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Priests Are My Unsung Heroes

By Larena Lawson

We live in an age where we are oftentimes caught up in fantasy and make-believe, where the media frenzy can capture our attention to draw us into an imaginary world of its own creation, of what it perceives living is all about, and what it defines as, "the good life." The media culture wants us to picture ourselves in this land where excitement runs rampant; but do we ever just stop and seriously think about what is happening here? All of the things that we see on television and read about in books and newspapers are vividly planted in our minds for us to decipher and do with what we will, to our advantage or to our disadvantage. In all of this downloading of exposure to the modern world, we tend to pick out people that we admire, that we wish we could be like, and that we might call our heroes. But how many of them are really worthy of our admiration or of our imitation or exhibit a heroic character that one might call Christ-like?

Wouldn't you want your hero to be an extraordinary person?

Heroes can come in all shapes and sizes, are of all ages and kind, and might be living or dead. It is good to have those people in our lives who'll help us work toward striving to be that better person, to have that better life, and who'll inspire us to reach the ultimate goals that we seek to accomplish. As we aim high in our quest to be who we want to be and who we ought to be, it is those extraordinary people, those heroes that we admire, who could help to get us there. Choosing those heroes carefully could make all the difference in the world...at least it does for me.

Have you ever thought of a priest as a hero?

Growing up, I guess I never really thought enough about how important it was to make sure that I chose the right path to follow and my growing up has taken a long time. Now I can see that it makes a remarkable difference in the quality of this life and especially in the quality of the next life, to be ever mindful of what we choose. I just walked this way and that way for many years, lost as to knowing or understanding what this life is all about. It came to the point, however, that going the wrong way was leading nowhere and I sought to find a bend in the road that would lead me in the right direction. Thus my search began: my search for a better life and for the truth.

When one is searching one reaches out in all directions, and in my case, I also did some praying. My prayers and the prayers of those who loved and supported me, in time, pointed me in the right direction. As the search continued, God placed many people in my path who continued to guide me and to lead me. In particular, He allowed me to come under the loving care of some of His holy priests.

And this is the beginning of the rest of my story: how priests help me to know God's love and mercy and to understand the longings of my heart and soul.

One by one, priests have inspired and encouraged me, have motivated and have challenged me to be who God created me



Sunday, October 28, is Priesthood Sunday, a day set aside for us to honor our priests and to thank them for all that they do for us. May we take the time to acknowledge and appreciate them for bringing the joy of Christ to us. May God bless them in a very special way for serving Him with love and may He reward them for their undying faithfulness to Him. Thank you God for our priests.



Above: Father Brian Johnson bows to congratulate Rosaline Johnston at her 100th birthday party August 26, 2007 at Saint Benedict Church, Wax, Ky. Staff Photo

At left: Father Dave Johnson plays music with Megan Rhodes for Vacation Bible School at Saint Mary of the Woods parish hall July 11, 2007. Fr. Dave's thoughts? "Now, let's see, how do I do a F#maj7 chord?" Larena Lawson Photo

Far Left Corner: Father Andy Garner extends a greeting to Paul Warrell, son of Ben and Susan Warrell, at Gasper River Retreat Center during an Owensboro seminarians brotherhood retreat August 17, 2007. Susan Warrell photo

to be. They have been my unsung heroes. I draw strength from their witness of faith, from their gentle care of souls, and from their seemingly never-ending willingness to serve God with love in spite of all the challenges that they face.

Please see **Priests** on page 4

Priesthood PriestSunday.org
SundayUSA **October 28, 2007**

May We All Be The Stewards Of God's Gifts As He Wills Us To Be

Dear People of God,

Were it not for the happy experience I have had for 25 years of trying to do my best to serve you and work with you in carrying out the mission of Church, I would not be writing this letter.

