness and discontent would only lead to the loss of those hairs God has counted on my head! Although I had refrained from voicing my discontent to my family in my desire to soothe their

fears and provide for their comfort, yet, I had silently murmured against my plight instead of praising God for the great care he had shown me throughout these cold, dark days. Through his Rule, St. Benedict reminded me to embrace my adversity as a gift from a wise and loving God and to substitute the praise of a thankful heart for the grumbling attitude of self-importance.

Benedictines call the Rule a "toolbox," and so I found it to be during the ice storm of 2009. St. Benedict reached into his toolbox and handed me the tools I needed to temper my anxieties and restore my inner calm. St. Benedict's Rule enabled me to wait upon the Lord with a trusting heart. My God cares for me and never abandons those He loves. In humility, I can wait in that promise. "Listen carefully, my child, to the Master's instructions and attend to them with the ear of your heart" – these are the opening words of the Rule, through which St. Benedict continues to teach across the distances of time and place. "Listen, my child," the Lord waited for me to listen. And when, at last, I listened, this time of darkened stillness had done its work. As evening gave way to nightfall on day 9 of the ice storm, lights flicked back on, and furnace blowers began filling our home with warmth.

My colleague joked that he will win the dinner for 4 offered as a prize to the last person whose home is restored to power. However, he fails to understand that the prize in this competition is much

greater than dinner for 4 at a local restaurant. The prize awarded for faithful running, in humble, Christian service, along the path of God's commandments is a place at our Lord's heavenly banquet table.

Sources: • *The Rule of Saint Benedict*. Trans. Leonard Doyle. Collegeville, Minn.: The Liturgical Press, 2001.

• *The Rule of St. Benedict in English*. Ed. Timothy Fry, OSB. Collegeville, Minn.: 1982.

• *The New American Bible*. 1991.

2008-2009 Nomination Form for Diocese of Owensboro Catholic School Educator of the Year

The Catholic Schools Office, Principals Association, and Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Educators are again asking for nominations for Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year. The winner will be announced at the dinner following the annual Professional Development Day.

Anyone, with the exception of an immediate family member, may nominate an educator for the award. All information concerning nominees will be kept confidential, including the name of the person submitting the nomination. The educator must currently be employed in the Diocese of Owensboro and must have taught for a minimum of five years in the Diocesan Schools.

The outstanding Catholic School Educator must be a role model as an outstanding human being; have a major influence in the lives of students; show concern with the faith development as well as the physical, mental and emotional development of students; and encourage students to improve their abilities and talents.

The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2008. A committee will serve as judges.

All nomination forms should be mailed to the Catholic Schools Office, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130.

Nominee _____

Address _____

School _____

Subjects, Grades Taught _____

On an accompanying sheet of paper, please comment on your nominee's performance in the following categories:

- 1) Why should this person be honored as Outstanding Catholic School Educator of the Year?
- 2) Describe this person's commitment as an educator.
- 3) How has this person helped students become better people?
- 4) How is this person a Christian role model for the students? Give an example.
- 5) Is the educator active in the community and Church, apart from the school-related activities? If so, give details of his or her involvement.
- 6) How well does the nominee relate with professional colleagues and parents of the students?

Nominated by:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Relation to Educator _____

Sr. Lawrence Ann Ryan, SCN, 93 Died Feb. 20, 2009

Sr. Lawrence Ann Ryan, SCN, age 93, a native of Fancy Farm, Ky., died at Flaget Memorial Hospital, Bardstown, Ky., on February 20, 2009. She had been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 73 years.

Sister Lawrence Ann served in Community Service, Health Services, Pre-School, Elementary Education and Clerical Services in Kentucky and Tennessee for 67 years. In retirement at the Motherhouse, Nazareth, Ky., Sister served in the Apostolate of Prayer.

Survivors include several devoted nieces and nephews. The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, February 23, 2009, in St. Vincent Church, Nazareth, Ky., at 10:30 a.m., followed by burial in Nazareth Cemetery. Memorials may be made to SCN Missions, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.





Cursillo #1 Women: Spiritual Directors: Father Carl Asplundh, Fr. Charles Fischer, Father Joe Mills; Father Ivan J Rohloff, OFM; Rectoria - Sidney Ebelhar; Asst. Rectoria - Imogene Hayden. At Right: Cursillo #1 Men: Spiritual Directors Father Charles Fischer and Father Carl Asplund; Rector - Clarence May , Asst. Rector - Clarence Ebelhar Photos submitted by Cecelia Hamilton



Cursillo Turns 40

By Cecelia Hamilton

The Cursillo Movement in the Owensboro Diocese turns 40 this year. Our first weekends were held in the basement at St. Stephen's during the spring of 1969 after beginning the School of Leaders in 1968. Since then, 132 weekends have been held spiritually uplifting thousands of people in the diocese. Living what is fundamental as a Christian through piety, study and action has changed the lives of all of us. Help persevering in our journey is provided by our friendship groups (like prayer groups), Ultreya (meeting of Cursillistas and those interested in Cursillo), and School of Leaders (learning more

about the Catholic faith and our movement, thus helping put our knowledge to use).

During the past you have read many witness articles in the Western Kentucky Catholic concerning what Cursillo has awakened in people's lives. You have seen where activities have been attended to build the Christian community not only in our area, but throughout the U.S.

On Sunday, April 26 we will be having a Grand Ultreya at Our Lady of Lourdes parish hall in Owensboro from 1:00 to 5:00. This gathering will begin with a potluck. A power point presentation of pictures from the past weekends and archive binders will be on display. We will have some speakers sharing their experiences from the past and the present. The day will end with an Ultreya.

We would like to invite all Cursillistas, their families, and those interested in Cursillo.

For more information on Cursillo or the Grand Ultreya, you may call one of the following: Cecelia Hamilton (Owensboro) 926-4176, Teresa/Charlie Krampe (Henderson) 546-7773, Martha/Denis Wheatley (Hawesville) 927-6540, Paul Bachi (Eddyville) 388-2973, Mary Lee (Hopkinsville) 886-5504, Sharon Brumlow (Paducah) 442-2636, or Teresa Westerfield (Hartford) 289-7915.

Empowering Spirits

By Betty Medley

How our day can change when we are uplifted and energized by the words of a timely phone call, the message of a printed card or handwritten note, or the lyrics of a beautiful song! How many ways there are to touch our aching hearts with soothing words. How wonderful it is to feel empowered by something as simple as words.

After the funeral or memorial service is over and all our caretakers have left us alone to resume our life, feelings of loneliness and depression often can overwhelm us. That's the time when we most appreciate a loving phone call to bolster our spirits. Just a friendly "hello" or a thoughtful "I was thinking of you" can help lift us out of the doldrums. Knowing people care about us is the best tonic for our fragile being. The phone calls don't have to be long, for there are no words to "fix" our grief.



Betty Medley Directs The diocesan Office of Family Life, is a Social Worker with Catholic Charities, and directs workshops and groups empowering couples and individuals in relationship building.

They just let us now someone cares.

Sometimes we don't feel like talking or answering the phone, but someone leaving a message can communicate caring to us, and that's what's important - that we know someone is thinking of us.

Some people are afraid to call us for fear they will say the wrong thing or because they don't know exactly what to say, so they take the safe path and send a warm card or note to cheer us. Stores today offer a great variety of greeting cards of encouragement - some can even make us smile in our grief.

Knowing people remember our loved one in a special way helps our hearts. Inspiring words can motivate us to take a tiny step forward in our grief. After the initial flood of sympathy cards has diminished, a simple friendship card can renew our determination to keep taking those baby steps to recovery. Handwritten notes with loving thoughts and prayers can add a happy moment to our day. We can read and reread the warm phrases again and again to empower us to keep going.

For some of us, music can soothe our aching souls, whether it be classical, instrumental, spiritual, rock and roll, country, or show tunes. Melodies can lull us into a relaxed state, giving us a few minutes of peace, a time for guided imagery, or perhaps a soothing background for journaling. Certain songs have the marvelous ability to recall happy occasions or specific events in our loved ones life that help us to savor precious memories. It's the lyrics of many songs that whisper to our hearts with just the right words to give us a sense of comfort or to make us feel a special connection with our loved one. When we find a song that lifts our spirits we usually play it over and over, sometimes wearing out the tape or CD.

Words can be a powerful tool in creating our "new normal," giving us inspiration and easing our pain.

You just have to find the right words.



OCMS Science Lab Tests Dissolving Rates

Mrs. Jennifer Payne's Science Class used the scientific method to determine how particle size, temperature, and stirring affect the dissolving rates of solid-liquid and gas-liquid solutions. Submitted by Karen Gross for OC Schools



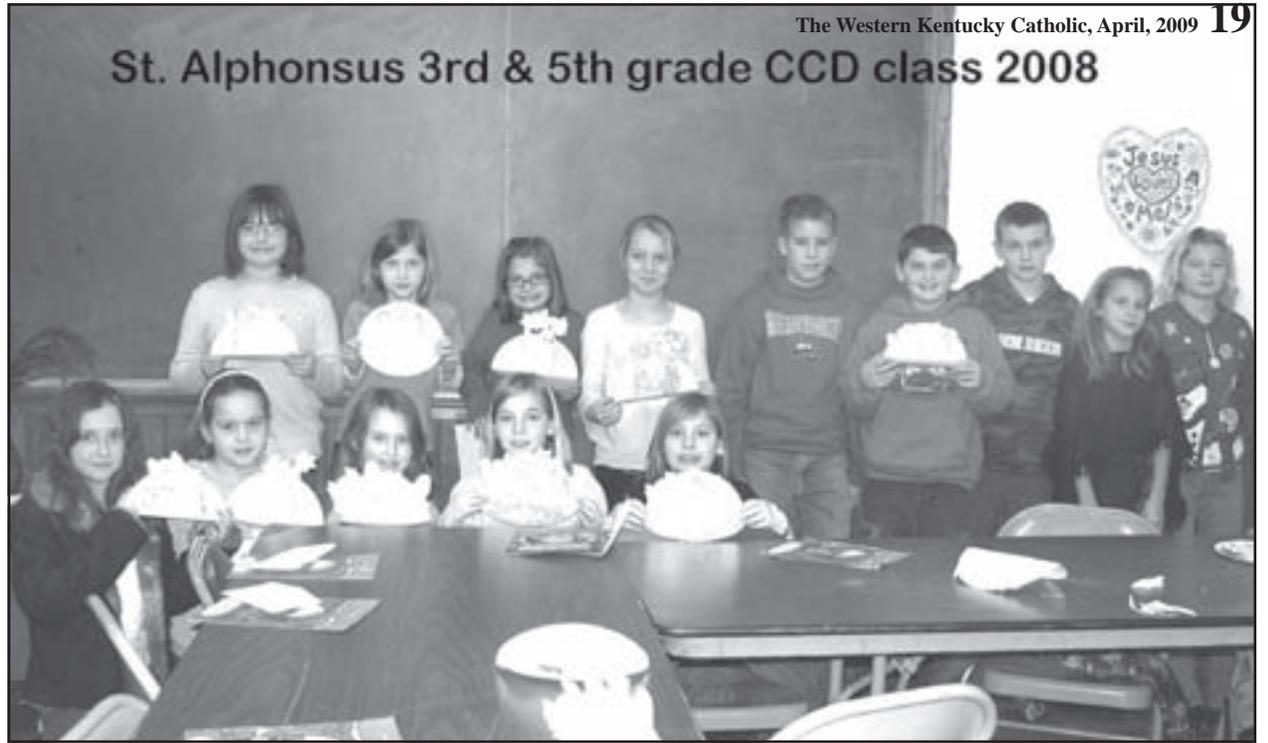
What is It About Buoyancy and Archimedes' Principle?

Mrs. Jennifer Payne's Accelerated Science Class applied their knowledge of buoyancy and Archimedes principle to create boats that could carry cargo. Students used the scientific method to determine the best boat design. They tested their hypothesis by adding 1-gram weight stackers to determine how much mass each boat design could carry before sinking.

Julie Danhauer, Emily Whitehouse, Kelsey Haynes, Rachel Krampe, and Courtney Phillips designed a boat that could hold 301 grams before sinking!

Submitted by Karen Gross for OC Schools

St. Alphonsus 3rd & 5th grade CCD class 2008



St. Alphonsus CCD students show the Paper plate nativities they made to celebrate the Christmas season. Pictured, Back row L to R ; Emma Clements, Abby Thompson, Hallie McCarthy, Brittany Boyle, Devin Lanham, Shane Hodskins, Caleb Murphy, Alli Schadler, Shelby Warren; Front row; Makayla Thompson, Nicole Glenn, Emily Murphy, Allison Yeckering, Alicia Boyle. Not pictured are 3rd graders, Garrett McCarty, Abbie Green, Preston McCarthy, and Jackson Armour. Submitted by Jackie McCarthy, 3rd. grade CCD teacher.

Prayer Journal Entry, Written by Geneva

"One of my heroes is God. God loves me so much! He's my hero. He's my refuge. He's my dwelling place. He's in my heart at all times. He loves me 24/7/365 days a year. He only wishes the best for me. He hopes I will follow my dreams. He wants me to be the best I can be. He wants me to be in Heaven with him someday. He prays for me everyday."

Above is an insert in Geneva Renshaw's Prayer Journal. Geneva is in Mrs. Flahardy's 3rd grade class at Owensboro Catholic School K-3 Campus. The K-3 Campus focus this Lent is on personal prayer with God.



Geneva Renshaw, daughter of Kevin and Pam Renshaw, 3rd Grade Student at OCES K-3 Campus. OCS Photo

Students made a special prayer rock to take home and lay beside their beds to remind them to pray each morning when they get up and each night before going to bed.

Students also made Prayer Journals in which to write or draw in several times a week. Teachers help get the students started in their journals by giving them "prayer starters." The above "prayer starter" was: "One of my heroes is..."

Adoration is key attitude toward Eucharist, even at Mass, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Because Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, adoration must be a Catholic's primary attitude toward the Blessed Sacrament at Mass as well as when praying before the tabernacle,

Pope Benedict XVI said. "Our task is to perceive the very precious treasure of this ineffable mystery of faith both in the celebration of the Mass as well as during worship of the sacred species," the pope told

members of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. Members of the congregation met the pope March 13 at the end of their plenary meeting, which was devoted to discussing ways to promote

eucharistic adoration. Pope Benedict said he hoped the meeting would result in the identification of "liturgical and pastoral means through which the church in our time could promote faith in the real presence of the Lord in the holy Eucharist and secure for the celebration of the holy Mass the entire dimension of adoration."

Living the Sacraments: The Catholic's Role

“Did I meet Jesus?”



By Pat S. Smith

*“I believe there are angels among us,
Sent down to us, from somewhere up above,
They come to you and me, in our darkest hours,
To show us how to live, and teach us HOW TO GIVE,
To guide us with the light of love”*

- “Angels Among Us,” by Alabama

It was the second Sunday of Lent and Fr. Jerry Riney's homily was about sacrifice. He asked how many people had given up something for Lent and how many had added something. He also had explained that sacrifice was from the Latin *sacrificium* which translates holy. (The same word,

sacrificum also translates into sacrament, I believe). I had decided that in addition to giving UP something this year that I would also do some small random act of kindness each day during the 40 days of Lent.

It was Tuesday, and I was rushing out the door at Walgreen's where I work to pick something up at McDonald's. We have only 30 minutes for lunch and that was why I was rushing. Suddenly, I stopped. There, sitting on the bench in the cold was an older gentleman whom I could tell was quite indigent. He had a bag with some clothes in it, and across the bag was written the name of some hospital. I said, “Sir, I am going to get a sandwich, could I get you something to eat?” He thanked me and said, “Could you just call this number for me when you get back; they gave it

to me at The Salvation Army. I am trying to get a bus ticket back to Maryland.” I took the piece of paper but rushed on. While I was waiting for my food, I noticed it was the number for St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Well, I would have liked to have just bought the ticket for him, but unfortunately my bank account was too low for THAT! When I got back to work, eating my sandwich quickly, I called the number to St. Vincent's, and got a recording that they had food and clothes, but no longer had money available. What to do? What to do?

In my anxiety over the old man, I remembered a story Fr. Jerry Calhoun had told my family many years ago. He was just closing up for the day, had counted the money, and was ready to leave when this poor man showed up asking for shoes and something to eat. Fr. Jerry told him he was closing for the day, but if he would come back first thing in the morning, he could help him. Fr. Calhoun said as the old man turned to leave, he hunched over and threw his bag over his shoulder. About that time, a ray of sun hit the old man and Fr. Calhoun said momentarily he looked just like Jesus carrying His Cross. Touched by this, Fr. Calhoun called to the old man to come back. He then took him in his car and with his own money bought the man a brand new pair of shoes and fed him supper in a restaurant. This prompted me to call Holy Spirit. I was frantic by now, thinking I was missing an opportunity to really help someone in dire need during Lent. I told Ivana, Holy Spirit's Parish Administrator, my story and even added the story that Fr. Calhoun had told me. She said she would see what she could do.

I went back outside and told the old man, whose name I later learned was Larry, that I was doing all I could to get him some help. I begged him, “Please stay right here, or come in if you get too cold.” He looked up at me with deep sorrow in his eyes and said, “Miss, would you mind buying me a Diet Pepsi?” I said that of course I didn't mind and rushed back in and bought him the drink and took it to him. He drank heavily. I said, “Now don't leave, I am waiting for a call from my church.” He assured me he wouldn't leave.

I went back inside and called the church again, and they said that Fr. Jerry was just getting out of a meeting and to call back again in a few minutes.

“Dear Lord,” I prayed, “please send someone to help. I don't have the kind of money Larry needs to get the bus ticket.” I hurried back inside, afraid I was going to get into trouble for running around so much, but my store manager was busy and didn't seem to notice. Just as I was about to give up, Ivana called me back and said, “I am sending someone to pick him up and Fr. Jerry will see what he can do.” “How long will it be,” I asked, feeling some relief flooding me, and remembering St. Joseph's School Principal Jan Lange quoting, “We do not serve because we are Catholics, but because we must.”

I anxiously watched and was so relieved when I saw Matthew Keyser, Director of Youth Ministries at Holy Spirit, show up in a red van... RED.... now what liturgical season is THAT??? I approached Larry happily and with relief said, “Someone is here to help you.” He stood up and we hugged. I said, “My name is Pat.” He said that he was Larry. I said, “Please pray for me, and I will pray for you, and please don't ever forget me.” He assured me that he wouldn't. I went up to the van and told Matthew that all I knew was that this man's name was Larry and he needs a bus ticket to Maryland. Then I went back to work, a chill passing over me, feeling like maybe I had met Jesus or maybe EVEN an angel, who had taught ME, give ME something, love and joy in my heart - to take time to help someone else even in my rush to be working. After all, the Alabama song does say, “... they teach US HOW TO GIVE, they teach US HOW TO LIVE, and guide us with THEIR LIGHT OF LOVE.”

Well, I know that this had to be a confidential matter and I never found out what happened to Larry, but in my heart, he taught me a good lesson for Lent: stop whatever you think is so important and ask if someone needs your help. Who knows, Larry could have been Jesus or an angel in disguise, or maybe just a poor homeless man needing someone to love and help him.

As I continue my Lenten journey this year, I am continuing to do small random acts of kindness and I have asked God to deepen my faith and to continue to help others, not just during Lent, but all year long, after all we are Catholics living the sacraments and should be ready to give to others, just as God gave the ultimate sacrifice, the death of His only Son, on a cruel cross those 2,000+ years ago, for the redemption of our sins.

Pat S. Smith, is a parishioner at Holy Spirit, Bowling Green, and a hard worker at Walgreen's where she encounters many people who pray for her when she asks and she prays for any who ask for prayers.

The Boulware Mission Works To End Homelessness One Life At A Time



OWENSBORO, Ky. - Boulware Mission's vision is displayed through its services designed to empower individuals to achieve healthy, independent, productive lives. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED by identifying the root causes of homelessness. Therefore, Boulware provides long-term licensed substance abuse treatment for those affected by the devastation of addiction. (85% of BMI clients)

In addition, residents participate in individual and group counseling, educa-

tion programs involving LifeSkills, financial literacy, and employment issues, as well as obtaining their GED, AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

Two significant dynamics regarding Boulware are:

- It is the only facility in Owensboro region that accepts single men. (Women and children are also welcome.)

- Residents can stay for up to 2 years – FREE. This factor, together with the Client Savings Program, has helped residents pay off debt, and child support, becoming productive tax-paying citizens before they leave Boulware. In some cases, they even purchase a home.

76 residents are now being served, utilizing both Hall and Wing Avenue Campuses. Boulware is here for this community to carry out its faith-based Mission, relying on private donations as its primary funding source.

None of this would be possible without the support of this community and particularly, our religious leaders who undoubtedly encounter families devastated by homelessness and/or addiction.

Boulware Mission board members, staff and residents would like to thank the following parishes for their financial support in 2008: Blessed Mother Catholic Church; Immaculate Catholic Church - St. Vincent DePaul; St. Martin's Catholic Church - St. Vincent DePaul; St. Pius Catholic Church; St. Stephen's Cathedral.

Your commitment to this partnership will change lives, and we are grateful.

A Good News, Success Story

Celebrating with Sister Eula were members of the religious community, seated: Glenmary Sisters Rosemary Esterkamp and Bernadetta Hengstebeck with novice Aida Badillo; standing from left, Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, OSU, Sr. Fran Willett, OSU, Sr. Audrey Rechtenwald, MSBT, Sr. Theresa Knabel, SCN, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Bishop John McRaith, and Sr. Dorothy Thomas, SCN. Staff Photo

Below, Sister Eula Johnson smiled at James Green, of Owensboro, who lived at the Boulware center for a time and got to know Sister Eula who helped him. James Green spoke at a Boulware Center reception at the Riverpark Center honoring Sister Eula. With her help, Green said, he got his life back on track, and now after earning his GED, James is completing coursework for a college degree. Staff Photo



A Life of Service: Sr. Eula Johnson, S.C.N.

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - On the afternoon of February 22, 2009, the Boulware Mission, Inc. hosted a reception for Sr. Eula Johnson, S.C.N. at the Riverpark Center. Sister Eula retired from 50 years of service in active ministry as a Sister of Charity of Nazareth. Sister Eula started ministry as an elementary school teacher in 1954 in Arkansas, then Ohio, then Louisville, Ky. She was a school principal, a parish youth minister, a Director of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky. A native of Saint Lawrence, Kentucky, Sister Eula served locally in Daviess County since 1989. She worked for GRADD, then as a Counselor Advocate, Relationship Counselor, and since 2000 Sister Eula served as Case Worker for Boulware Mission, Inc. in Owensboro. Sister Eula has two Masters degrees (Elementary Education, and Pastoral Ministry). She found her true calling in crisis counseling, mediation, and advocacy to individuals in need. Boulware Mission primarily serves the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) of Western Kentucky which includes the counties of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster.

During the reception many people who have lived or now live at Boulware Mission came to speak about Sister Eula, thanking her for clearing their way out of lives being ruined by substance abuse, domestic violence, or a lack of education. Lawyer Bill Craig, past President of Boulware Mission Board, and present Boulware Mission President Jim Hendrix joined Judge David Payne, Judge John McCarty, Bishop John McRaith, and about a dozen more family and friends who spoke about Sister Eula's service to her family, church, and community over the years. One of the speakers was Becky Hagan who has worked with Sister Eula for 20 years or more helping women in need.

Sr. Eula has traveled extensively throughout the United States, India, Belize, and Central America. She enjoys spending time with her 26 great nieces and nephews, being outdoors gardening, working in nature, playing with pets, walking, praying, reading, and listening to music.

Sister Eula has helped many people as a Relationship Counselor in Owensboro, and as a Case Worker for Boulware Missions, Inc. Now she turns her hand to working with Hispanic children at Centro Latino in Owensboro to help them learn the culture and better understand life here.

After hearing what all the speakers said about her this day, Sister Eula asked when was her time to speak. Bill Craig said, "Now." Sister Eula spoke briefly in a clear, sometimes emotion-laden voice and concluded, "You have allowed me in some cases to see the face of God. Thank you." Amen, Sister Eula.



OCS Elementary 4-6 Campus Academic Team Wins Governor's Cup District Title

Congratulations to the 4th/5th grade Academic Team on their first place finish in the Governor's Cup District Competition recently.

The team consists of Raychel Bahnick, Sarah Brown, Matthew Caldwell, Eva Cash, Evan Christodoulou, Caroline Hayden, Samantha Horsley, Emma Hyland, Samantha Krampe, Allie Kuntz, Lucy Kurtz, Emily Linn, Olivia Miller, Annabel Moore, Molly Payne, Tricia Thompson and Alli Thompson. The team is coached by Susie Alvey and Karen Bickett along with many parent volunteers.

In the written assessments the following students placed: **Science** - Tricia Thompson, 1st Place; **Composition** - Emily Linn, 4th Place; **Social Studies** - Tricia Thompson, 3rd Place, and Evan Christodoulou, 4th Place; **Language Arts** - Lucy Kurtz, 1st Place; **Arts & Humanities** - Lucy Kurtz 1st Place.

The following students earned 20 points or higher on the written assessment and also advance to the Regional Competition: **Social Studies** - Matthew Caldwell; **Science** - Evan Christodoulou and Caroline Hayden.

The Future Problem Solving team earned First Place. Members of the team are Eva Cash, Samantha Horsley, Samantha Krampe and Allie Kuntz. The Quick Recall team also earned First Place. Members of the team are Raychel Bahnick, Sarah Brown, Matthew Caldwell, Evan Christodoulou, Caroline Hayden, Lucy Kurtz, Annabel Moore, Molly Payne, Tricia Thompson and Alli Thompson. The team advanced to the Governor's Cup Regional Meet at Livermore Elementary on March 21.

Articles and Photos submitted by Karen Gross for OC Schools



3rd Grade Students from the Owensboro Catholic K-3 Campus Bury their Alleluias for Lent!

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Every year each 3rd grade student at the K-3 Campus designs a colorful Alleluia Banner on "Fat Tuesday."

The students go outside and have a brief prayer service, placing their "Alleluia's" in a can, where they are burned, and buried. Church tradition doesn't allow Catholics to say or pray the Alleluia during Lent.

The day after Easter, the 3rd graders will dig up the can-.... And just as through Jesus' death and resurrection he "made all things new"- when the students dig the can up, each child will find his or her Alleluia whole again and ready for them to go out and Proclaim the Good News that Jesus Christ is Risen!



Sharing Questions about DARE

In photo a left, Nolan Mullican and Lydia Mills designed the DARE box for Mrs. Hardesty's 5th grade classroom at the Owensboro Catholic Elementary 4-6 Campus. The students can put questions in the box for Officer Henry, the DARE officer, to answer during each class. Submitted by Karen Gross.

Phoenix realigns staffing to address expected decrease in revenue

PHOENIX (CNS) -- Phoenix Catholic officials announced a major realignment of the staff structure at the central administrative offices of the diocese. The recent changes at the Diocesan Pastoral Center have come on the heels of a projected decrease in revenue and resulted in 17 positions being eliminated and two full-time positions being converted to part time. Six of the 19 jobs were vacant. Diocesan leaders cited a weak economy as a factor behind the changes, pointing to fewer donations and a greater demand for charitable services. Nearly half of the diocese's operational budget is sustained through what is called "plate collections," referring to the money given by parishioners during the offertory at Masses. In 2008, a midyear review of the diocese's parishes revealed an average drop of 3 percent in what Catholics were giving each week, and pastors have reported a continued and, in many cases, increased drop in plate collections since the beginning of this year.

The Bee Winners At OCMS

OCMS

Geography Bee

Owensboro Catholic Middle School held their school Geography Bee on January 14, 2009. The following were the winners, from left to right in the picture at right: 1st place - Kevin Thompson; 2nd Place - Justin Magnuson; 3rd Place - Sam Lily. Congratulations to all of the Geography Bee classroom winners at Owensboro Catholic Middle School. They are Neil Mattingly, Jared McMaster,



Megan Woodall, Bradley Norcia, Dylan Gaddis, Alex Mitchell, Colton Roberts, Aidan Cardona, Caleb Brand, Michael Thompson, and Justin Krampe. Kevin now advances in the 21st annual National Geographic Bee. OCS photo submitted by Karen Gross



OCMS School Wide Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the following OCMS classroom Spelling Bee winners: Simmie McCormick, Marty Crowe, Colton Roberts, Jared McMaster, Chase Carrico, Jacob Mills, Kelsey Conkright, Hadley Shepherd, Jared Millay,

and Zach Clore.

The winners of the school-wide Spelling Bee are: (left to right in the picture) 1st place - Chase Carrico; 2nd place - Jacob Mills; 3rd place - Colton Roberts

Chase then participated in the Diocesan Spelling Bee held in Morganfield during Catholic Schools Week. Chase finished in 2nd place in the middle school division of the Diocesan Spelling Bee. Chase is the son of Mark and Mary Alice Carrico. OCS photo submitted by Karen Gross

OCMS

Religion Bee

As part of the activities during Catholic Schools Week, OCMS held a religion bee to show amazing knowledge of Catholic doctrine and trivia. Each classroom had a winner who advanced to the final round. Congratulations to the following winners: 1st Place - Emily Rose; 2nd Place - Kevin Thompson; 3rd Place - Michael Englert OCS photo submitted by Karen Gross



Do You Know About Snakes?

On February 24th, 2009, St. Joseph Catholic School in Mayfield enjoyed a morning with Mr. Scott Shupe and his Reptile Show. Mr. Shupe educated students, preschool through 6th grade, on a variety of reptiles he brought to show. Some of the students and staff were even brave enough to touch and hold Mr. Shupe's reptiles! Pictured above is Mr. Shupe showing off his boa snake. Facing Mr. Shupe, from left to right, is Megan Null, Mrs. Kathy Stanczyk, Katelynn Stanczyk, Brooke Duncan, Ms. Lynnette Warner, and Braidy Jones. Photo taken by Susan Brinkley, and submitted by Shanda Purcell, School Secretary, St. Joseph Catholic School.

Editor's Note: Is the lady at right smiling politely or does she really like snakes?

The GREENing Western Kentucky Project Discover Music, Discover Nature,

Discover Maple Mount

Camp for 10 - 12-year-old Boys and Girls
Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center
Maple Mount, Ky.

June 8-13, 2009

Come join us for this exciting six-day camp
to study nature and share your talents!

All week campers will attend a core curriculum course, gain an appreciation for planet Earth, be entertained nightly by artists, and participate in their choice of four different elective classes, such as Appalachian clogging, group songwriting, rhythm of the Earth, and wild edible plant walks.

Check out www.discovermaplemount.org or www.msjcenter.org for more information!

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Honors Fallen Soldier

By Dawn C. Ligibel

Sgt. Scott Bradley Stream, while serving with the Effingham based Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry of the Illinois Army National Guard, was killed on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, as the result of a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Although he had been living in Mattoon, Illinois, with his wife and daughter, his funeral was held at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on Saturday, March 7, at his sister's request.

"They only lived in Mattoon because that is where he was assigned," explained Shannon Pape, Stream's sister and a long-time member of Sts. Peter and Paul. "And I knew how this parish would respond. Even though he was not a member here, I knew my church would provide the most beautiful funeral possible."

The support Stream's family received was overwhelming. "They responded even more than I could have imagined," Pape admitted. "I've never received so much love and support. They welcomed my brother, whom they had never met, just because I was here."

"From the very first moment I learned of her brother's death, I told her we would do anything, anywhere, anytime," explained Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul. "Immediately she asked if we could have the funeral here. She drew great comfort having the funeral Mass here in her parish. She knew what our community would do for her and her family," he elaborated.

The parish community far exceeded any of Pape's expectations. As family members from out-of-town began arriving on the Wednesday prior to the funeral, parish members and fellow school parents began delivering food to the Pape household. "I didn't need to cook a thing from Wednesday afternoon through Sunday," Pape explained.

In addition to providing food, the parish provided comfort. "When we received his remains off the plane at Ft. Campbell, Fr. John was there to pray with us," Pape said. "There were so many people at the funeral and when we prayed the rosary I heard so many voices I recognized. People who know me by name only came to pray the rosary."

"I don't know of a parish like this parish," Pape continued. "My family wanted for nothing while we were grieving together. I just want to thank everybody in this parish for their hospitality, generosity and prayer."

While Pape was sincerely comforted by her parish family, the pain of losing her brother was and continues to be nearly



Sgt. Scott Bradley Stream, of Mattoon, Illinois, was buried with military honors in the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery on March 7, 2009, after being killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on February 24. Submitted photo.

unbearable. "It was very painful," Pape said recalling when she first heard the news. "Every death is painful. The pain was just terrible."

Upon waking on Wednesday, March 4, Pape immediately realized that it would have been her brother's fortieth birthday. "My first thought of the day was 'What am I going to do? It's his birthday. How can I honor him?'" Although food was arriving to her house in droves, she chose to fast that day. "Normally my blood sugar drops and I get sick if I don't eat. But that day, I never got hungry. I didn't get sick. I didn't crave anything. I didn't need anything."

When a long-time friend of the family, Fr. Mark Spring, heard of her fast, he commented on Pape's strong faith. "I don't have strong faith," she admonished. "But I'm surrounded by such great faith in this parish."

Showing support through food donations, attendance at the funeral and the rosary were just part of the overall support Pape and her family received. "Fr. John kept saying that 'we are lifting you up in our prayers.' I never really knew what he meant before. But I could feel the faith here and I liked it," Pape admitted.

Having her brother interred at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery is also a great comfort for Pape. As the youngest of three siblings with two older brothers, Pape fondly remembers how close they've always been. "They always protected me," she recalled. "And Scott was still protecting me," she added referring to his ultimate sacrifice.

Stream's efforts to keep his family



A two-star general from Ft. Campbell offers a folded American flag, which had been draped over her husband's casket, to Rasa Stream, the widow of Sgt. Scott Stream who was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on February 24, 2009. Stream's funeral was held at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville on Saturday, March 7, just prior to burial with military honors at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery. Photo taken by Jim Creighton.

safe became evident in a letter he wrote this past New Year's Eve. According to Pape, Stream could have come home for a two-week visit over Christmas, but declined so he could be home for his daughter's sixth birthday on March 19. The letter has been published in several publications throughout the country and truly gives an insight to Stream's frame of mind at the time of its writing.

"The more I love you all, the more I feel I must keep fighting for you. The more I love and long for home, the more right I feel here on the front line standing between you and the seething madness that wants to suck the life and love out of our land," stated an excerpt from Stream's letter.

"When I read the letter," Pape explained, "the peaceful cohesiveness of it gave me such a calming feeling. He was

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Parish Earns Worldwide Reputation

The Western Kentucky Catholic, April, 2009 25

By Dawn C. Ligibel

Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville has earned quite a reputation. From sea to shining sea and beyond, Catholic military families hear about Sts. Peter and Paul long before they ever arrive when assigned to Ft. Campbell.

"Sts. Peter and Paul's reputation has spread," said Colleen Lang, a military wife whose husband, Greg, is currently serving in Afghanistan. "As people move around (in the military), they spread the word about Sts. Peter and Paul," she explained. "As soon as you say Ft. Campbell, all Catholics associate it with Sts. Peter and Paul."

While the parish doesn't have any "formal" programs to support military families, the support is nonetheless apparent. "There's something nice about it being informal," explained Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul. "It's not something that's artificial, but it happens because someone truly cares."

Once a new family is identified as being a part of the military, people in the parish go out of their way to show their support. "This parish is so welcoming," Lang said. "They are happy to see you even if you don't know them," she added.

"The people are so nice to us," said Rachel Flick, whose husband Chad is currently deployed to Iraq. "They always ask about Tony," Flick explained referring to her 21-month-old child.

"As soon as they know he is deployed, they really mother you," said Angie Pace. "They embrace you and take care of you."

"We pull them in and welcome them immediately," Fr. Thomas explained. "And we get them involved immediately."

Getting involved in parish activities is one way the military families fit in so quickly. "This parish is good at offering activities that you can join," said Lang. Pace agreed. "Once you get roped in (as a volunteer)," she said with a chuckle, "you really get to know people."

One way military families are identified to fellow parishioners is when they receive recognition during Mass. "Each year on the Sunday closest to the Fourth of July they have a military appreciation day at Mass," explained Flick. "They wear their uniforms and are asked to stand during Mass. Then there is a reception in the rectory after Mass. That means a lot to us," she added.

"When John came back last time from Iraq, Fr. John announced 'stand up if you're back from Iraq.' He was a little embarrassed by the applause, but it was

heartwarming," Pace recalled.

"I like it when they come home and Fr. John acknowledges that they are home," said Corinna Kinnard, 18-year-old daughter of Steven and Vicki Kinnard. "It always gave me extra hope that Dad would come back and get that type of welcome," she explained.

In addition to recognizing the soldiers during Mass, members of the parish continually ask families about the soldiers' well being and inquire whether the family needs any help while the spouse is deployed. "People are always checking on Angie. It's an overwhelming outreach to us and it helps so much," said John Pace. "Angie is pretty tough in her own right, but at times she needs help. There's a difference between people offering and people who mean it. When people from Sts. Peter and Paul say it, they mean it."