I have found the Priests, Religious, and Laity of this diocese—all of you—to be a people with a deep faith in God's love. I have witnessed a burning desire on your part to carry out the mission of the Church. As you know, our mission is to tell all the people of this diocese and beyond that Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to suffer, die, and be raised from the dead for our salvation. You, the people of God—His Church—have shown over and over again your willingness to do whatever it takes to spread the Good news. You have been generous with your time, talents and material resources, which are all needed to carry out the mission of the Church.

After much prayer and consultation, I have made the decision to launch a diocesan capital campaign.

As you know, we have worked over the years to become a diocese that is committed to carrying out its mission through Christian stewardship. With everyone living as a good steward of the gifts that God has given them, the needs of the Church are answered.

You have been wonderfully generous in your parishes and in the diocese to achieve that goal. I pray that this capital campaign, Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision, will be more about being good stewards of God's gifts (which means everything we have, including life itself) than it is about how much money we can raise.

The decision to have a capital campaign based on stewardship was made because of four needs that we face at this particular time. These four needs deserve your consideration as you prayerfully steward what God has given you.

We need to:

1. Provide a faith-filled camp and retreat center to foster and strengthen the Catholic identity of our young people.
2. Completely vest the Diocesan Charitable Trust Fund, Inc., which was established for the benefit of our sick and retired priests. While this fund has grown over the years, a fully vested status will ensure that the needs of our priests are met by the Diocese in the years to come.
3. Help fund the restoration and renewal of our Cathedral, mother Church of the diocese established by Rome in 1937. The Cathedral is called to be the model church for the diocese in every way, which includes the church building.
4. Establish a diocesan Catholic School and Religious Education Endowment Fund to meet the growing educational needs of our children and youth. Canon Law mandates

that everyone must be given the opportunity to receive a good Catholic education. We have parishes that need the help of the diocese to assist parents in giving their children a good Catholic education. An endowment fund will grow to where it can make a difference, allowing the diocese to assist parishes in need, with Catholic Schools and/or Religious Education programs.

I present these four worthy causes to you the people of the Church of Western Kentucky and ask that you prayerfully consider your response. Please pray over this request for the needs of the diocesan Church and respond as a good steward of the gifts you have been given.

Being a good steward is a basic part of the faith life of every Roman Catholic. Stewardship puts us in touch with the fact that a loving God has given us all that we have. One way we show our love for God and our sisters and brothers is by striving to be good stewards. I am confident that these four needs will help this diocese carry out the mission of the Church, and I am equally confident that the Church—the people of God of western Kentucky—will meet these needs by being good stewards.

In terms of money, the goal for this diocesan capital campaign has been set at 9 million dollars. While that is a lot of money, the campaign seeks to fund essential ministries of the Church. I know that if we each participate to the best of our ability as good stewards, this goal for the mission of the Church can be reached.

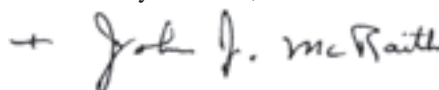
I ask for your prayers first and foremost. Together we pray that God's will be done and that with God's help we can make a difference in meeting the needs of today and fulfilling the mission for the future.

You will be hearing a lot more about the diocesan capital campaign, Responding to Today's Need and Tomorrow's Vision, in the months ahead, but I wanted to share this much with you at this time.

May we all be the stewards of God's gifts as He wills us to be, so that we are forever mindful of the need to be grateful for what we have and willing to share God's gifts with others, including our brothers and sisters of the Diocese of Owensboro – the Church of Western Kentucky.

God's blessing on all of you.

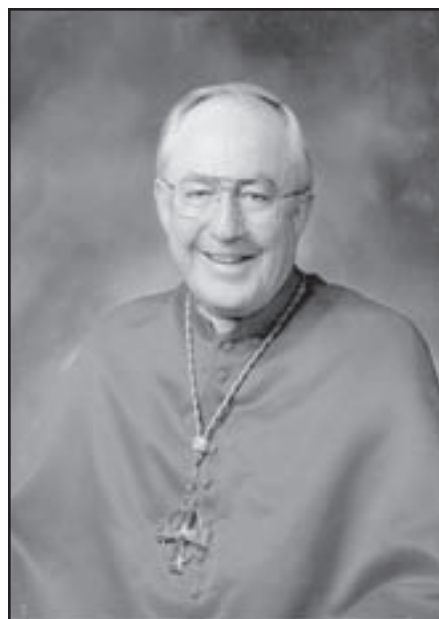
Sincerely in Christ,



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

Bishop McRaith's October 2007 Schedule

- 1 USCCB 2007 Charter Compliance Audit of diocese
- 2 USCCB 2007 Charter Compliance Audit of diocese
- 3 USCCB 2007 Charter Compliance Audit of diocese
- 4 USCCB 2007 Charter Compliance Audit of diocese
- 4 Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 5 USCCB 2007 Charter Compliance Audit of diocese
- 7 Mass in celebration of Rosary Chapel's 60th Anniversary, Paducah, 2pm
- 14 Marian Congress, Marian Shrine, St. Joseph Church, Bowling Green, 2-5pm
- 15 Priests' Personnel Mtg., CPC, 9:30am
- 15 Priests' Council Mtg., CPC, 1:30pm
- 16 Daniel Pitino Shelter Board Mtg., Owensboro, 9am
- 16 Serra Priests' Appreciation Dinner, KC Hall, Sorgho, 6pm
- 17 Diocesan Administration Cmte. Mtg., CPC, 8:30am
- 18 Staff Mtg., CPC, 9am
- 18 KCC Ecumenical Prayer Service, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, 7pm
- 18 KCC 60th Annual General Assembly, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, 9:30am
- 19 KCC 60th Annual General Assembly, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, until noon
- 20 Once More With Love, CPC, Owensboro
- 20 First Profession, Sr. Mary Andrew, Passionist Monastery, 1:30pm
- 21 Daniel Dillard's Candidacy, Holy Name Parish, Henderson, 11:30am



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

- 21 Adoptive Families' Picnic, St. Raphael, 2pm
- 22 Priests' Retreat, Lake Barkley State Resort Park, 3pm
- 23 Priests' Retreat, Lake Barkley State Resort Park
- 24 Priests' Retreat, Lake Barkley State Resort Park
- 25 Priests' Retreat, Lake Barkley State Resort Park
- 26 Priests' Retreat, Lake Barkley State Resort Park
- 27 Mass of Celebration for Installation of new Brescia President, Rev. Larry Hostetter, S.T.D., Cathedral, 10:30am
- 27 Installation of new President, Rev. Larry Hostetter, S.T.D., Brescia, 2pm
- 28 Serra Religious Vocations Dinner, KC Hall, Paducah, 4pm

Brescia University

The only Catholic university serving Western Kentucky and beyond.



...is excited to announce the Catholic Connection Grant, beginning fall 2008.

This grant is a 50% tuition discount for students active in their parish or who are graduating from a Catholic high school.

Brescia University is committed to private Catholic higher education and to making a difference in the lives of our students, our community, and our Church.

Apply Today!

Students must note that the Catholic Connection Grant may not be coupled with any other type of Brescia University assistance, and does require that students live on campus.



For more information, contact:
Brescia University
Office of Admissions
717 Frederica St.
Owensboro, KY 42301
1-877-BRESCIA (273-7242) or
(270) 686-4241
admissions@brescia.edu
www.brescia.edu

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: Larry Abel, Chair, Ms. June Bell, Vice-Chair, Dr. Charles Bohle, Sr. Vivian Bowles, OSU, Ms. Susan Clark, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. William Craig, Jr., Dr. Carroll Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Sr. Jacinta Powers, OSU, and Rev. Pat Reynolds. Ms. Louanne Gelarden serves as the Bishop's 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.

Day Trip To French Lick Indiana



Come with us on Thursday, October 25, to see the renovated sites in Southern Indiana

We will tour:

- Immaculate Conception Monastery, Ferdinand
- French Lick - West Baden, Indiana
- Lunch at French Lick Hotel
- Wine tasting
- Tour of West Baden Springs Hotel and gardens
- All for only \$35.00 per person. The final day to make your bus trip reservations is October 19, 2007.