Pace fondly remembers a time when he was deployed and a parishioner stopped by his house to check on his wife and children. "He came to the house and opened the refrigerator to make sure there was enough food," Pace said with a laugh.

"Parishioners always ask when he is deployed," agreed Vicki Kinnard. "The men always ask if there's anything they can do," she added.

Steven Kinnard remembered a particular time when he and his family were assigned to Ft. Bragg for three months. A fellow parishioner took it upon himself to take care of their house and mow their lawn. "He just volunteered," Steven explained. "He never accepted any compensation. He just wanted to do it."

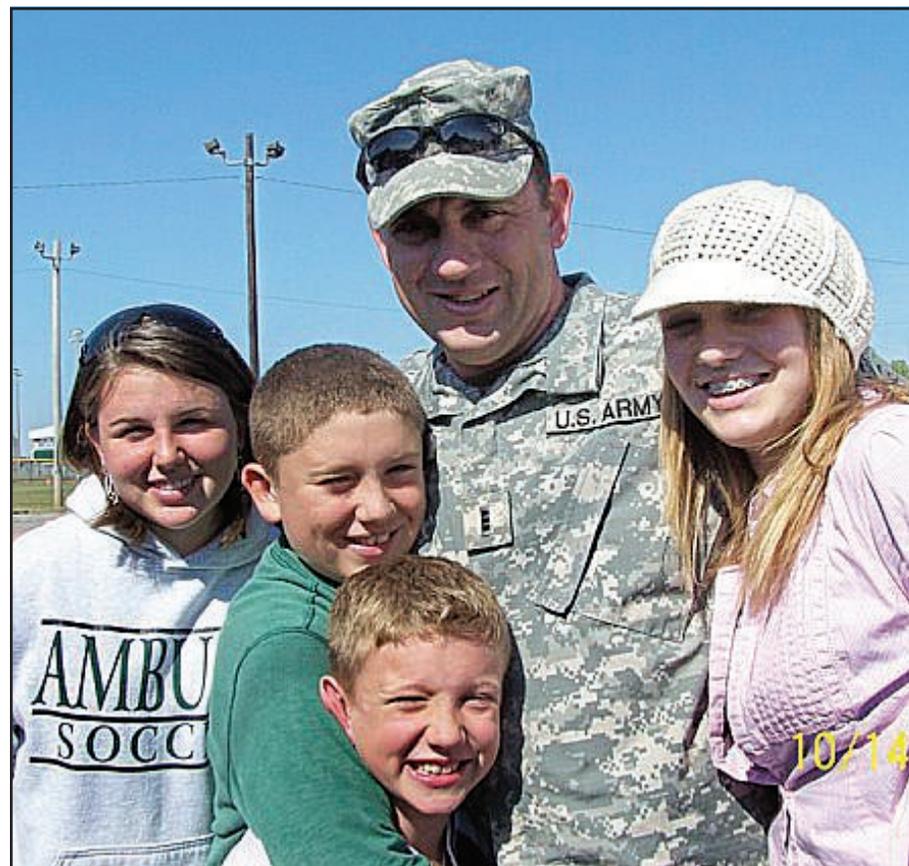
"People are always offering, asking if we need help," Lang said. "They are very concerned."

Flick agreed. "They always check on me if I go to church without Chad," she said. "Everyone always asks if I need help."

"The Knights of Columbus are always checking on our families and they send e-mails to us to let us know what's going on," explained John Pace.

"I'll get different Knights coming up to me asking about Greg," Lang agreed. "They always say if I need help to just call them. The Knights are very supportive of the military community here," she added.

"If you want the support, it's there," said Angie Pace. There have been many times in the past four years when she's had to accept help from fellow parishioners. On August 8, 2005, she learned that the child she was carrying had several serious medical ailments in addition to Down's



Steven Kinnard, a long-time parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville who will soon retire from the military, has always appreciated the love and support he and his family have received from his parish family. "This is home," Kinnard said regarding his family's post-retirement plans. Kinnard is pictured here with his four children just prior to his last deployment to Iraq last year. From left to right are Corinna, Christopher, Jonathan and Brittany. Photo taken by Vicki Kinnard.

A Parish's Support: From the Writer's Perspective

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - When I was first asked to write an article about how Sts. Peter and Paul parish supports members of the military and their families, the editor suggested that I write the piece from a first person perspective. Initially, I was uncomfortable with that approach because while my husband, Greg, who is a Department of Defense employee, does deploy each year, he is not in the military, nor does he deploy for as long as most of the men and women in the military deploy. In essence, while we experience challenges similar to those faced by military families, we feel it's not the same. After recent events, however, I feel compelled to add some thoughts about this unique and tremendous parish family.

When I interviewed Kathy Kennedy for the article titled "Parish Earns Worldwide Reputation," she said, "I don't know if it has anything to do with being military. If Kyran had been killed in a car accident, Sts. Peter and Paul would have been just as supportive."

Indeed, the love and support I have received recently may have been in part due to the fact that my husband is currently deployed to Iraq, yet I believe their support would have still been strong.

During the "great ice storm" in January, I received numerous phone calls from fellow parishioners about the safety of my family. We received several offers to stay in their homes while we were without electricity for five days. When I declined, thanks to our wood-burning stove, we were invited into their homes to shower or to share a meal, which we gratefully accepted.

Had it not been for several of the roads being closed on the way to my farm, a fellow parishioner, who is also a member of the military, would have reached my home with a generator to help salvage the food in my deep freeze. Instead, he came another day to help me relocate the food to another friend's empty freezer.

Another friend from the parish invited

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syndrome. Throughout this experience, her family has received a tremendous amount of support. "There were 24 people around my hospital bed when I had him," Angie exclaimed.

After Ben was born, the Pace's were required to take him to the hospital on numerous occasions for various medical treatments. "We got more food!" Angie said. "Every time Ben went into the hospital, we got food," she remembered.

Although Kathy Kennedy, a former member of Sts. Peter and Paul who recently relocated to Virginia, knew the parish was supportive the first several years she and her family lived in Hopkinsville, she hadn't really needed to rely on anyone until November 7, 2003, when her husband was shot down in Iraq and was killed instantly. "There was such an outpouring of support from Sts. Peter and Paul," Kennedy recalled.

"The first year after Kyran died, I traveled a lot to Boston (where his family resides)," Kennedy explained. "People from the parish would come and rake the lawn, weed the garden, mow the lawn. I never knew who did it; I would just come home and it would be done," she exclaimed. "We also received so many cards and prayers. It really made a difference. It gets me choked up still to think about what all they did," she admitted.

While military families receive a great deal of support from this parish, which varies from phone calls, drop in visits, delivering food and doing yard work, prayer is the one benefit they all agree is the most powerful.

"When I know a person is deploying, I anoint him or her with the anointing of the sick," explained Fr. Thomas. "The sacrament is to be used for someone who is in danger of death. Certainly anyone who is deploying today is in danger of death. To have the family stand around him or her for the anointing is a powerful thing."

In addition to the anointing, members of the military are always remembered in prayer. "Each time at Mass, especially in the intentions, we pray for our military. Many parishioners pray for our military before Eucharistic Adoration and our school children continually pray for them," explained Fr. Thomas.

Parish Honors Fallen Soldier

(Continued from page 24)

not afraid. It was obvious that he wanted to come home, but he knew what he was doing. It was like he was saying, 'I know why I'm here. I want to be here to help.' It (the letter) gave us all a lot of comfort. It not only showed the man he was, but it also showed the man he had become over there," Pape elaborated.

Described as a highly intelligent man who loved to talk and was never mean, Stream was also loyal. "When you had Scott for a friend, you had a friend for life," Pape said, adding that several friends Scott attended grade school with in Iowa traveled to Hopkinsville for the funeral. "Family, friends, faith and freedom. That's what he was there for," Pape added.

"Flags were flown at half mast in three states on Saturday (March 7) for my brother. In Illinois, Iowa and Kentucky. No one can fight for freedom or die for freedom without being a hero," she concluded.

In addition to leaving behind his two siblings, Stream also leaves his parents, his wife and two daughters. "He was a great dad," Pape said. "He loved his daughters and he loved his wife."

While the pain of losing someone so close to her is still very real, Pape holds strong to her faith. "I hope the pain will turn into pride," she said. "He's still on the prayer list here and I know this parish will continue to take care of me."

"The most significant part," said Flick, "is in the intentions when they pray for him and I. It give us the strength to help us through it."

"I don't think I'd be sane if it weren't for everyone praying for us. We really believe God wanted us at Sts. Peter and Paul when Kyran died," Kennedy explained. "I know there are still people at Sts. Peter and Paul praying for us. And it helps, especially on the hard days."

"Knowing that people in this parish are praying for him is a big help," agreed Lang. "When people in this parish say they'll pray for you, I know they mean it. It makes the deployments easier," she added.

"Their prayer is actually almost worth more," Lang continued. "It's worth more than physically coming to help. It's more of an emotional support."

The soldiers who are deployed also feel the power of prayer while overseas. "Every week I received a church bulletin. When you see your name in the bulletin, you know people are praying for you," explained Steven Kinnard. "The whole church gets this bulletin and everyone knows where I'm at and what I'm doing."

In addition to parishioners praying for his safety, Kinnard believes the prayers help in other ways. "It not only provides comfort, but it helps hold me accountable for my behavior," he explained. "It's a simple reminder that you are still a Catholic and have to act like a Catholic."

Church bulletins and prayers are not the only things received by the soldiers overseas. "The MOMs group, the Knights of Columbus, every class in the school, individuals in the parish, they're always sending you stuff.

There's so much physical stuff coming to you including letters and cards," Kinnard explained. "You get 20 or 30 care packages at the holidays and they hit you on your birthday. Classes at school will send you tons of cards for no reason. They just let us know they are thinking about us."

The support received by the military and their families at Sts. Peter and Paul is unquestionably profound. Improvements, however, could always be made according to some of the military families. "It might be nice to have someone 'in charge' of military families when they sign up with the parish," suggested Angie Pace. "We could put someone in touch with the family and make sure they know about all the activities."

"A frequently updated church directory would also help keep track of the military families as they join the parish and leave," said Vicki Kinnard.

Putting together a list of non-military "helpers" would also be useful. "We could call it a military assistance list," said Angie Pace. Vicki Kinnard agreed. "It would be nice to have a list of people in the parish with jobs they can do for hire or if they want to donate their time. It would be people from the parish and people you could trust," she explained.

John Pace would like to see the church address the needs of married couples more actively, particularly for younger married soldiers. "Maybe we could have a marriage retreat once a year to re-integrate the soldiers back to married life," he offered. "It could be an overnight thing where they talk to the couples about what marriage is and how to strengthen the marriage. We could have Mass the next morning and then go home," he added.

Regardless of the lack of "formal" programs that support the military and their families, Sts. Peter and Paul is clearly earning its reputation as a supportive parish among the military. "When you belong to Sts. Peter and Paul, you have such a comfort level while deployed," explained John Pace. "You don't have to worry. You can focus on what you are doing and getting back in one piece."

Steven Kinnard agrees wholeheartedly. "When I get stuff from the school children and parish members, I'm reminded why I'm there, and it's to keep them safe. It's worth it."

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Youth Locked in for A Night

By Dawn C. Ligibel

"I'm a chicken, are you a chicken? No, I'm a prince," questioned the more than 300 middle school youth milling around the Owensboro YMCA gym on Friday, February 27. The preceding questions were part of an opening icebreaker to help the young people introduce themselves to others in attendance.

The annual Diocese of Owensboro Middle School Lock-in was originally scheduled for Friday, February 6, but was postponed due to the ice storm that tore through most of Kentucky during the last week of January. The Owensboro YMCA was still being used as a shelter on February 6.

Seventeen youth and three chaperones from Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville traveled to Owensboro for the lock-in that began at 11 p.m. on Friday night and lasted until 5 a.m. Saturday morning.

When the middle school youth arrived at Sts. Peter and Paul prior to the journey to Owensboro, the air was filled with excitement and anticipation. Fifth grade student Christina Ligibel exclaimed to her friends, "We get to stay up all night with permission!"

Prior to leaving Hopkinsville, the chaperones and youth met in the narthex of the church to discuss the rules and procedures for the night. "You have to do one thing for me tonight," said Libby Downs, Pastoral Associate and Youth Minister for Sts. Peter and Paul. "I want you



Olivia Harris and Allison Watson, both sixth grade students in Hopkinsville, spent time during the Diocese of Owensboro Middle School Lock-in on February 27 singing songs with the karaoke machine. Photo taken by Dawn C. Ligibel.

A Parish's Support: From the Writer's Perspective *(Continued from page 25)*

my 10-year-old daughter to stay with her family for several nights, which came as a huge relief to my daughter!

On another day, someone else insisted she come to my home to gather dirty laundry. She then took it home to wash and dry it and invited us to stay for dinner after Saturday evening Mass when we arrived to gather our clean laundry.

While each and every gesture was not in and of itself "life saving," together the love and support was touching. Most of all, Greg was especially appreciative of how his friends and fellow parishioners cared for us while he was absent and absolutely helpless to assist his own family.

This is the same parish family who, even while my husband was here with me, reached out in a very special way nearly three years ago when my sister died in St. Louis. After two and a half weeks in the hospital, my sister died after suffering a massive heart attack. I was away from home for the better part of three and a half weeks during her hospital stay and funeral.

When I didn't know where to turn for a priest to preside over my sister's funeral, because she had not been active in her parish for several years, Fr. John Thomas, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, insisted that he travel to St. Louis for the funeral. Libby Downs, our Pastoral Associate, coordinated everything from Hopkinsville to ensure it all ran like clockwork.

After the funeral, we immediately re-

turned home because it was just two days before my daughter was to receive her first Holy Communion. On top of all the stress and grief of the previous three and a half weeks, I was overwhelmed at the prospect of preparing my house and food for out-of-town guests who would be arriving the next day.

Much to my surprise and amazement, my house was cleaned spotlessly and my refrigerator and freezer were filled with food. The principal of our school at that time even had the foresight to order a beautiful sheet cake for my daughter's party. She paid for it and delivered it to my home the day after I returned. All that was required from me at that point was to enjoy my daughter's celebration.

More recently I experienced what might be considered my closest brush with the military life. While attending the funeral of Sgt. Scott Stream (refer to the article titled "Parish Honors Fallen Soldier"), I was unexpectedly taken by surprise at the intense sadness I felt knowing this man could represent any one of our parish's military members or even my own husband. It was difficult to hold onto my composure during the funeral Mass.

After the funeral Mass, as several of us were waiting outside for the procession to the cemetery to begin, one military wife expressed her chagrin over losing her composure during the funeral. Another parishioner then told me about several military wives who refuse to attend military funerals while their husbands are deployed. It is just too hard; yet

it's also too easy to envision yourself in the shoes of the family suffering from the loss of their loved one. It's what every military family dreads. They know it is always a distinct possibility.

While my experience of the "military life" is limited, I can attest with first-hand knowledge what our military families experience by being members of this incredible parish family. At any given time or under any set of circumstances, one or more members of this parish address any need, great or small.

Like our military families, several members of the parish continually ask about my

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to make sure you meet one new person tonight who is not from our parish." With several icebreakers to kick the evening off, the youth were quickly able to complete the goal set forth by their youth leader.

"They were cool," said Dwayne Bridges regarding the icebreakers. The eighth grade student met several people from St. Ann's parish.

"I think it was pretty good," said Harley France, a sixth grade student. "But most of the time we had to learn what other people are like and there were a lot of people there," she explained. "They gave us papers to learn about other people. We had to ask about them," she added.

After the opening prayer service and icebreaking activities, the youth were set free to choose any activities they wanted for the rest of the night. Their choices included volleyball, rock climbing, corn hole, playing pool, swimming, ping-pong, foosball, basketball, karaoke, folk dancing and eating. Some children stayed with just one or two activities while many visited them all over and over again.

"I didn't expect there to be that much stuff to do," said Abby Craft, another sixth grade student. "It was way better than I expected."

"It was fun," said Olivia Harris, also in the sixth grade. "I'll definitely go again."

husband's welfare and his anticipated arrival home. Some parishioners write to him on a regular basis while others send him Care packages. This type of support is so appreciated and truly does make the time we are apart more bearable.

As most of the families I interviewed for the military article agreed, it's the prayers that truly give reassurance and support. Therefore, I ask everyone in our diocese to keep each and every one of our military members, their families, and my husband in your prayers. May the Lord allow them all to return safely where they are surrounded by the love of their families and their parish families.



Remembering A Rosary Walk

Sister Rosanne Spalding, OSU, brought the Precious Blood RCIA group to visit the memory garden and rosary walk at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on March 8. MSJ Photo

Good Will From Nigeria; Calhoun Parishioner Visits Fr. Okoro's Town

By David Scott

In January, I had the privilege of visiting Fr. John Okoro and staying with his family in Nigeria. Fr. John is my parish priest at St. Sebastian in Calhoun and was taking his annual vacation in his country. I had no idea what to expect during my visit but I can now say that every minute was enjoyable and educational. I will forever be grateful to Fr. John for taking his valuable time to host and escort me in his home area for a week. In addition to being a priest, Fr. John is a leader in the community where he was born and raised. Many people came to him for advice and help, and he was extremely busy.

The people, when first meeting me, would say, "You're welcome!" meaning that I was welcome in their country, their home, or their village, and I did feel welcome. The presence and influence of the Catholic Church was very visible. We visited several parishes and Catholic schools including one Fr. John established. It is apparent that education is extremely important and the Catholic Church is vital in this endeavor. We also visited a joint Catholic and government hospital, which was small by our standards, and had very little modern equipment, but was clean and orderly.

The only American I met while in Nigeria was a very impressive woman, Teresa Kostuk. Teresa is a nurse who treks (her word) the country with a backpack tending to the sick and injured. She explained that getting sufficient medicines is one of the greatest challenges she and other medical people face. Many people become seriously ill, and some die from injuries and illnesses that would be routinely cured in the United States. When talking to Teresa, I couldn't help thinking of another Teresa who cared for the poor and sick.

When I returned, many people asked what I ate, was I ever sick, what my accommodations were like, and how was I accepted by the general public. Many of these people may be considering traveling to Nigeria themselves.

I ate well, was never sick, stayed and slept in a clean house with my own bathroom, and the people were friendly and courteous. The food consisted of mostly fruits, vegetables, rice, and some fish and chicken. The bananas, oranges, plantain, and pineapples were locally grown and especially flavorful. One of the main vegetables is a yam, which is the size of a small watermelon and tastes like our white potatoes. Fufu is a dish made from any of a variety of vegetables that are pounded and mashed into a paste. There are many roadside stands selling fruits, vegetables, meat, and other items. Fr. John's mother has a garden that supplies her with vegetables for her household as

well as to sell.

In my opinion, Nigeria's greatest asset is its people. I found them to be intelligent, hard working, friendly, and wanting to better themselves. I was encouraged by their desire for education. The country's biggest challenges are its infrastructure and the economy.

Fr. John, with the help of some donations from people here, had a water well bored and a water system installed in his home village. Local people use this water and some walk long distances to get it. Many more water systems are needed in other areas. The people of this village paid to have utility poles and wiring installed to connect to the utility



This is a group of villagers fetching water from the water system bored in Fr. John Okoro's village, courtesy of donations from some American friends. All pictures with this article are from David Scott's Photos



David Scott posing with Teresa Kostuk, R.N., to his left, and a Nigerian doctor and Nurse in the Nbano joint hospital owned by the Church and government. David Scott photo



Fr. Okoro with Fr. Mike Eboh, second from right, standing with a group of former students, who are now teachers at the Immaculate Conception High School, started by Fr. Okoro years back before he travelled to the U.S.

grid. While I was there a transformer had been out of service for three months and we had no electricity. They used a generator to pump water from their well.

Many of us in Kentucky have experienced what this is like recently during the Ice Storm of January, 27, 2009. The main roads are paved and are adequate. The secondary roads consist of dirt and sand and are rough in places. The driving could be described as cooperative chaos.

It is certainly chaotic but miraculously no one seems to collide. I described it to Fr. John as a "one-way road that isn't," when three cars, side by side, were traveling the same direction on a two lane, two-way road, with motorbikes on both shoulders. He seemed to have no problem with it.

One of the most memorable parts of my trip was the Sunday Mass. St. Anthony's church, which is still under construc-

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tion, is made of concrete blocks and is designed to have windows without glass. A nice breeze was blowing through the church. The Mass was three hours long and Fr. John said that some Masses are longer. It didn't seem long to me. There was no electricity or sound system but the singing was great, sung in harmony and accompanied by various percussion instruments.

Fr. Jerry, the parish priest, and Fr. John could be heard clearly as they celebrated the Mass. Communion was received on the tongue kneeling at the communion rail. Parishioners came to the front of the church to present their offerings, as opposed to passing a basket. This was a Thanksgiving Mass and a special collection was taken up during which many people offered food items rather than money.

There was also a special collection taken to help pay for the Chrism Mass and for the Diocese. This collection was interesting in that Fr. Jerry announced what each person gave and the congre-



David Scott with chorus of St Anthony Church in the village of Umunkwo.



David Scott with Teresa Kostuk, R.N., a missionary in Nigeria speaking with a man who had carried a baby into the hospital for an examination. David Scott photo

gation applauded each time. Fr. John gave the church an electronic keyboard that can be plugged in or operated on batteries. He also presented other gifts donated by people in the United States. There was an uplifting and joyful mood in the church.

In closing, I would like to say how impressed I was with Fr. John's family. He, his mother, two brothers, three sisters, and their families, were all gathered for an extended Christmas visit. Fr. John's father is deceased. Their love and devotion to each other was obvious, and their pride in and dedication to the children was an example for all of us. I now call all of them my friends.

In the picture above middle right, David Scott observing nurse Teresa Kostuk giving care to a sick person in the hospital.

At right, Students of St. Anthony's Catholic High School in Umunkwo, Fr. Okoro's home town, stand to greet Mr. Scott as they arrive at their classroom. Fr. Jerry, at right, the parish priest and manager, watches.



Fr. Okoro standing with his niece and Sisters of Mercy order when the student was taken back to the all girls Catholic school on resumption day. David Scott photo



St. Jerome Parish Works To Restore Pipe Organ

By Lacy Riddle

FANCY FARM, Ky. - On January 12, 2009, St. Jerome began the long awaited removal of the old Kilgen Pipe Organ for restoration. The present church was dedicated in 1893, and it is believed that the Kilgen Pipe Organ was installed around the year 1894 (which would make this organ approximately 115 years old). Many parishioners came out to help and some just wanted to get a glimpse of history.

Miller Pipe Organ from Louisville, KY under the direction of Jim Miller got everything started. Parishioners helped hand down the pipes and got educated as to how the pipe organ works. While taking apart the organ, we discovered two old pennies: an 1893 Indian Head Penny and a 1946 Wheat Penny. There were hundreds of pipes in an endless variety of shapes, sizes, and construction, which determine each pipe's voice: brassy, naturally reedy, or wood-flutish. As organs age, they gather layers of dust and they can begin to sag and creep out of shape which can make it difficult for them to speak distinctly and in full voice.

All of the pipes were loaded and brought to Miller Pipe Organ in Louisville to be cleaned and repaired. They will also be repairing, cleaning, and re-leathering the reservoir which allows for large amounts of wind to be stored up to provide enough air for the pipes to speak. There will be some minor repairs done to the organ console. One of our parish-



Pictures of St. Jerome parishioners working on the long awaited removal of the old Kilgen Pipe Organ for restoration. Submitted photos

ioners, Gayla Elliott, has volunteered to paint additional patterns and stenciling on the 23 facade pipes.

In addition to the restoration of the Kilgen Pipe Organ, we will also be having an additional Pipe Organ installed with 9 ranks of pipes on three manuals and pedal. The console will be placed in the current location of the electric organ console and the pipes will be located on the left side of the Kilgen Pipes.

All finances for this project are being provided by an anonymous donor. The project is anticipated to be finished by early April, 2009 and ready for Holy Week and Easter services. Once the organs are in place, we would like to have a dedication of both organs and the new piano.



Names of Jesus! Ms. Lynnette Warner's Preschool class, at St. Joseph Catholic School in Mayfield, displays their colorful artwork showcasing the different names of Jesus. Pictured from left to right; bottom row - Braidy Jones, Kate Henderson, Brooke Duncan, Daniel Trimble, top row - Alex East, Ashur Jones-Powers, Katelynn Stanczyk, Megan Null, Ms. Lynnette Warner, Gabe Spalding, Audrey Dowdy, Grant Phillips and Alex Preston. Submitted by Shanda Purcell.



Lenten Prayer Day : Msgr. Bernard Powers leads a prayer day centered on Lent and the need to journey through Lent with Jesus on Feb. 28 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. MSJ Photo

The 2nd grade class from Mary Carrico School made their First Reconciliation on February 19, 2009 at St. William, Knottsville. They are pictured from left to right: Mary Shupe (1st/2nd grade teacher), Chloe Mattingly, Lilly Mudd, Justin Hazel, Savannah Aull, Logan Mills, and Devin Rhinerson. Submitted by Mary Shupe.



Happy Anniversary

Marriage Celebrations for April Anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and Over 50 Years of Marriage

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Tony & Carolyn Clark, 40
Thomas & Shirley Coomes, 50
Albert & Joan Hofmann, 50
Hayden & Bobbie Head, 61
Ward & Mildred Pedley, 54
Kenneth & Wanda Ward, 59
Dennis & Thelma Clark, 57
Edward & Phyllis Bittel, 51
Carl & Mildred Spurrier, 56
Paul & Joyce Christian, 60

Christ the King, Madisonville

John & Diane Clark, 40

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Jerry & Regina Benson, 25
Jack & Lisa Buckman, 25
Richard & Lisa Cocco, 25
Kevin & Deanna Marlin, 25
William & Kim Starks, 25
Robert & Virginia Davidson, 61
Albert & Nadine Schwallier, 57
Paul & Hallie Vorbeck, 59

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Shelby & Joan Douglas, 50
James & Helen Bailey, 53
Robert & Rena Livsey, 56
Immaculate Conception, Earlington
Gene & Edna Clark, 57
Gene & Barbara Davis, 67
Bob & Beverly Steckler, 56

Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

Kenneth & Jeanie Hanks, 54
Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro
James G. & Barbara Alvey, 54
James & Donna Duffy, 25
Joseph & Helen Howard, 62
Jeff & Mary Beth Libs, 25
Jerry & Donna McDaniel, 25
Philip & Brenda Phelps, 40
Ken & Dorothy Raley, 52
Ralph & Judy Thomas, 50
Charles & Anna Ruth Thompson, 53
Maurice & Shirley Wink, 50

Parish of the Immaculate, Owensboro

Todd & Patricia Stelmach, 40
David Allen & Mary Jane Strehl, 40
Frank & Barbara Crump, 54
Frank & Elinor Ann Harris, 58
Joseph & Mary Lou Mudd, 56
Tony & Kay Rhodes, 57
Simon & Patricia Sanders, 52
Robert Louis & Mary Pearl Vollman, 56

Precious Blood, Owensboro

Eldred & Eulaine Robertson, 52
Brent & Lynda Trogden, 40

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Richard & Nancy Mayes, 51
Mike & Barbara Davis, 40
Thomas & Sue Mary Wedding, 52

St. Agnes, Uniontown

James & Gladys Austin, 63
Billy Joe & Beverly Buckman, 30
William & Nadine Hargrove, 60
Benedict & Rita French, 55

St. Ann, Morganfield

Mike & Cathy Greenwell, 40

St. Anthony of Padua, Grand Rivers

Robert & Lois Tashijian, 53
Gregory & Juliana Comer, 40

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Michael & Jackie Freels, 25
J. T. & Angela Mary O'Bryan, 50

St. Augustine, Reed

Hershel & Barbara Smith, 40

St. Anthony, Browns Valley

Joseph & Sharon Wink, 40

St. Edward, Fulton

Jack & Dolores Quinton, 54

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

William J. & Sandra Moore, 40
Jim & Clorinda Covert, 50
Ronnie & Mary Katherine Knudsen, 61

St. Henry, Aurora

John & Doris Sergeant, 58

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Algene & Mary Vernon Goatley, 50
Joseph & Joyce Toon, 40

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

William T. & Mary E. Willett, 54

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Julian & Betty Durbin, 58
John & Constance Barbalas, 53

St. Joseph, Central City

Mike & Lisa Day, 25
Robert & Karen Caskey, 40

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Murrel & Jackie Richardson, 50
Gerald & Jane White, 54

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Joe & Anne Mikez, 54
William & Eileen Hicks, 65

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Victor & Lois Johnson, 54
Thomas & Nancy Bickett, 50
Greg & Linda Johnson, 40

St. Leo, Murray

Gilbert & Constance Myrick, 40

St. Mark, Eddyville

Walter E. & Marilyn Joanne Reibel, 52
Oscar & Bernadette Strickland, 63

St. Martin, Rome

Norman & Judy Hayden, 40
Nicholas & Patricia Bumm, 57

Raphael & Antoinette Ebelhar, 58

St. Mary, Franklin

Calvin & Lois Oshefsky, 56

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Paul & Pam Scherm, 25
Bernard & Patty Beyke, 60

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Roger & Brenda Hagan 40
Glenn & Helen Coomes, 50
Aubrey & Virginia Mayfield, 61
J. Edgar & Amelia Evans, 56
David & Mary Ann Howard, 62
St. Michael, Oak Grove
Perry & Betty Elder, 54

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Martin & Faye Milliner, 25
Robert & Anna Frances Portman, 53
Carmon & Jackie Milliner, 55

St. Peter, Stanley

Joe & Jean Coomes, 60
Joseph & Dolores Wathen, 53

St. Peter, Waverly

Joe & Rose Curry, 51

St. Pius X, Calvert City

James & Rose Drury, 50
Jack & Patricia Smiddy, 40

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Robert & Suzann Millay, 25
Charles & Lisa Zoglmann, 25
Phillip & Paula Annin, 40
Kenneth & Patricia Burns, 50
Charles & Ruth Ann Mayfield, 53
James & Jeannetta Mayfield, 55
John T. & Wanda Williams, 53

St. Ronuald, Hardinsburg

Rick & Virginia Bickett, 64

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St. Rose, Cloverport

H. C. & Shirley Reardon, 55

St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Lance & Stacy Green, 25

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Charles & Rita Mansfield, 40

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Philip & Beverly Velotta, 40
Henry & Agnes Luckett, 67
Fred & Faye Whelan, 54
Archie & Angela Clark, 54
Greg & Sherrie Hancock, 55
Anthony & Mary Alice Higdon, 57

St. William, Knottsville

Virgil & Marjorie Brant, 52
Jerome & Betty Hamilton, 54

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Kenneth & Mavis Cain, 52
Paul & Jean McCarty, 58

Henry & Mary Patton, 61

John & Clara Patton, 52

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Kenneth & Mary Dean, 50

Billy & Harriette Hancock, 54

Anthony & Sandra Mueller, 61

Pilgrimage To The Holy Land



Fr. Frank Ruff, a Glenmary priest serving in Todd County, KY is hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Oct. 12-22, 2009. For information and a free brochure, contact him at 364 Watts Rd, Trenton, KY 42286, 270-466-5457, or fruff@glenmary.org

Fr. Frank Ruff

Fr. Frank promises this will be a "Journey of a Lifetime." This will be his seventh trip, so he is well experienced.

Diocesan Review Board Members Ready To Respond To Calls

The members of the Board who deal with sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Owensboro are as follows: Ms. June Bell, Chair, Mr. Ken Bennett, Dr. Charles Bohle, Ms. Susan Clark, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. Jeff Ebelhar, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Ms. Teresa Henry, Vice-Chair, Dr. Carroll Howard, Mr. Dan Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Rev. Pat Reynolds, and Dr. Michele Thomas. Ms. Louanne Payne serves as the Diocesan liaison to the Review Board.

Any person who wishes to communicate with the Diocesan Review Board is asked to call the Catholic Pastoral Center at 1-270-683-1545 and ask to speak with a member of the Review Board. To speak with a particular member of this Board, tell the receptionist. In either case, the receptionist at the Catholic Pastoral Center will give the caller's information to the member of the Review Board for follow-up. Callers may choose to remain anonymous for the initial call to the Catholic Pastoral Center receptionist. The phone numbers of the members of this Board will not be made public.

You may also contact the Board via email at reviewboard@pastoral.org. Be sure to include your contact information. No direct response will be given by email because confidentiality is never guaranteed when using email. Follow-up will be made by telephone.

2008-2009 Nomination Form for the Diocese of Owensboro Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award

Previous Recipients

1999-2000	Sr. Maggie Cooper, SCN	2000-2001	Carol York
2001-2002	Sr. Ann McGrew, OSU	2002-2003	Sr. Margret Ann Aull, OSU Rosemary Payne
2003-2004	Sr. Julia Head, OSU	2004-2005	Sr. Marie Michael Hayden, OSU
2005-2006	Franki Durbin	2006-2007	Denise Long
2007-2008	Sr. Rosanne Spalding, OSU		



The Offices of Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, and Lay Ministry and Formation are asking for nominations for the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Leader Award. The recipient of this award will be announced at the Appreciation Dinner for Catechetical and Youth Ministers on May 11, 2009 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Owensboro, Kentucky. Anyone from the Diocese of Owensboro may nominate an individual for this award.

Nominees should be professional ministers working for a minimum of 5 years in the Diocese of Owensboro in the field of catechetics. Some ministerial roles to be considered are Director of Religious Education, Coordinator of Religious Education, Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister, etc.

The recipient of the award is a role model as an outstanding human being; committed to Diocesan, Parish and Community service; shows a deep sense of spirituality; is knowledgeable, and committed to continuing their intellectual, spiritual and collaborative growth.

The deadline for nominations is April 17, 2009. The Core Committee for Religious Education, consisting of the Diocesan Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministry, and Lay Ministry and Formation will discern and select the recipient.

All nomination forms should be mailed to the Religious Education Office, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301-2130 by April 17, 2009.

Nominee _____
 Address _____

 Parish _____
 Nominated by:
 Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____
 Relation to nominee _____

On a separate page, please comment on the nominee's performance as a Catechetical Minister. Please describe the nominee's performance in the following categories:

- Why should this person be honored with the Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Award?
- Describe this person's commitment as a Catechetical Leader.
- How has this person aided Catechists and/or Youth Leaders to improve their ministry?
- How is this person a Christian role model for Catechists, Youth Leaders and parishioners? Give an example.
- Does this person volunteer time and talent to the community apart from parish and diocesan duties? If so, give details of her or his involvement.
- How well does this person work with the pastor, professional colleagues and parishioners?

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Blessed Mother Parish, 601 E. 23rd Street, Owensboro

April 19th, 1:30 P.m. – 4:00 P.M.



Mark Mallett

“Music is a doorway to evangelize.”

“Stay, and be a light to your brothers.”

www.markmallett.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION, RECONCILIATION, MERCY CHAPLET

“The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy- the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and of the Redeemer and when she brings people close to the sources of the Savior's mercy of which she is the trustee and dispenser... Therefore the Church professes and proclaims conversion. Conversion to God always consists in discovering His mercy, that is, in discovering that love which is patient and kind.” Pope John Paul II (Dives in Misericordia, 13)

Annual Spring Day of Wisdom

By Ginny Knight-Simon

The Annual Spring Day of Wisdom for senior citizens of the Diocese of Owensboro will be held on Thursday, May 28th, 2009 at the Catholic Pastoral Center basement.

We are very excited to offer as our featured presenter this year, Theresa Rowe. Mrs. Rowe is a native of Owensboro. I'm sure many of you have read her weekly column in the Messenger~Inquirer Newspaper and have seen her on local TV. She is also author of the book; *Shaped By Faith: 10 Secrets to Strengthening Your Body and Soul* and an exercise DVD by the same name. Beside being a fitness guru and much sought after Christian speaker, Mrs. Rowe is a wife and mother of seven “unique and wonderful children.”



Theresa Rowe

Mrs. Rowe has a very interesting and inspiring faith life story that I'm sure we can all benefit from. I'm sure you will enjoy hearing and seeing what she has to say and what she does.

As usual we will have fun, food and entertainment.

Please send in your reservation and \$5 by May 26th deadline.

“As we emulate Christ's actions on the earth, we begin to become not only God's children but his partners in peace on this earth.”

✂

Make Check in the amount of \$5 to Catholic Pastoral Center

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Parish _____

of people attending _____

Amount of check _____

✂

By Trisha West, Church Reporter

The Youth of Oak Grove, KY had an exciting time on the first Friday of Lent. Seven children, ages 11-17, gathered together at St. Michael's Catholic Church on State Line Road and prepared food for the church's Fish Fry. Jonathan Lucas, 17, "cooked the fish" and helped with drink refills.

Lucas said he was happy to be there to set "a good example" for the younger ones involved. Lucas also said that he was happy to help raise money for the youth group to take trips.

Alexis Moreno-Medina, 12, said she was involved because it was "fun to help out." Jennifer Raymond, 11, "just wanted to be involved in church activities." She helped with drink refills, taking pictures of tea and lemonade around to the guests eating. Raymond also had to fix the tent. When asked if it was hard she replied, "No, all I had to do was add a pole." The tent was out back, and under it is where Lucas fried the catfish nuggets.