We will leave St. Stephen's Cathedral Parking lot @ 8 a.m. and return approximately 6:00 pm. Call now for reservations; ask for Ginny Knight-Simon @ 270-683-1545.

The Western Kentucky Catholic

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

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

Once More With Love

A Marriage Preparation Program for couples preparing for marriage after one or both persons have experienced a divorce or death of a former spouse.

Saturday, October 20, 2007

Catholic Pastoral Center, 600 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY 42301

Telephone: (270) 683-1545 ext 357

or betty.medley@pastoral.org

Women's Addiction Recovery Manor, Henderson, Opened Aug. 27, 2007

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Takes Place at Women's Addiction Recovery Manor. First Recovery Kentucky development will provide hope and support to thousands of women in western Kentucky

HENDERSON, Ky. - A ribbon cutting ceremony was held here August 27, 2007, for the first of many recovery centers that will simultaneously reduce the state's drug and homeless problems. The Women's Addiction Recovery Manor (WARM), on McKinley Street, will provide counseling, support, and hope for women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

The development is part of Governor Fletcher's Recovery Kentucky initiative, a joint effort by the Governor's Office for Local Development, the Department of Corrections, the Office of Drug Control Policy, and Kentucky Housing Corporation to build housing recovery centers across the state. As transitional supportive housing developments, each center will use a recovery program model that includes peer support, daily living skills training, job responsibilities, and challenges to practice sober living.

"We are proud to be part of the Recovery Kentucky initiative," said Ben A. Cook, chief executive officer of Kentucky Housing Corporation. "It is rare to have so many dedicated partners working together to provide continual hope and stability for individuals."

This type of supportive housing and recovery program is proven to help people who face the most complex challenges to live more stable, productive lives. It has been demonstrated successfully by both the Hope Center in Lexington and The Healing Place in Louisville and was named "A Model That Works" by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

WARM, owned by Women's Addiction Recovery Manor Limited and developed by Wabuck Development Company, Inc., will serve as many as 100 women at a time.

Without a stable place to live and a support system to help them address their underlying problems, most homeless people who also suffer from substance abuse and addiction bounce around from shelters, public hospitals, psychiatric institutions, and detoxification centers. While the chronically homeless only represent one-quarter of the homeless population, they consume over 50 percent of homeless resources. It is estimated that the Recovery Kentucky initiative will save Kentuckians millions in tax dollars that would have been spent on emergency room visits and jail costs.

"It is amazing that only two short years ago, this place was just a vision by Governor Fletcher," said Teresa A. Barton, deputy secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. "Thanks to the work of so many caring people, this vision has now become a reality and will forever change the lives of so many women and their families."



Many key players were present at the WARM ribbon cutting ceremony, including (from left to right) Susan Newman (CFO of WARM), Gary Watkins (Contractor of the Manor and President of Wabuck Construction), Ben Cook (CEO of Kentucky Housing), Fr. Edward Bradley (Founder of WARM) Don Ball (President of the Kentucky Housing Board), Dale Sights (Chairman of the Board of Directors), Theresa Burton (representative of Governor Fletcher, Deputy Secretary of the Justice Department) and Sharice Benson (Executive Director of WARM). Submitted Photo.

Diocesan Social Concerns Director Richard Murphy commented, "This recovery center and the other nine yet to be built in the Recovery Kentucky plan addresses the twin issues of homelessness and chemical dependency in a cost-effective manner utilizing a unique funding mechanism combining local, state, and federal dollars to insure long-term care and recovery to the men and women in the programs.

"The Catholic Community is committed to bringing the healing of Jesus into all people's lives, including those who are homeless or recovering addicts. Catholics have a reputation of being there for the poor, for the homeless, the recovering addict."