Alexis Moreno-Medina, 12, and Reanne Mires, 11, decided to get involved because they thought it "would be fun to help out." She and three other girls "helped mix the stuff up," served the food and desserts. Autumn Dyess, 13, and Mires, were excited about raising money for the youth. Whereas Alexis Mires, 12, thought it would be "better than watching TV."

Matthew Issac, 11, just "wanted to be helpful; it is for the church." Issac helped put out desserts and put the food on the plates. He was eating at the time and said that it was all good; the hush puppies were "great," but his favorite was the brownies. Joel Kuan, 16, was there to spend time with friends while he helped out and did "whatever they ask of me."

The youth said they were really excited about being able to do it all again, when their Friday comes back around to do the Youth fish fry again.



In the picture above in the first row, left to right, are ReAnn Mires, Alexis Mires, Alexis Moreno, Matthew Isaac, and Jenny Raymond; in the second row, from left to right, are Desire Dyess, Autumn Dyess, Celina Green, Jonathan Lucas, and Alex Green. In picture at right from left to right, Al Scheller, Bob Whelan, Al Ferguson, and Frank Coloumbe. Submitted photos



since the Fish Fry was "all you can eat." Oops! Maybe if I had kept my tray...
- Submitted by Father Dave Kennedy, pastor, St. Michael the Archangel Paris, Oak Grove, Ky.

St. Michael's Fish Fry in Oak Grove Boiled

Above Sea Level

OAK GROVE, Ky. - Armed with a secret recipe for the fish batter, the Knights of Columbus set up their annual Fish Fry and served the Saint Michael the Archangel parish on Ash Wednesday. The KCs also made their fish fry available every Friday, until Holy Week, from 6 pm to 8 pm. The fish fries will rotate between the Knights of Columbus and the Middle/High School Youth. The Knights will supervise the Youth as they prepare their version of the same thing.

All the food on Ash Wednesday was prepared by the Knights. This year was warmer than last year's Fish Fry. The Knights of Columbus were freezing while outside frying the fish, yet they still managed to joke around with each other. The wife of the Grand Knight, Joe Schmitt, supplied the recipe for the coleslaw, but she explains that, "he made it himself."

The fish batter recipe was from Tim Snyder, the Knights Recorder. "Every time we do this we learn something new," Advocate Frank Coulombe said. The K of C have been serving members of their parish for five years. Parishioners Albert Acuna and his wife Cathy agreed that last year "the food was great." Janet Doyle said "it always is terrific." The three were standing together waiting for the line to die down. Several parishioners who

had attended the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry the year prior were anxiously waiting in line. One, musician Rich Hornbeak, said the food "last year was great." After he finished he added that this year it was "delicious."

The knights served a hearty menu of catfish nuggets, coleslaw, corn bread, french fries, hush puppies, white beans, and, debuting this year... (drum roll please) macaroni & cheese! All this for only \$8. Desserts (cakes, cupcakes, and brownies) were 50 cents extra.

I had gotten mine to go, and left, but wished I hadn't,



Saint Michael the Archangel Parish was established on June 13, 1995, at 448 State Line Road in Oak Grove. The parish hall has always served as the parish church, continuing up to this time. Before

Dec. 2007 the arrangement was a semi-circle array of chairs, around the sanctuary since 1998, when Bishop McRaith dedicated it on Sept. 27, 1998. In 2001, came the kneeler pads donated by Mother Angelica.

Saint Michael's Mass times are: weekdays, usually 5:30 pm, and weekends, Sat. 5:30 pm, Sunday 8:30 am and 11:30 am, and Latin Mass at 2 pm.

A WKC CLARIFICATION

The establishment of Saint Michael the Archangel parish in Oak Grove happened in 1995. But because of research and proofing errors in the Diocesan Timeline printed in the February, 2009 Western Kentucky Catholic, the parish's starting date was omitted from events occurring in 1995 in the diocese. This was an inadvertent error and we regret any inconvenience because of it. -Mel Howard, Editor

Students Explore U.S. National Security During Spring Forum

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This spring outstanding high school students from across the United States will take part in a unique career development program in our nation's capital. During the six-day program, the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security (NYLF/NS): Exploring American Diplomacy, Intelligence and Defense, will introduce students to the challenging careers in national security, intelligence, the diplomatic corps and more.

“Imagine being 16 or 17 years old and the responsibility of securing the United States at home and abroad rests on your shoulders. Through specialized simulations, the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security strives to put students in the driver's seat of building a strategy that will uphold our national security,” said Marguerite Regan, Dean of Academic Affairs for NYLF. “The combination of interacting with professionals and with other students in this setting ensures that leaders are being developed so the future of our country will remain very bright.”

Paducah St. Mary High School sophomore Sarah Hendley was nominated for the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security by her counselor Dennis Griffith to attend the forum. Sarah is a basketball player for St. Mary High School, yet manages a 4.0 GPA. She participated in a People to People Ambassador trip to Australia 2008, has been Vice-President of her class for 2 years. Sarah is an Advanced Orchestra cellist, attending Quad State for 2 years. She is on the staff of The Viking Voice Newspaper as Advertising Manager, and has been on the Student Senate for 2 year. Sarah is active in the Spanish Club, the Academic Club, the Mission Club for 2 years, is Captain of the Varsity Soccer Team with a 2 year letter, and was named to the All State Soccer Academic Team. She is a starting center of the Varsity Basketball team with a 3-year letter. In 2008, Sarah was named to the All A Region Tournament Team, gained All District Honorable Mention, was a Member of Lifeteen, and served as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

The curriculum for the Forum on National Security is based on actual world events. Throughout the program, students use critical thinking, leadership, and public speaking skills to tackle the

Sarah Hendley standing at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC during the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security. Submitted photo



Saint Mary High School sophomore Sarah Hendley was nominated to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security in Washington, D.C. Submitted photo



complexity of national decision-making as they examine how the U.S. plans for peace and prepares for crisis. They employ a crisis decision-making process similar to that employed by the nation's top policy makers.

Students also participate in thought-provoking question and answer sessions with highly respected, internationally recognized civilian policy makers and senior military. In addition, leading institutions open their doors to Forum on National Security students, where they are educated in diplomacy, international

affairs and military strategy. Past programs have included visits to several government institutions and military installations, such as the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Naval Academy, a variety of embassies and many others.

Founded in 1992, the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) is an educational organization established to help prepare extraordinary young people for their professional careers. Forums are offered in eight cities across the United States in a wide variety of career fields, such as national security, law and medicine. Over 50,000 young people have attended NYLF programs.



Lourdes Ray and Kay Eckstein Cardiovascular Institute Grand Opening Celebration

On Sunday, February 8, Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Ky. celebrated the opening of the Ray and Kay Eckstein Cardiovascular Institute on Sunday with a blessing, tours, and reception. More than one hundred and fifty people attended the festivities. The institute is named for Ray and Kay Eckstein, whose charitable trust donated one million dollars to the project. The institute consolidates all of Lourdes cardiovascular services into one convenient location. The Lourdes' cardiovascular team was recently ranked Paducah's best in Cardiac Care by HealthGrades 2009.

In the picture cutting the ribbon at the grand opening celebration are from left to right, John Durbin, Board Chair, Steven Grinnell, President and CEO, Dr. James O'Rourke, Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr. David Talley Cardiologist, Dr. Timothy Ranval, Vascular Surgeon, Teresa Eckstein, her daughter behind the red bow, Doreen Hahn, Eckstein Charitable Trust, Cindy Erickson daughter, Sue Homra daughter, Brenda Milam Lourdes Cardiac Nurse, and Susan Guess Lourdes Foundation Board Chair. Submitted by Suzanne Farmer.



Kelly May, Anna Conn, Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU, Jody Ziegler, and Karla Welch have a group discussion during the Women in the Bible Retreat held at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center Feb 27-March 1.

Women's Retreats Encounter Grace With Scripture, Life Lessons

Below: Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU, presents the Women in the Bible Retreat held Feb 27-March 1 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. The focus was on, "Encounters with Grace: Life Lessons from Women in the New Testament." MSJ Photos



Parish Shares A Religious Education Weekend

Religious education leaders and the young people of St. Joseph Parish in Central City, Ky., shared a weekend of prayer, religious education, and fun at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center on Feb 20-22. MSJ Photo

National pro-life postcard campaign to be supplemented by e-mails

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched a campaign to send e-mails with a pro-life message to members of Congress. The campaign supplements the national postcard campaign begun in dioceses throughout the country in late January. Both efforts are being coordinated through the Washington-based National Committee for a Human Life Amendment. "Tens of millions of cards have been distributed in parishes, schools, non-Catholic churches, and civic organizations across the country," said Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, in a news release. "The e-mail campaign will give even more citizens the chance to participate," she added. The e-mails, which can be sent from the USCCB's Web site at www.usccb.org/postcard, contain the same message as the postcards.

Ursuline Sisters win coveted Athena Award for enriching women

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph were honored Thursday, March 12, with the coveted Athena Award in Owensboro, Ky., an honor that recognizes people who assist women in attaining their full potential.

Before a full house at Owensboro's RiverPark Center, the Ursuline Sisters became the first group to win the award in the 11 years it's been bestowed in Owensboro. The award began in Lansing, Mich., in 1980, with the three criteria for recipients being, "They must have demonstrated excellence in their business or profession, have devoted time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and most especially, Athena recipients have generously assisted women in attaining their fullest potential."

The Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce and Girls Incorporated sponsor the award. Susanne Harris, a member of the Girls Incorporated board, nominated the Ursuline Sisters after watching a DVD on the sister's ministries.

Sue Napper, chairwoman of the local Athena Award Committee, said she was first unsure about the sisters' chances when they were nominated, but after learning more about the Ursuline mission, ministries, and their commitment to "Freeing and nurturing women and children," she thought the sisters were a perfect fit for the honor. A selection committee makes the final decision and presents the winner to the award committee.

The back of the award quotes Plato,

"What is honored in a country will be cultivated there."

Kirk Kirkpatrick, the master of ceremonies for the event, said the Ursuline Sisters have devoted their lives to helping others "with an unheralded passion and dedication. Inspired by the words of 'Act, Move, Believe, Strive, and Hope,' each day they have devoted themselves to the mission of freeing and nurturing women. They have sought to bring about change in our society through social justice, education and church ministry. Approachable and energetic, they seek to reach out to the voiceless; to enhance the world through peace and harmony; and address the needs of the whole person – body, mind and spirit. They have truly changed lives and opened doors."

Attendees at the luncheon learned of the sisters' crucial role in education, including the creation of Brescia University, and of their efforts in fighting for human dignity rights and an end to government-sponsored torture.

"Their focus on the needs of women is demonstrated in the special retreats and programs they offer and designed especially for women," Kirkpatrick said.

"Their collaborative effort with a Chicago psychiatrist established the Contemporary Woman Program at Brescia, a program that was one of the very first in the country to recognize and address the special needs of women.

"They have worked with the poor and



Sister Michele Morek accepts the Athena Award on behalf of all Ursuline Sisters. In the background are 2008 Athena Award winner Vicki Stogsdill (left), master of ceremonies Kirk Kirkpatrick, and keynote speaker Leah Guy.

homeless, giving them shelter, nourishment and the hope of tomorrow," Kirkpatrick said. "Our honoree has reached out to Hispanic women in the Owensboro area to help them to become self-sufficient. Their work has also taken them to South America where they have worked with hundreds of women teaching them marketable skills and helping them find outlets for their craft projects.... They have served as mentors for women in administration, business, science, the fine arts, education and other fields. Hand in hand together they have unselfishly paved the way for so many."

Sister Michele Morek, congregational leader, accepted the award on behalf of current sisters, and all those who've come before since Saint Angela Merici found the Company of Saint Ursula in 1535.

Other sisters present at the luncheon included Sisters Ann McGrew, Cheryl Clemons, Joseph Angela Boone, Rose Marita O'Bryan, Annalita Lancaster, Barbara Jean Head, Pam Mueller, Sharon Sullivan, Rose Jean Powers, Mary Diane Taylor, and Helena Fischer.

Embryonic Human Beings

Became Commercial Properties

Editor,

It is the science of embryology which tells us that each of us began life as a single and then multi-celled human embryo. Philosophy and Christian theology speak of human value. Catholic Christian morality asserts the surpassing and eternal value of the human embryo. I used to believe that even common decency urged that value for the human being, no matter how small. The human embryo is a human being which, if allowed, would in time manifest its full and social personhood. It was the Nazis who justified the destruction of human beings by denying their inherent and inalienable value and used them as objects for scientific experimentation (they were going to die anyway).

Embryos do not have gold teeth to reclaim or other commercial belongings. They only have their component cells from which their bodies will emerge as fetuses and babes in arms.

Self-serving ideology first and contrary to science denies the humanity of the embryo. Then it greedily subverts the values of knowledge and the healing arts to claim a noble purpose in killing them so that humanity might flourish. And so it happened that embryonic human beings became commercial properties, patented commodities, as Western culture sold its soul to mammon.

- Rev. Richard Meredith, St. Pius Tenth Church,, Owensboro, Kentucky



National Migration Week 2009
in the Diocese of Owensboro

"Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice"

May 31st - June 6th

For more information contact Patti Gutierrez
(270) 302-2782 or patricia.gutierrez@pastoral.org

National Migration Week is an opportunity for us to celebrate the diversity of our roots and our unity as the Body of Christ in our parishes and as a diocese. Parishes are encouraged to hold activities on Pentecost and during the week and join others from around the Diocese for a celebration on June 6th.

Diocesan Celebration
June 6th, 11am - 2pm
Christ the King, Madisonville

Multicultural Mass followed by a sharing of food, fellowship and entertainment displaying the unity in diversity of our Diocese.
All are invited to participate.

Brescia Alumni Weekend Honors New and Past Distinguished Alumni Recipients

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Brescia University's third annual Alumni Weekend is scheduled for April 17-18, 2009. Friday evening's festivities will include an official dedication of Alumni Hall, the new home of Martin's Bar. Alumni Hall will be a place for alumni to gather and reminisce about their days at Brescia University. After the dedication, an Italian-themed dinner will take place in the Quad, with dancing around the fountain. Saturday morning will include a brunch honoring alumni veterans who attended Brescia. Also during the Annual Alumni Association Meeting, Outstanding Alumna recipient Mary Alice Wethington '82, and Fr. Charles Saffer Alumni Hall of Fame recipient Mary Hilda McFarland '62, will be honored.

Alumni Weekend will culminate with a banquet Saturday evening honoring our Distinguished Alumni for 2009. The second annual "An Evening Among Brescia's Stars" reception and banquet will be held in the Berry Theater at the RiverPark Center beginning at 5:30 pm. During the reception, prior Distinguished Alumni Award winners will be recognized, while the 2009 recipients will be honored during the banquet.

Since 2000, Brescia University has awarded 42 alumni with the prestigious Dis-



Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, OSU, Class of 1962



Carolyn Reynolds, Class of 1989



Homer Andrew Ward, OD, Class of 1962

tinguished Alumni Award. This award was created to honor those graduates who exemplify the elements that encompass The Brescia Difference: Respect for the Sacred, Devotion to Learning, Commitment to Growth in Virtue, and Promotion of Servant Leadership. Because of the breadth and scope of their life's work, the magnitude of their impact on the regional, national, and often international scene, and their examples of service and leadership,

alumni who receive this esteemed honor have distinguished themselves among their peers and demonstrated that they are true stars of Brescia.

This year, two of our 2009 Distinguished Alumni are integral supporters and members of the Diocese of Owensboro.

2009 Distinguished Alumni:

Sr. Joseph Angela Boone, M.S., class of 1962: Sr. Joseph Angela graduated from Brescia with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics. She also holds a master's degree from The Catholic University of America in the areas of math and physics.

In 1969, while serving as a math teacher and Dean of Women at then Brescia College, Sr. Joseph Angela was appointed Treasurer of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. In this key leadership position she brought professionalism and valuable expertise recognizing the changing environ-

Continued on page 38

Receptions for Bishop John Jeremiah McRaith



Most Reverend John J. McRaith shepherded the Diocese of Owensboro for 26+ years with loving and faithful service. Please join us as we express to him our deep appreciation and love.

- **May 3, 2009** (Sunday) -- Mass at Saint Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro at 2:00 p.m. followed by a reception.

- **June 3, 2009** (Wednesday) -- Saint Thomas More, Paducah, Mass at 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception .

- **June 14, 2009** (Sunday) -- Bilingual Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville at 1:30 p.m. followed by a reception.

- **June 20, 2009** (Saturday)-- Prayer service at 11:00 a.m. at Gasper River followed by a barbecue.

You are invited to attend any of these you would like.

Pilgrimage to St Anne de Beaupre in Canada



Msgr. Bernard Powers

Msgr. Bernard Powers will lead a pilgrimage to Montreal, Quebec and Saint Anne de Beaupre, North American Martyr Shrine and other great places of interest in Canada.

July 7 to July 18, 2009.

Double occupancy \$1,770.00 For information, call Msgr. Powers, 270-233-3443, or Golden Frontier, 618-234-1445.

Msgr. Powers said, "It is a great trip and I feel those who make the trip will be enriched by the experience."



It's The Environment! Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, director of Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, speaks to graduate students in environmental education classes from Brescia University during an evening class when they visited Maple Mount Feb. 27-28. MSJ Photo

Brescia Honors Distinguished Alumni

(Continued from page 37)

ment with religious following Vatican II and encouraging the Sisters to plan for their future by enrolling Sisters in Social Security and starting a retirement fund. Her business finesse also brought about expansive investment strategies which have served the sisters well to this day.

Sr. Joseph Angela has served as Chancellor for the Diocese of Owensboro since July of 1989. She was the first female Chancellor in Kentucky, only the second female to be named Chancellor at any diocese in the United States, and the longest serving female Chancellor in a position that is still predominantly held by males. During her tenure as Chancellor, Sr. Joseph Angela's contributions have made significant impact on the financial health of the Diocese, which serves 32 counties in western Kentucky, and on the social health of the greater community.

She is responsible for the prudent oversight of all of the Diocesan Investment Funds and is credited with instituting and administering the Priests' Retirement Fund. From her position she has been instrumental in forming and serving on the administering Boards or Councils of the following organizations benefiting citizens of western Kentucky and beyond: the Mandeville Sister Diocese, St. Benedict Joseph Homeless Shelter for men, St. Gerard's Life Home for expectant mothers, Gasper River Youth Camp and Retreat Center, Centro Latino, and Catholic Charities which directs the critical, Diocesan social service programs of Adoption, Counseling, Family Life and Justice for Immigrants. She also serves on the board of the Boulware Center Mission in Owensboro which helps people with addiction on the road to recovery and the Brescia University Board of Trustees where her engaged membership on the finance committee has served the institution well.

In recognition of her selfless sacrifice of service to others, she was awarded in 2006 the Fr. Charles Saffer Alumni Hall of Fame award by the Brescia University Alumni Association.

Carolyn Reynolds, class of 1989: Carolyn graduated from Brescia with a bachelor of arts in education. She first attended Brescia in 1969 for two years before marriage and children put her education on hold. In 1986, she returned to Brescia full-time to complete her degree and begin a career in teaching.

Carolyn taught in her hometown of Tell City, inspiring junior high and high school students for nine years before multiple sclerosis (MS) required her to retire. But her passion for educating found another outlet as Carolyn created a website, accessed internationally, by others facing MS providing valuable informa-

tion, resources, and an inspirational encouragement. Her site also provides a creative outlet for those whose bodies are weakened to still use their sharp minds through their poetry and short stories to impact others. Carolyn's website, essentially an online magazine, has won at least 25 national and international awards and became the inspiration behind her book, *Battling the Monster Within*, published last year.

Homer Andrew Ward, OD, class of 1962: Dr. Ward graduated from Brescia with a bachelor of science in mathematics. He earned his doctor of optometry from Indiana University in 1973.

For nearly 20 years, Dr. Ward has been a part of VOSH, Visiting Optometrists Serving Humanity. This organization travels all over the world providing eye exams and prescription glasses to those who might otherwise never receive any form of eye care. Dr. Ward has been on 15 mission trips with VOSH including countries such as Peru, Argentina, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and most recently, Jamaica. Last year VOSH went to Mandeville, Jamaica, the location of Owensboro's sister diocese. There the team conducted more than two thousand eye exams and gave away more than 15 hundred pairs of glasses. All the glasses taken on these trips are donated, mainly through the Lions Club, who, Dr. Ward has worked with for more than 30 years.

Dr. Ward is also very active locally, as the eye care professional for the annual Christmas Wish program sponsored by an Owensboro radio station. During the Christmas season, families in need write a letter to the station, explaining where they need assistance. If any of the letters involve eye care, Dr. Ward grants those wishes. He and his daughter, Dr. Patricia Ward, also an optometrist, visit the local nursing homes regularly, fixing problems with glasses or replacing them.

In 2004, Dr. Ward received the Ledingham Award from the Kentucky Optometry Association for outstanding service and contribution to the optometric profession.

Dr. Ward serves on several boards including the Owensboro Deanery Council, Owensboro Airport Board, Diocese of Owensboro-Diocese of Mandeville Adoption project, and is on the executive committee for the Christmas Parade. Dr. Ward recently stepped down from the Elizabeth Munday board. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force and continues to serve without points or pay as the liaison officer to the Air Force Academy for the western Kentucky area.

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2009

April 2009

- 3-5 Christian Women's Retreat
- 6-7 4-H Youth Retreat
- 14-16 Theological Reflections
Glenmary Associates
- 17 Leadership Development
Workshop
- 17-19 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 18 Our Lady of Lourdes
Confirmation Retreat
- 20-24 Spiritual Direction Institute
Week 3
- 23 Save Energy, Save Money,
Save God's Green Earth
- 24-25 Scrapbooking
- 25 Owensboro Medical Practice
- 27-30 RiverValley 4 Day Workshop

May 2009

- 1-3 Retrouvaille Training Weekend
- 9 Yarn Spinners
- 9 MSJ Conference and Retreat
Center Fund Raiser Dinner
- 16-17 MSJ Academy and Junior College
Alumnae Reunion Weekend
- 23 Private Wedding Reception

June 2009

- 6-8 Circle of Friends
- 8-13 Discover Music, Discover
Nature, Discover Maple Mount
for children ages 10-12
- 14-19 Agri-Eco Camp for children
ages 10-12

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 15 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56 at 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

- 21-26 Christian Leadership Institute
- 22-25 RiverValley 4 Day Workshop
- 26-28 Associates Retreat Weekend
- 29-30 DCHS Panther Leadership

July 2009

- 8-10 Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint
Joseph Community Days
- 11-17 St. John's Youth from Michigan
working with Owensboro Habitat
Conference and Directed Retreat
- 12-18 Private Wedding Reception
- 18 Centering Prayer Retreat
- 19 GREENing Western Kentucky
Expo at Brescia
- 25 Spiritual Direction Institute
Week 4
- 27-31 Scrapbook Swarm

August 2009

- 7-9 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 8 Yarn Spinners
- 14-16 Retrouvaille
- 20-23 Spiritual Directors Retreat
- 22 DRE Youth Ministers
- 28-29 Scrapbooking

September 2009

- 13 MSJ 39th Annual Picnic
- 14-18 Glenmary Retreat Week
- 18-19 Leadership McLean County
- 22-25 Runaway Quilters
- 28-30 Home Missions Leadership



Vast majority of dioceses comply with sex abuse charter, audits find

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The latest audits assessing compliance with the U.S. Catholic bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" found nearly complete compliance among participating dioceses and eparchies, but the number refusing to participate rose from five to seven. A report released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops March 13 showed that only four of the dioceses or eparchies participating in audits between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, were found to be noncompliant with any articles of the charter. Three -- the dioceses of Lansing, Mich., and Las Cruces, N.M., and the Archdiocese of San Francisco -- had corrected the problems cited by auditors by the end of December, while the Diocese of Tulsa, Okla., "continues to work toward full compliance with providing safe environment training to children," the report said. But Judge Michael R. Merz, chairman of the National Review Board, the lay advisory group under whose direction the report was produced, expressed concern in a letter to Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, USCCB president, that the number of bishops or eparchs refusing to participate had grown.



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The Diocese of Owensboro is blessed to have 14 seminarians in priestly formation. These young men pray for you and they count on your prayers for them, as they actively seek God's will in their lives.

Pray for our Priests, Consecrated Religious, and Seminarians.



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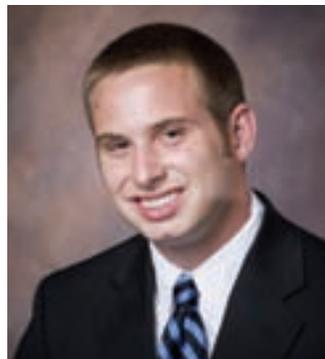
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Vocation

Mission, as a witness of divine love, becomes particularly effective when it is shared in a communitarian way, so that the world may believe.

**May 3, 2009
is the
World Day of
Prayer for
Vocations.**

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.

Wisdom by Ginny Knight-Simon



Sissy Seidel
Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson,
Kentucky

I met Ameilia, or Sissy as she is best known, Seidel at the February 11th senior parish gathering at Holy Name of Jesus in Henderson, Ky. Sissy is the new coordinator of the senior group taking over the reins from founder Gloria O’Nan.

While chatting with Sissy, she told me she had lived in the Geneva and Henderson Ky area all of her life.

“I lived in the house where all but two of my siblings were born. Two were born in the hospital! Mom had time for all of us making each one feel special giving us a sense of self-worth and pride. Even though she was a simple farmer’s wife with no formal education, Mom could

hold an audience! She was a wonderful story teller, and everyone liked her. Mom had 70 grandchildren when she died,” Sissy said with a smile.

Sissy told me about her involvement with the Women of the Moose Lodge International. “I have been a member (of the Moose Lodge) for over 23 years and I was in office for 20 years. So many people think the Moose is only a party organization, but they are so wrong. Moose Heart, IL is an 11,000 acre camp, or small town, where all types of projects are funded by the Moose Lodge. The center of Moose Heart is shaped like a heart and in that heart is where infants and their mothers are cared for until the baby is adopted. It’s a wonderful place that helps people in all walks of life with a lot of different programs. I’m not as involved as I used to be with the Women’s Moose International but I am still a member.”

Sissy told me that her husband John died on their 5th wedding anniversary in 2002. “It was so awful. I thought I’d never get over it. But I have good neighbors and a wonderful parish community. I am now getting more involved with my parish since Gloria “talked me into” taking over the senior group. I also help on the bereavement meals, and I am a member of the hand chimes group.”

Sissy said, “I think it’s very important to have senior group because it helps a person stay in the “loop.” We have educational subjects, and entertainment and fun here at our monthly gatherings. Today we had our annual Healing Mass for seniors where everyone was anointed and then everyone came in for the potluck meal. We have a van service that will pick you up and bring you here if you need a ride. I’m looking forward to working on the senior gathering program each month.” Sissy told me she thought her biggest blessing in life was just being able to live. “I’ve had so many illnesses in my life I just thank God each day for the gift of life.”

For information regarding Diocesan programs for the pregnant regarding housing and adoption programs please contact Catholic Charities at 877-803-5064 or 270-852-8328.

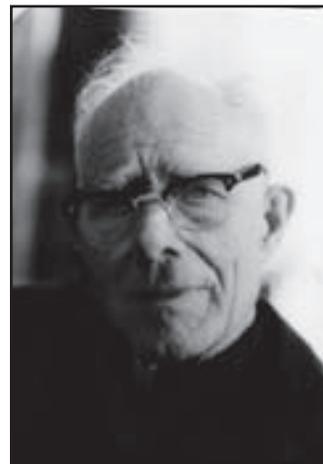
US church’s costs for clergy sex abuse topped \$436 million last year

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- U.S. dioceses and religious orders spent more than \$436 million in 2008 on settlements and other costs related to clergy sex abuse, a decrease of 29 percent over the \$615 million paid out in the peak year of 2007. Those figures were in the information

made public March 13 in the sixth annual report on implementation of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” adopted by the U.S. Catholic bishops in 2002. The report was produced under the direction of the all-lay National Review Board, established by the bishops to monitor compliance with the charter.

Father Tucker Gave It All Away

By Ginny Knight-Simon



Fr. Howard Tucker found later life as just another opportunity to be active in a career he loved. He even found a way to continue his generosity after death. His path wasn’t always an easy one to follow and it took him in many directions before he reached his destination as a Roman Catholic Priest here in western Kentucky.

Howard Tucker of Mt. Clemens, Michigan, was a convert to the Catholic religion. He owned and operated the Howard Tucker Company, a large, very successful construction company for many years even though he never graduated from high school. He was once engaged to be married and on the day of the wedding the bride-to-be was killed in an accident.

In 1955, when his brother Roy died, Howard sold the business and joined the Trappist Monks. After five years with them, he left to pursue his true calling.

In 1963, he went to Boston to attend the Pope John XXIII Seminary that had been established the year before for delayed vocations. Once there, he was turned away on the issues of age and lack of formal education. He received a high school equivalency certificate in Boston and entered The Cardinal Newman Preparatory School. He was turned down again by the diocese. Following the advice from the brothers at Gethsemane he turned to St. Mary’s College where he studied for four years.

Keep in mind that Howard Tucker was then in his 60’s leaving the security of a thriving business, family, friends, and undertaking college and an entirely new career. Having been so “touched” by Tucker, the Rector at St. Mary’s approached the Archbishop of Louisville about a special tutorial program in theology that would lead to ordination in one year. Once again, Howard Tucker was turned down. The Rector, seeing the great potential in the “non-traditional” seminarian, was still determined to help. He met with Bishop Soenneker of Owensboro and was given approval for enrolling Tucker.

Howard Tucker became Father Howard Tucker in Owensboro, on May 20, 1971 at the age of 68. His sister Mae and her husband Dave were driven from Connecticut by a fellow student and long-time friend, Bill Dickerson, to attend his ordination and first Mass.

Father Tucker was assigned to Saints Joseph and Paul Parish in Owensboro, where he became famous for hearing confessions. He was a great confessor, and in his later years, people followed him to the Carmel Home for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was a daily routine for Father Tucker to be seen riding his bicycle to the hospitals and individual homes making his Communion calls. He bought a Honda moped in order to save time and go farther. It was quite a sight to see an “80-something” priest on a Honda complete with helmet during lunch hour traffic on Frederica Street. “I asked Howard to quit riding his Honda, but that didn’t necessarily mean he did,” laughed Bishop McRaith, remembering Fr. Tucker.

Father Tucker was a wonderful steward of his time and talent. His statues of the Blessed Mother that he made are evidence of one of his talents. They can be seen all over western Kentucky in yards, on porches, and on loved ones’ graves. (One graces the graves of my grandparents, Wathen and Thelma Snyder, at St. Alphonsus.)

Fr. Tucker was very generous throughout his lifetime and gave money to many individuals and charities. Even after his death he is still giving to the Catholic Church through the Diocesan Seminarian Fund. Fr. Tucker left over \$200,000 to the fund to help insure the ministry for which he strived so diligently would be obtainable for others, no matter what their age. Father Howard Tucker died at age 92 on the 24th anniversary of his ordination.

The report summarized data collected from dioceses, eparchies and religious orders for calendar year 2008 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, as well as the results of audits of most U.S. dioceses and eparchies conducted between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008. CARA found that in 2008 U.S. dioceses and eparchies received

625 new allegations of child sex abuse by clergy, but only 10 of them involved children who were under the age of 18 in 2008. Similarly, in 2008 U.S. religious orders that include priests and brothers or priests alone received 178 new credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor, only three of which involved children who were minors in 2008.

Spiritual Axioms of the Late

Fr. Howard Tucker

As Remembered by Gary Trogden, December, 2008

Father Howard Tucker was born 3/9/03 at Mt. Clemens, MI, ordained a priest on 5/20/71, and served only one parish, Sts. Joseph and Paul in Owensboro for nearly 20 years. Father Tucker died 5/20/95 on his 24th ordination anniversary.

This pamphlet on the remembrance of Fr. Tucker's life is written for two purposes:

1. That the "little way" of Fr. Tucker may be an example to us and this example may be preserved and remembered for our spiritual benefit. Most notable was his zeal and faithful way in which he administered his Priesthood.

2. That we people may be inspired by his example and tireless efforts all done in the Lord's service. None of us will probably ever be able to go with the seven day (and sometimes night) gusto with which he went, but perhaps his outstanding service to God and others will inspire us to also be closer to God and help us to serve others. May his noble ideas and actions live in us.

Fr. Tucker on Tabernacle reverence.

Fr. Tucker would consistently and never fail to genuflect when he went to the Tabernacle. He was always conscious of the Lord's presence. Even though he was a man of age, he would go down on one knee as far as he could.

This was also true of his reverence at the Consecration part of the Mass. He had a special devotion of reverence to our Lord's Eucharistic presence among us. His example spoke much.

Fr. Tucker on honoring Mary.

Fr. Tucker had a special devotion to Mother Mary and he had a unique way of making it known. Earlier in his life, Fr. Tucker had been a plasterer and he used that skill and molded many statues of Mother Mary. These statues were known as his "Army of Mary." He would give these statues away in hopes of elevating Mary's stature in people's spiritual life.

Also, Fr. Tucker was the director of the Legion of Mary in our parish for a number of years. This group, under his leadership, was very faithful in prayer and became a close-knit group. This group was probably the nearest thing to a family that Fr. Tucker



Fr. Howard Tucker was a pretty good mechanic and fixed his bike himself when something broke on it. His favorite material for fixing things: a green epoxy glue. WKC file photo



This picture was taken during the ordination ceremony of Fr. John Thomas. At left, Fr. Larry Hostetter wiping his brow. Fr. Howard Tucker and Fr. Anthony Shonis stand with other priests in the processional line. Fr. Tucker loved being a priest and rarely missed any priests' gathering. WKC file photo

had.

Fr. Tucker on The Bible.

Fr. Tucker took the Bible very seriously. He studied it diligently and it was his habit to read it in the Confessional as he awaited his next "contrite sinner."

Once I asked him what would be a good Bible to buy and he directed me to a Catholic Bible. I never got the chance to buy one though, because the next morning he handed me one of his personal Bibles, a habit I suspect he applied to many people.

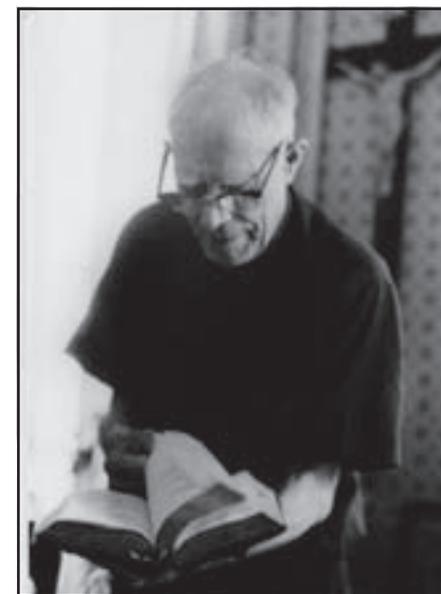
From Fr. Tucker's eulogy by Fr. Maurice Tiell.

Fr. Tucker was 68 years old when he became an ordained priest. At Fr. Tucker's eulogy, Fr. Tiell said, "Just at a time when most people are getting ready to retire, Fr. Tucker moved full speed ahead.- As I understand it, earlier in his life, Fr. Tucker had been engaged and his bride-to-be was killed in a car wreck on the way to the wedding. One can only imagine the shock and grief. Perhaps this was the seed sown for his motto used often in the confessional — "Accept the sequences of events in your life." Fr. Tucker must have seen this event as a turning point in his life, sent from God. If God didn't want him to be a husband, perhaps that was his trust to go first to the monastery at age 52 and later to become an ordained priest at age 68.

By the full service he rendered to his flock, one would think he was a young priest, given a second wind. Fr. Tucker walked fast and was continually fixing little things in the church; door knobs, loose pews, etc. Fr. Tiell said, "God gave Fr. Tucker 91 years to work out his salvation." He took salvation seriously. Not only his, but everyone else's as well.

Fr. Tucker's sick route.

Every Friday without exception, Fr. Tucker would wind his way through Owensboro and Philpot administering the sacraments to the "shut-ins" and sick people. This was quite an extensive route taking half of the day with an average of 24-30 stops. Fr. Tucker would enter each home and start out with "peace be to this house," while blessing the people and the home with Holy Water. He would hear confessions if asked and would provide the Eucharist for those in the home.. When he entered these homes, and when he left, there would be a broad smile on his face, which was really a glow. He loved this part of the priesthood and he loved the people. They loved him in return. As he would leave, he would often say "Remember you have the Lord with you now." He would bless the people, move on to the next house; no grass growing under his feet .



Fr. Howard Tucker holding his beloved Bible, daily reading for him along with his Breviary. WKC file photo

Fr. Tucker on compassion.

One cold Friday I was privileged to be Fr. Tucker's driver on the Holy Communion route. Two well-known national preachers of that time had both fallen from their pulpits in scandal. For some reason I thought Fr. Tucker would use the conversation to put in a punch for Catholic theology. Instead he made a very compassionate statement saying, "There is that human element in all of us."