Pope says Catholic schools help develop responsible citizens

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) -- Catholic schools and faith-based education benefit civil society by helping young people grow into responsible citizens, Pope Benedict XVI said. "It is important that states continue to guarantee the church the freedom to establish and administer Catholic schools, affording parents the opportunity to choose a means of education that fosters the Christian formation of their children," he said in a private audience with Slovakia's new ambassador to the Vatican. When Jozef Dravecky presented his letters of credential to the pope Sept. 13, Pope Benedict underlined the importance of offering young people "a solid education that nourishes all the dimensions of the human person, including the religious and spiritual," saying such education was "in the interest of both church and state." Christian teachings and values help young people "appreciate their personal dignity" and give them "a purpose and direction for their lives," he said, acknowledging that Slovakia had such a system.



Pope Benedict XVI blesses the faithful during the weekly Angelus prayer from a window of his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 16. (CNS photo/Alessandro Bianchi, Reuters) (Sept. 17, 2007)

Priests *(Continued from page 1)*

seemingly never-ending willingness to serve God with love in spite of all the challenges that they face.

I admire priests for their unselfish gift of themselves to us, their giving of their lives to the Lord, and for the courage and faithfulness they possess. I seek to imitate their holiness, their desire to serve, their living of their lives for others and their perseverance in striving to always love. To me, they have that heroic, Christ-like character that I look for in a hero. They were given the grace through their ordination to be another Christ to us. They were given the power to administer the Sacraments of the Church to us. What other super hero has such awesome powers given to them by Christ Himself? These are the real powers that can change the world.

The graces that we can receive through the Sacraments can indeed change our lives, one person at a time, one day at a time. All we have to do is to be open to receiving these graces and blessings and then do with them what God would have us to do. I am so thankful to God for giving us His holy priests whom He works through to be our heroes of faith, hope, and love. These are the heroes of "the good life."

Sunday, October 28, is Priesthood Sunday, a day set aside for us to honor our priests and to thank them for all that they do for us. May we take the time to acknowledge and appreciate them for bringing the joy of Christ to us. May God bless them in a very special way for serving Him with love and may He reward them for their undying faithfulness to Him. Thank you God for our priests.

Ecumenical Endeavors

A Catholic Perspective on Creation and Evolution in the Bible

Part 2

By Father Ronald Ketteler

Father Ronald Ketteler serves as Director of Ecumenism and of Continuing Education of Priests, Episcopal Liaison to the diocesan newspaper, the Messenger. He is also former Chair of the Humanities Division at Thomas More College. These columns appeared originally in the Messenger.

The image of God in the Bible proclaimed in the Shema, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord" (Dt 6:4)—lies at the heart of biblical covenantal love. This ancient credo declares the uniqueness and oneness of the God of Israel. It is the verse quoted by Jesus in identifying the first and greatest commandment. (Mk. 12: 28-30; Mt, 22:36-37) In his inaugural encyclical Deus Caritas Est ("God is Love," 2005), Pope Benedict XVI conceives the image of God rooted in the Shema as a reflection of the doctrine of creation. That foundational confession of faith discloses the God of revelation as "the one true God himself who is the source of all that exists" and through whom "the whole world comes into existence by the power of his creative Word." (DCE n. 9) The Pope then draws two basic insights from that revealed mystery: 1) creation is "dear to him [God], for it was willed by him and 'made' by him," and 2) the God of biblical revelation "loves man."

Kentucky Bishops Send Greetings At Start of Jewish Calendar of Holy Days

Dear Men and Women of the Jewish Faith:

We, the Roman Catholic bishops of Kentucky, extend warm greetings to our Jewish brothers and sisters at the beginning of the observance of the 2007-2008 calendar of Jewish Holy Days.

In *Nostra Aetate* (1965), the Second Vatican Council acknowledged the special place held by the Jewish people in relationship to Christians. The declaration's identification of the common spiritual kinship between the Church and the Jewish people was a major theological development that initiated a new moment for interreligious relations and theological dialogue between Christians and Jews.

On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of that seminal document, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his gratitude to Almighty God for the courageous witness of all who have been and are dedicated to fostering "reconciliation and improved understanding between Christians and Jews."