It just seemed so natural coming from him, no judgment, only compassion, understanding, and forgiveness. Fr. Tucker was a man with Christ-like ways and judgment just wasn't his way.

As I remember this story I am reminded of the Bible story with Jesus and the woman caught in adultery - "Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more." The Jesus compassion way seemed second nature to Fr. Tucker.

More Axioms of the Late Fr. Howard Tucker coming in the May, 2009 Western Kentucky Catholic

Gary Trogden is a member of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish, Owensboro, Ky Source: Owensboro Diocesan Archives.



A New Year Begins at Casa Ursulina

At the beginning of March, everything changes at Casa Ursulina, the Dianna Ortiz Center for Women, mission of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in Chillan, Chile. The hot summer vacation peaks in February. By that time, children are getting ready to go back to school, and Casa Ursulina is gearing up for the coming program year, which runs from March through mid December.

Registration began March 2, when groups of women began arriving to sign up for classes/workshops. Each participant is asked for a registration fee of 1000 pesos -- about \$2 -- and a monthly "cuota" of 500 pesos -- about \$1. These fees help to provide materials and

maintain the house. Women who are unable to pay are exempt.

All of the monitoras (teachers) of these classes are volunteers, many of whom have learned and perfected their skills at Casa Ursulina.

Sixteen classes are being offered this year; activities include weaving, felting, yoga, tating, painting ceramics, oil painting, crocheting, painting on cloth, ribbon embroidery, baking, circular dance, Mexican embroidery, reflection and Art, a workshop for girls, and a workshop for volunteers.

Source: <http://www.casaursulina.org/programs/index.php>.



Herminda (right) and her daughter Liliana were among the first to register on the morning of March 2. Sister Mimi Ballard enters their names in her roll book. Casa Ursulina web site photo

Local Grant Information Catholic Campaign For Human Development

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is a national social justice program of the United States Catholic Bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community controlled, self-help organizations, and through transformative education of the non-poor.

Each year in November, the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky participates in the national Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection. From that collection, 25% of monies are retained to provide grant funding to local organizations, which meet CCHD criteria. Catholic Charities administers and allocates the grant funding, by consulting with a group of panelists who review and recommend allocations to various groups that meet funding criteria.

To apply, please request an application from Richard Murphy by calling at 270/683-1545, or emailing Richard.Murphy@pastoral.org. The application will ask for a brief narrative of your organization, budgeting information, how your organization would meet the CCHD criteria of systemic change, what community organizations your group receives support from, and whether your organization's policy-making board has one-third low-income members (if your board does not contain one-third of its members who are low-income, you must also include an explanation of why this is not so)

Applications for grant funding must be received by May 15, 2009 so that grants can be awarded by June 2009. The grant is non-renewable and must be applied for each year. Three years is the total

number of years any one group can receive this grant. Each year several grants are awarded averaging between \$800-\$1200 each.

In 2008, seven programs requested local CCHD funds. The available monies were \$6000. Six were awarded some funds, while one did not receive an allocation for reasons as determined by the Review committee.

Criteria:

1. The applicant's project must be within the thirty-two counties, which comprise the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro. These counties include: Fulton, Hickman, Graves, Ballard, McCracken, Carlisle, Calloway, Marshall, Trigg, Lyon, Livingston, Caldwell, Christian, Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Todd, Logan, Simpson, Allen, Warren, Butler, Edmonson, Grayson, Ohio, Breckinridge, Hancock, Daviess, McLean, Henderson, Union, Webster, and Crittenden.

2. The applicant's project policy-making board must be at least one-third low-income. If this is not the case, the applicant must explain why the board does not have setting low-income board members. (Low-income board members do not include those considered voluntarily poor such as clergy, religious sisters, students, VISTA volunteers, etc.)

3. The applicant's projects efforts must seek to benefit a poverty group.

4. The applicant's project must seek to create institutional or systemic change by changing the structures that keep people poor and powerless.

5. CCHD will consider favorably only those projects, which demonstrate respect for the dignity of the human per-

It's not too late to purchase your
Ursuline Quilt Club membership for only \$20!

Sign up by April 30 and get five chances
to win a quilt....What a great way to support the
Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph!
For tickets, call 270-229-4103 ext. 278



Sister Catherine Kaufman, OSU



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-4103
www.ursulinesmsj.org
info@maplemount.org

License No. 0290

son. CCHD will not consider projects or organizations, which promote or support abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, or any other affront to human life and dignity.

6. The activity for which funding is requested must be consistent with the moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

7. Projects should generate coop-

eration and solidarity among and within diverse groups in the interest of a more integrated and mutually understanding society.

8. Projects should document that as a result of CCHD funding there are possibilities of generating funds from other sources or of moving towards becoming self-supporting within the time lines established in the proposal.



Blow wind, blow! Mrs. Wilson's 4th and 5th grade science class, at St. Joseph Catholic School in Mayfield, watches as their inventions race down the floor. The students constructed milk carton, wind powered cars to learn the science behind wind and how it can be used as an alternative energy source. Pictured from left to right are: Leslie Webb, Bella Russelburg, Madison Clapp, Hannah Lamb and Sidney Flood. Submitted by Shanda Purcell.

Brescia University Alumni and Friends Tour Italy

By Sean Borland

A diverse group of almost 30 alumni and friends of Brescia University journeyed overseas for ten days in December for a pilgrimage to Italy. We followed in the footsteps of saints such as St. Angela Merici, St. Francis, St. Clare, Sts. Peter and Paul, and many others, as we toured Italy and prepared for the culmination of our trip - Midnight Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI.

The night before our scheduled departure from Owensboro was a cold, icy night. As if the anticipation of the trip was not enough, there was some added anxiety about being able to safely travel because of the weather. However, everyone made it to the bus for an early morning ride to Nashville and the weather cooperated enough to get us safely on our way. After a long day and night of traveling, we arrive in Milan and immediately began our tour by visiting the Milan "Duomo" or Cathedral. We also went to the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, where we saw the famous mural of the *Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci, which is on the wall of the refectory of the convent. After some free time to wander the streets and squares of Milan, we traveled to Brescia. The next day we visited Padua and saw the University of Padua, Giotto's Scrovegni Chapel, and the Basilica of St. Anthony, where Father Larry Hostetter, president of Brescia, celebrated Mass with us.

The next morning, in Brescia, we began with Mass at the Sanctuary of St. Angela Merici and then enjoyed a walking tour of the town where St. Angela Merici founded the Order of Ursulines. That afternoon we saw the Leaning Tower of Pisa and made our way to Florence, a city known for its art and architecture. While in Florence, we had a chance to see some of the Italian Renaissance art at



A diverse group of almost 30 alumni and friends of Brescia University joined Fr. Larry Hostetter for a ten-day journey overseas on a pilgrimage to Italy in December. During their time there, they visited the University's namesake, Brescia, Italy. Photo submitted by Sean Borland.

the Accademia, which displays Michelangelo's famous *David* statue as well. Our walking tour of Florence also took us to the Santa Maria del Fiore, the Cathedral of Florence and Giotto's Bell tower and Baptistry. We each took advantage of some free time and strolled along the Arno River, walked the piazzas of

St. Mary French Club Hosts Mardi Gras Party

By Carly Dannenmueller

PADUCAH, Ky. The St. Mary High School French Club hosted a Mardi Gras party at Culpepper Place Assisted Living for the residents on Wednesday, February 25.

The French Club members who helped prepare for this event were Sean Butterbaugh, Kelly Cochran, Julia Colgan, Carly Dannenmueller, Katherine Halicks, Chelsey Perrew, and Audrey Woods. French teacher, Cecile Kejzlar, was unable to attend due to maternity leave. Sister Mary Jude and Dean of Students, Steve Rich, accompanied the students in her place.

The Mardi Gras party was held in the hospitality room at Culpepper Place. The French Club members performed two songs and gave a presentation on the history of Mardi Gras. A traditional King Cake and beignets were served. The resi-

The Western Kentucky Catholic, April, 2009 43



The St. Mary's High School French Club hosted a Mardi Gras party at Culpepper Place nursing home on February 25th. Above, Sean Butterbaugh is pictured with one of the residents. Submitted by Nikki Fuller.

dents of Culpepper Place encouraged the French Club to return next year for another Mardi Gras celebration.

Florence, shopped on the Ponte Vecchio, and toured the Uffizi Art Museum. Before we left Florence and the Tuscany region, we enjoyed a festive Tuscan meal, complete with singing waiters and dancing.

We followed the roads from Tuscany to the mountain town of Assisi, where we saw the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, situated in the plains below the old town and St. Francis' Porziuncola (a little church within the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli), where he founded his Franciscan Order. We then traveled up the mountain to visit the Basilica of St. Clare, the founder of the Poor Clares and the Basilica of St. Francis, where Mass was held in the chapel of the Lower Church. We then travelled to Rome for the remainder of our journey.

Our first day in Rome began early with Mass at the Chapel of St. Peter's Tomb in the crypt of the Basilica, which is the final resting place of many popes, including the simple marble tomb of John Paul II. We continued the day with a tour of the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica. Our pilgrimage also included visits to ancient catacombs, St. Paul's Basilica, the Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, where we saw another Michelangelo masterpiece, Moses, and a tour of Ancient Rome, including the Trevi Fountain, Roman Forum, and the Coliseum.

On Christmas Eve, we had time for more sightseeing in Rome and then dinner before the group headed to Midnight Mass at St. Peter's. We were very fortunate to be able to attend and see the splendor of the celebration in person. The next day many of us made our way to St. Peter's Square for the traditional Christmas Day Papal Blessing or *Urbi et orbi* (which means "for the city and for the world"), which was indeed broadcast around the world in 64 different languages. After many miles of walking in the shadows of churches and saints, it was time for us to return to the States.

Refrescando el Espíritu y Alimentando el Alma Los Ministros Hispanos de la Diócesis Participan Juntos en un Retiro



Arriba, El P. Benito Rojas, de la Congregación de los Servidores de la Palabra vino a ser nuestro guía para el retiro. Originario de México, ahora el Padre trabaja en California. Juntos, los Ministros Hispanos reflexionamos sobre la vida de San Pablo el Apóstol. Foto por Luis Ajú. A la derecha, Patti Gutiérrez (derecha) lee un pasaje de la Sagrada Escritura durante la oración para iniciar el Retiro para Agentes del Ministerio Hispano. El grupo se reunió en el Monasterio de las Monjas Pasionistas el 26 y 27 de febrero para compartir momentos de oración y convivencia. Foto por Tami Schneider.

Hna. Luisa Bickett, OSU: A veces un mensaje de la Biblia que he oído muchas veces me impacta mucho más cuando lo escucho en español; esto es lo que me pasó en el retiro. El amor de Jesús me impactó más que nunca.

Luis Ajú: En los días 26 y 27 de Febrero tuvimos la alegría de estar juntos, para darnos cuenta de la presencia de Dios en nuestro Ministerio en cada uno de las parroquias con comunidad Hispana. El sentir es, que bueno es vivir juntos los hermanos, haciendo tiempo para la reflexión, oración, lectura y tiempo de silencio para un encuentro con Dios y consigo mismo, con una respuesta de servicio que realizamos en nuestras parroquias constituido por la diversidad de culturas, que es el mismo rostro de Jesús en esta realidad donde vivimos. Después del retiro, salimos con Fe y esperanza para servir mejor. Gracias a los ministros por su participación, esto indica la buena voluntad de unir el Ministerio en su pastoral y unificar los esfuerzos en la Diócesis, así formar la familia de Fe.

Patricia Gallegos: Mi experiencia en el retiro me hizo ver tantas cosas que pasan en la actualidad. Pasan tantas cosas que uno no mira o no quiere uno aceptar los propios errores. Siempre vemos los errores de los demás, pero los nuestros los dejamos pasar y es cuando se nos llena la cabeza de incertidumbre de lo que hacemos. A veces no sé si en verdad seguimos los caminos de Dios, o solo estamos tratando de ser buenos cristianos. El Padre Benito Rojas me hizo reflexionar en muchas cosas, por eso cuando nos pidió compartir lo que nos inspiraban las lecturas sobre nosotros espiritualmente, no pude decir ni una palabra. Pienso que el Espíritu Santo me tocó y con la emoción me dio mucho sentimiento y sentía que al hablar mis palabras serían incoherentes. Por eso preferí oír los testimonios y reflexiones de los demás y dejar que el Espíritu Santo no dejara de tocar mi corazón, quiero decirles que este retiro fue tan lindo, pasé buen tiempo y me divertí, pero también lloré y aprendí mucho porque sentí que Dios entró en mi corazón.

A continuación encontrarán varias reflexiones personales de los Ministros que tomaron parte en el retiro:

Paul Witte: “No conocemos a Cristo si no conocemos Su Palabra.” Este dicho de San Jerónimo, el gran traductor de la Biblia, lo destacó el Padre Benito durante sus reflexiones sobre San Pablo tomadas de sus epístolas y basadas en cinco catequesis del Papa Benedicto XVI. Nos demostró que el encuentro con Jesús depende de la revelación de Su Palabra y que la conversión a Cristo nos conduce a un compromiso con su Iglesia. Para mí la excelente presentación que nos hizo este Padre Mexicano, que trabaja en Los Ángeles, fue un regalo inesperado durante una temporada difícil de ministerio entre los inmigrantes. El Padre Benito nos enseñó, por medios del ministerio místico de San Pablo, como es posible que un ministro hispano goce de una profunda paz y sea un testimonio dinámico a pesar de los retos enormes que lo afrontan.

Cristóbal Gutiérrez: Bastante claro es que me quedó que estamos llamados a ser y a formar “DISCIPULOS” a ejemplo de San Pablo. Ese tipo de discípulo enamorado profundamente de su Maestro que es Jesucristo. Y es que San Pablo con su método de Evangelización, parece ser que entendió muy bien sobre lo engañoso y superfluo que pueden

ser el éxito basado solo en las cantidades o números. El Padre Benito quien realizo un trabajo excepcional en el retiro, lo formulo claramente. El método de San Pablo al crear discípulos; se preocupaba por la “Calidad”, no tanto en aquello de las masas de cristianos convertidos o “buenos”. **Los retiros nunca son una mala inversión o gasto. Al contrario, traen consigo más bendiciones que los esperados.**

Tami Schneider: El silencio siempre me habla... Empecé el retiro con una caminata afuera después del almuerzo. Simplemente escuché el viento pasar por los árboles. No hubo carros ni maquinas, no estaba mirando a una computadora ni a papeles, no estaba conversando con nadie. Estos momentos de silencio me pusieron en una disposición de apertura para poder escucharle a Dios durante el retiro entero. El P. Benito Rojas, me recordó que si creemos en Dios y amamos a Dios, tenemos que actuar. Tenemos que hacer discípulos. Tenemos que dar fruto. Dijo que a veces lo que Dios nos pide parece mucho más grande que nosotros y fuera de nuestras capacidades, pero que simplemente había que confiar y decirle que sí. Entonces, confiando que estoy aquí porque Dios me ha llamado y me ha puesto aquí, le pido la gracia de obrar con Sus manos.



Como el Padre Benito está acostumbrado a trabajar con jóvenes, nos despejó con un poco de canto y baile mientras él tocaba la guitarra. Fotos por Tami Schneider.

Sometido por la Oficina de Culto



El Más Reverendo Pietro Sambi ha sido el Nuncio Apostólico para Los Estados Unidos desde 2005. CNS foto.

estar presentes en un candidato para el episcopado. Tiene que ser “un buen pastor de almas y maestro de la Fe.” La Iglesia examina si los candidatos “disfruten de una buena reputación; si son de una moralidad irreprochable; si tienen los dones de juicio correcto y prudencia; si son de un temperamento y carácter estables; si se adhieren firmemente a una Fe ortodoxa; si son devotos a la Sede Apostólica y fieles al magisterio de la Iglesia; si tienen un conocimiento profundo de la teología dogmática y moral y la ley canónica; si sobresaltan en su piedad, su espíritu de sacrificio y su celo pastoral; si tienen la aptitud para gobernar.”

También se considera “las cualidades intelectuales, los estudios completados, el sentido social, el espíritu de dialogo y cooperación, la apertura a los signos de los tiempos, imparcialidad digno de elogio, antecedentes familiares, salud, edad y características heredadas.”

Al escuchar que su Obispo se había jubilado, varias personas del pueblo de Owensboro empezaron a preguntarse cómo es que se escoge un nuevo obispo. ¿Quién escoge a un obispo nuevo? Esta página ha sido preparada para responder a esta pregunta para el pueblo de la Iglesia Católica de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

La respuesta a la pregunta ¿Quién escoge a un obispo nuevo? es “El Espíritu Santo.” Cristo no ha abandonado a Su Iglesia, y la sigue guiando y gobernando por el Espíritu Santo. Sin embargo, el Espíritu Santo usa a los seres humanos para realizar esto. Otra respuesta correcta es “el Papa.” Mientras sea cierto que el Papa puede nombrar a cualquier sacerdote Católico a que sea Obispo, el proceso en sí normalmente involucra a varias personas.

El proceso consiste de dos partes: *identificar a los sacerdotes con las cualidades necesarias, y seleccionar a uno que cabe mejor la vacancia específica.*

Identificar a los Sacerdotes Adecuados

El proceso de identificar a los sacerdotes con las cualidades deseadas para un obispo es un proceso continuo, aun cuando no hay vacancias. Los obispos de una provincia dan a su arzobispo los nombres de los sacerdotes que creen que podrían ser obispos buenos. La Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos está dividida en 33 provincias. La Diócesis de Owensboro pertenece a la Provincia de Louisville. Nuestro arzobispo es el Más Reverendo Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., Arzobispo de Louisville. Los candidatos sometidos por un obispo normalmente son de su diócesis actual o de una diócesis donde haya servido anteriormente, como aquellos son los sacerdotes que mejor conoce.

Las Cualidades de un Obispo

La Iglesia es muy explicito sobre las cualidades que tienen que

Un nuncio representa al Santo Padre para tanto el gobierno civil (embajador) como la Iglesia Católica de tal nación. El Más Reverendo Pietro Sambi ha sido el nuncio apostólico para los Estados Unidos desde 2005.

Cuando hay una vacancia en una diócesis estadounidense, y están escogiendo a un ordinario diocesano (en lugar de un Obispo auxiliar), el nuncio escoge varios candidatos de los nombres que le hayan sido sometidos para sugerirlos a Roma. Las recomendaciones que el nuncio hace a Roma se basan en sus propias investigaciones extensivas de las necesidades de la diócesis y del idóneo del candidato para esa diócesis en particular. Por ejemplo, la Diócesis de Owensboro tiene mucho territorio rural. Nuestros obispos han abogado por las necesidades de las familias granjeras y han demostrado apoyo fuerte de las escuelas católicas.



Después de escuchar las recomendaciones del Nuncio y oír el resumen de las conversaciones de la Congregación para los Obispos, el Papa, guiado por el Espíritu Santo, escoge a un nuevo obispo. CNS foto del Papa Benedicto XVI.

La Lista Provincial

Periódicamente, los obispos de una provincial se reúnen bajo el liderazgo de su arzobispo para considerar los nombres de los sacerdotes quienes son candidatos posibles para el episcopado. En la reunión Episcopal, se recopila una lista de candidatos para el episcopado, votan, y lo mandan al nuncio apostólico.

Aunque el nuncio podría nominar a alguien que no viene de esta lista de candidatos y el Papa podría nombrar a cualquier sacerdote quien quisiera para ser obispo, la mayoría de los nombramientos vienen de estas listas.

Cuando una diócesis carece de un Obispo, la segunda parte del proceso empieza – la búsqueda por una persona específica quien va a llenar la vacancia específica.

El Nuncio Apostólico

Reporte del Nuncio

Después de que el nuncio haya examinado las respuestas del cuestionario, prepara la “terna,” una lista de tres candidatos, y escribe un reporte extrayendo y sintetizando el contenido del consultorio y dando sus propias conclusiones. La terna y el reporte se mandan a la Congregación para Obispos en Roma, y ningún obispo lo puede ver si no es miembro de esa congregación. El reporte da una descripción de la diócesis, describe el proceso que atravesó el nuncio al seleccionar los candidatos, describe a los candidatos y da las recomendaciones del nuncio.

Congregación para los Obispos

Cuando el reporte del nuncio llega a la Congregación para los Obispos, los miembros discuten el nombramiento bajo el liderazgo del prefecto. Después la congregación vota sobre los candidatos y anexa sus propias recomendaciones al reporte.

El Papa

El último paso en el proceso del nombramiento ocurre cuando el prefecto de la of Congregación para los Obispos presenta las recomendaciones del nuncio, de la congregación y de sí mismo al Papa en una audiencia privada. El prefecto resume las conversaciones de la congregación y reporta cualquier desacuerdo. Puede ser que el Papa pida más información sobre los candidatos, o incluso puede pedir que proponga otros candidatos. Sin embargo, al final, el Papa, guiado por el Espíritu Santo, hace la decisión.

Notificación y Consentimiento

Después de que el Papa hace su decisión, notifican al nuncio, quien se acerca al nombrado y le pregunta si acepta el nombramiento. Cuando el candidato acepta, notifican a Roma y ponen una fecha para anunciarlo.

Aunque el proceso normalmente tarda de seis a ocho meses, puede durar mucho más o mucho menos. Entonces, la Diocese de Owensboro espera pacientemente mientras el Espíritu Santo guíe a la Iglesia al mejor Obispo posible – el “santo quien cabe en el nicho.”

Que el Espíritu Santo sea activo en el proceso de seleccionar a los nuevos

¿Quién puede ser Obispo?

La Ley Canónica nos describe las cualidades que un candidato para el episcopado tiene que poseer: “específicamente – fe y morales, una buena reputación, 35 años de edad, un sacerdote ordenado por lo menos cinco años y que posee un doctorado o por lo menos una licenciatura en la Escritura, la teología o la ley canónica o que sea verdaderamente un experto en estas mismas disciplinas.” (Canon 378)

obispos. Que sean hombres de profunda fe, integridad, fidelidad y compasión. ¡Recémonos diariamente!

La Diócesis de Owensboro les invita a

TODOS LOS JOVENES

Entre 15-30 años a un

RETIRO

En el Centro de Retiros de Gasper River
Cerca de Bowling Green, KY

El **17-18 de abril**

empezando a las 5:00pm

Ven a aprender sobre ti mismo,

Profundizar tu Fe y

Convivir con otros jóvenes de la Diócesis

¡Invita a tus amigos!



"Se hizo carne, y habitó entre nosotros" (Juan 1,14)

Para mayor información, puedes comunicarte con
Tami Schneider o Luis Ajú al (270) 683-1545 o tami.schneider@pastoral.org
o con el Ministro Hispano de tu parroquia.

Debes traer: Cosas personales, toalla, sábanas,
cobija y almohada o saco de dormir, \$10 para la
participación, cuaderno y pluma, Biblia, algo de
comer para compartir con todos (hable con tu
Ministro Hispano sobre la comida).



La Diócesis de Owensboro Celebrará La Semana Nacional De Migración del 31 de Mayo al 6 de Junio

*Motivamos a las parroquias que
celebren como parroquia a lo largo de la semana.

**Comuníquense con Patti Gutiérrez
si desean un paquete informativo.

Celebración Diocesana el 6 de Junio.

USCCB WASHINGTON—[Cada año} la Iglesia Católica en Estados Unidos celebrará la Semana Nacional de la Migración [].

El lema de este año —Renovando la Fe, Buscando la Justicia—“nos recuerda nuestra obligación de traer esperanza a aquellos que carecen de ella y de buscar la justicia para aquellos que son explotados fácilmente”, dijo el Obispo John C. Wester de Salt Lake City, presidente del Comité para asuntos migratorios de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB), en una carta enviada a cada parroquia y escuela católica del país.

“Para muchas comunidades inmigrantes la injusticia y la penuria son experiencias demasiado comunes. Dado el estatus a menudo marginal y vulnerable de los inmigrantes, es importante que las comunidades en todo lugar traten a los inmigrantes con justicia y estén presentes para ofrecer la bienvenida a toda la gente itinerante”, dijo el Obispo Wester.

Este año, la semana nacional de la migración se enfoca en los aspectos religiosos, políticos y culturales de la emigración en todas sus formas. Los obispos esperan que los recursos que la Conferencia ha hecho disponibles ayuden a los católicos a familiarizarse con muchos de los aspectos que rodean a la inmigración.

“Mientras el rostro de las iglesias locales continúa cambiando, la información de este tipo se vuelve cada vez más importante. Personas, familias, escuelas y parroquias necesitan oportunidades como la Semana Nacional de la Migración para informarse acerca de las realidades [que viven] los recién llegados a sus comunidades”, comentó Todd Scribner, coordinador de educación del Servicio a Migrantes y Refugiados de la USCCB.

El pasado mes de abril, el papa Benedicto XVI animó a los obispos de Estados Unidos a seguir actuando en este aspecto.

“Quiero animarlos a ustedes y a sus comunidades a continuar dando la bienvenida a los inmigrantes que ingresan hoy en sus filas, a compartir sus gozos y esperanzas, a darles apoyo en sus padecimientos y pruebas, y a ayudarles a florecer en su nuevo hogar”, dijo el Papa.

Los materiales incluyen varios insertos para el boletín parroquial que hablan de temas relacionados con el tráfico ilegal de personas, la inmigración, los refugiados y la enseñanza social de la Iglesia sobre estos asuntos. También contienen información sobre cómo obtener la edición revisada de Unidad en la Diversidad: Un Rosario Bíblico para guiar la reflexión espiritual sobre la inmigración, así como un póster plegado. Varios de estos recursos están disponibles en español.

Tortas De Camarón Y Albóndigas De Bacalao



Por Mar Muñoz-Visoso, USCCB

Al pensar en la Cuaresma este año, por alguna razón, lo primero que me vino a la mente fue la comida. Las albóndigas de bacalao y el potaje de garbanzos de mi madre, y las tortas de camarón de mi suegra. Se podría decir que Cuaresma y Semana Santa tienen en la comunidad hispana una serie de sabores especiales. Posiblemente esto sea cierto de cada pueblo y cultura.

Puede resultar curioso que comience hablando de comida en tiempo de ayuno y abstinencia. Sin embargo, muchas de nuestras tradiciones culturales, entre ellas las gastronómicas, nos ayudan a recordar los valores y costumbres de los tiempos litúrgicos, precisamente porque han nacido de ellos. Nos ayudan a ponernos “en ambiente”.

Pero, como todo, la Cuaresma se convierte en puro ritualismo si no se vive su significado profundo. Por ejemplo, a juzgar por el número de nosotros que asiste a la Iglesia en Miércoles de Ceniza,

Este logo cuaresmal nos invita a ayunar, perdonar, pedir perdón, rezar y amar. CNS logo.

algunos pudieran pensar que éste fuera para los hispanos el día más importante del año litúrgico. Pero ¿de qué sirve que nos impongan la ceniza si luego no hacemos el esfuerzo de acompañar al Maestro en su ascenso a Jerusalén?

La Cuaresma nos recuerda que la existencia humana es la historia de la relación interpersonal entre Dios y el hombre en el contexto de la alianza consagrada por Cristo. Esta alianza supone la superación constante del pecado y la conversión como actitud personal y comunitaria hacia Dios y los hermanos. Esta es la vocación del cristiano.

La conversión es un don de Dios que requiere una respuesta generosa y un esfuerzo de purificación interior por nuestra parte. Los temas recurrentes de las liturgias cuaresmales nos ayudan a recorrer ese itinerario: ayuno, abstinencia, sacrificio, moderación de los deseos, oración y obras de caridad. Los evangelios dominicales nos presentan a Cristo como protagonista, modelo y maestro. Es un recorrido que invita a la superación del egoísmo y a la búsqueda de la justicia, donde la comunidad cristiana es a la vez signo e instrumento de reconciliación. Es, en definitiva, una invitación a vivir con intensidad la dimensión de bautizados, a recorrer un camino de fe más consciente.



Una señorita recibe las cenizas en la frente durante la Misa de Miércoles de Ceniza. ¿De qué sirve que nos impongan la ceniza si luego no hacemos el esfuerzo de acompañar al Maestro en su ascenso a Jerusalén? CNS foto.

Decía san Pedro Crisólogo: “Tres son, hermanos, los resortes que hacen que la fe se mantenga firme, la devoción constante y la virtud permanente. Estos tres son la oración, el ayuno y la misericordia. Porque la oración llama, el ayuno intercede y la misericordia recibe”. Esto es, la oración nos devuelve la comunión con Dios; la caridad nos reconcilia con los hermanos; y el ayuno, como ejercicio de autodominio, nos

Calendario de Actividades del Ministerio Hispano

4 de abril - Curso de Sacramentos, Segundo Taller

26-28 de mayo

- Conferencia de Justicia para Inmigrantes en Cincinnati, Ohio

17-18 de abril

- Retiro Juvenil en Gasper River

30 de mayo

- Consulado Mexicano Mobil en Sto. Tomás Moro, Paducah de 8:30-4:00 (**se requiere cita**)

31 de mayo - 6 de junio

- Celebración de la Semana Nacional de Migración

Horario de Actividades: Stos. José y Pablo, Owensboro

5 de Abril

- Procesión del Domingo de Ramos

10 de Abril

-Viernes Santo: Via Crucis Viviente y Marcha del Silencio - 3:00pm.

11 de Abril

-Vigilia Pascual - 11:00pm. Recepción de Sacramentos

12 de Abril

- Domingo de Resurrección - Celebración Pascual

14 de Junio

-Solemnidad del Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo, Primeras Comuniones, Posibles Altares Eucarísticos

10 de Octubre

-Posible Recibimiento de la Convención Nacional de Seminaristas Hispanos (Más detalles a futuro.)

Los Miembros del Comité de Revisión Diocesano

Están Listos para Contestar Llamadas

Los miembros del Comité quienes tratan las alegaciones de abuso sexual abuse en la Diócesis de Owensboro son los siguientes: Ms. June Bell, Chair, Mr. Ken Bennett, Dr. Charles Bohle, Ms. Susan Clark, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. Jeff Ebelhar, Mr. Nicholas Goetz, Ms. Teresa Henry, Vice-Chair, Dr. Carroll Howard, Mr. Dan Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Rev. Pat Reynolds, and Dr. Michele Thomas. Ms. Louanne Payne sirve como enlace Diocesano al 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. 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.

libera espiritualmente y nos reconcilia con nosotros mismos.

A menudo buscamos excusas para evitar las cosas que nos incomodan. “No se cae el mundo”, decimos, porque un viernes de Cuaresma coma carne, o porque no me prive de algo que me cuesta; “ya buscaré tiempo para Dios más tarde”, mientras Internet, la televisión o el iPod llenan nuestra vida de ruido; “que otro se preocupe, ya tengo bastantes problemas”.

Mientras tanto, nos olvidamos de si el pordiosero al que evitamos dando un rodeo pasó la noche o el anciano que no visitamos murió de soledad; Dios nunca tuvo su minuto de atención; y, en esta sociedad de la abundancia, el cuerpo sigue empacando libras que no necesita. Dios se ha convertido en una voz lejana en nuestro corazón endurecido, un eco distante en nuestra conciencia. Y luego, nos extrañan los males espirituales y físicos que nos aquejan...

Necesitamos silencio. Necesitamos tiempos y espacios que nos permitan escuchar a Dios. Quizá hoy apague la radio de mi auto en el camino a casa. Por cierto, mamá, mándame la receta de las albóndigas. No me salen como a ti. Será el bacalao.

700 Personas Llegan para el Retiro Juvenil, Youth 2000



Una bandera de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe voló sobre las participantes del retiro Youth 2000 del 6-8 de marzo. Más de 700 personas participaron. Fotos por Tami Schneider

oración y renovación para los jóvenes de edades 13-30. Este año, más de 700 personas asistieron de por lo menos cinco estados. El clima de primavera agregó al éxito del fin de semana, permitiendo que los participantes salieran afuera durante tiempos de descanso y comidas.

Como una veterana de tres años de este evento, muchas veces me pregunto, ¿qué es lo que atrae a tanta gente a este retiro? El año pasado, llegaron más de 450 personas a pesar de una tormenta de nieve horrible. Este año llegamos al tope de personas que puedan participar a pesar de la situación económica tan grave. Como comentó el Padre John Mary de la Comunidad de San Juan, con un acento sureño chistoso “Es Jesús!”

En la misa de clausura el Padre Andy Garner, Director de Vocaciones de la diócesis, recordó a los jóvenes a subir hasta la cima en la fe y el amor. Les dijo, “¡Son llamados a ser santos! ¡No tengan miedo de ese llamado!”

Unos jóvenes hispanos aplauden durante un canto en Youth 2000.



Por Tami Schneider

Una multitud de almas jóvenes arropadas en playeras de colores vivos duraron el fin de semana con tan solo un cuadrado de alfombra entre ellos y el piso duro. Sus playeras hablaron de las creencias en sus corazones proclamando: “No tengan miedo”, “Que el Fuego Caiga”, “Amo a mi esposo y aún no lo conozco”, “El aborto mata a los bebés”, “Soldado Católico, Defensor de la Fe”, y “Sé santo o muera intentándolo”.

El Marian Shrine Committee, La Oficina Diocesana de Ministerio Juvenil y Brescia University unieron esfuerzos por la doceava vez para ofrecer un fin de semana de

El P. Allan Deck Recibirá Reconocimiento Por Su Labor Literaria Y Perspectiva Latina Sobre Las Reformas Del Vaticano II

WASHINGTON, USCCB—El sacerdote jesuita, Padre Allan Figueroa Deck, director ejecutivo del Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia (<http://www.usccb.org/scdc/>) de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, recibirá el *Aggiornamento Award* de parte de la Catholic Library Association (Asociación de Bibliotecas Católicas o CLA, por sus siglas en inglés). La ceremonia de premiación tendrá lugar el próximo 14 de abril, durante la convención anual de la CLA en Anaheim, California.

El *Aggiornamento Award* es otorgado anualmente, desde 1980, por la sección de Servicios a Bibliotecas Parroquiales y Comunitarias de la CLA para reconocer a un individuo o institución que haya hecho una contribución sobresaliente al crecimiento y renovación de la biblioteconomía parroquial y comunitaria en el espíritu del Beato Papa Juan XIII. En el caso del Padre Allan Deck, la CLA ha querido reconocer de forma especial su contribución a la articulación de lo que este “aggiornamento” (puesta al día) de la Iglesia significa desde una perspectiva Hispana en Estados Unidos.

“Como muchos escritores, a menudo uno se pregunta si alguien ahí afuera está prestando atención. Estoy agradecido a la Catholic Library Association por alentar la necesidad continua de renovación en la Iglesia que el Concilio Vaticano Segundo promovió. Mis escritos son sólo un esfuerzo modesto por articular lo que significa la renovación del Vaticano II dentro de una Iglesia que cobra nueva vida con la creciente presencia y liderazgo de la comunidad latina”, dijo el Padre Deck tras recibir la noticia del premio.

El Padre Deck es autor de numerosos artículos y conferencias como la ofrecida el pasado mes de octubre en la Universidad de Georgetown con el título: *Hispanic Ministry, New Realities and Choices*.

La mayoría de sus obras ha sido publicada en inglés. Entre ellas se incluyen: *The Second Wave: Hispanic Ministry and the Evangelization of Cultures* (Paulist Press, 1989); *Frontiers of Hispanic Theology in the United States* (Orbis Books, 1992) y con Jay P. Dolan, *Hispanic Catholic Culture in the United States: Issues and Concerns* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1994).

También ha sido co-editor de varias otras publicaciones tales como: *The Treasure of Guadalupe* con el Padre Virgilio P. Elizondo y Timothy Matovina, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006); *Hispanic Philanthropy, New Directions for Philanthropic Fundraising*, con Lilya Wagner (Indiana University Center on Philanthropy, 1999); *Pastoral Care of Hispanics in the United States*, con el Padre Kenneth Davis, OFM, Conv., (Chicago Studies, 1997); y *Perspectivas: Hispanic Ministry*, con Yolanda Tarango y Timothy Matovina, (Sheed and Ward, 1995).

El Padre Deck ha sido presidente y director ejecutivo de Loyola Institute for Spirituality en Orange, California, y superior de la comunidad jesuita en la misma localidad. Entre sus numerosos títulos universitarios se encuentran: un Doctorado en Lengua Española y Estudios Latinoamericanos por la Universidad de St. Louis; un Master en Teología por Jesuit School of Theology en Berkeley, California; un Diplomado en Ministerio Pastoral por el Instituto Brasileño de Desarrollo en Río de Janeiro; y una Licenciatura y un Doctorado en Teología Sagrada por la Pontificia Universidad Gregoriana en Roma. Fue fundador de la Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians y primer presidente del Nacional Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry. También ha sido consultor para el Comité de Obispos para Asuntos Hispanos y miembro de la junta directiva de Catholic Charities de Orange County, California.

Su carrera también incluye la enseñanza en las universidades Loyola Marymount en Los Angeles, Barry University en Miami y Jesuit School of Theology en Berkeley.