In spite of "a complex and painful history," his commemorative letter recognized the fruitful contributions of *Nostra Aetate* towards the growth in mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation in the present as well as the overcoming of prejudices and hostilities of the past.

Thus, Pope Benedict XVI personally dedicated himself to a "firm determination to walk in the footsteps traced by my predecessor Pope John Paul II."

Interreligious cooperation, dialogue, and everyday contacts with one another now create an opportunity for Christians and Jews "to offer more compelling shared witness to the One God and his commandments, the sanctity of life, the promotion of human dignity, the rights of family and the need to build a world of justice, reconciliation and peace for future generations."

As the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church notes, the Catholic / Jewish interreligious dialogue is marked by common roots in the tradition of biblical religion: "... [T]he Catholic Church is able to engage in dialogue with her Jewish brothers and sisters, which she does through her social doctrine, in order to build together a future of justice and peace for all people, as sons and daughters of the one God."

We, as pastors along with our Catholic people, are united with Pope Benedict XVI in his renewed commitment "to the work that yet remains to be done."

In these greetings, we affirm our respect for our Jewish brothers and sisters and offer the support of our prayer for continued growth in mutual understanding and cooperation in the days ahead.

With every blessing, we are ...

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., Archbishop of Louisville; Most Reverend John J. McRaith, Bishop of Owensboro; Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, Bishop of Covington; Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Lexington; Edward C. Monahan, Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

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From his earlier writings as a theologian, one work of Pope Benedict XVI is especially instructive for understanding the doctrine of creation in relation to modern science. "In the Beginning ... "A Catholic Understanding of the Story of Creation and the Fall (1985), a series of Lenten homilies, included three homilies on creation theology. Those chapters construct an engaging biblical theology drawn from the exegesis of the creation narratives from the opening chapters in the Book of Genesis.

As part of that overview, 'In the Beginning ... ' analyzed the theological question of creation and evolution by setting forth several working assumptions for interpreting the biblical meaning of the Genesis texts. First, since the science of evolution and the biblical accounts speak to distinct realities, the relationship between evolution and creation does not become an "either / or" matter. From this perspective, the science of evolutionary biology cannot be judged to be inherently incompatible with the doctrine of creation. Consequently, the relationship between science and faith on this question can be more accurately phrased as "creation and evolution," not "creation vs. evolution."

The creation narratives in the Bible "represent another way of speaking of reality than that with which we are familiar from physics and biology." Thus, the biblical language of the "dust of the earth and the breath of God ... does not in fact explain how human persons come to be but rather what they are." The scientific methodology of evolutionary biology and the theology of creation encompass "two complementary -- rather than mutually exclusive realities." Secondly, Pope Benedict XVI has consistently rejected evolutionary materialism, a theory that posits blind chance as an all-encompassing explanation of the origin of human life. Against such evolutionary materialism, he affirmed that "the great projects of the living creation point to a creating Reason, and show us a creating Intelligence..." Thus, he argued that "[h]uman beings are not a mistake but something willed; they are the fruit of love."

The Christian doctrine of creation declares that "[t]he universe is not the product of darkness and unreason. It comes from intelligence, freedom, and from the beauty that is identical with love. Seeing this gives us the courage to keep on living, and it empowers us, comforted thereby, to take upon ourselves the adventure of life."

Nonetheless, the disciplines of physics and biology and the other natural sciences can provide "a new and unheard-of creation account with vast new images, which let us recognize the face of the Creator and which make us realize once again that at the very beginning and foundation of all being there is a creating Intelligence."

As the Holy Father would point out later in "The Truth of Christianity?" (1999), Christian belief and practice affirm the unity of love and reason which subsist together as "the two pillars of reality: true reason is love, and love is true reason." The unity of reason and love undergirds the authentic foundation and meaning of all reality. In his treatise on the theology of creation, Pope Benedict XVI noted that "the Bible is not a natural science textbook, nor does it intend to be such." Therefore, there is a need for distinguishing "between the form of portrayal and the content that is portrayed" in Sacred Scripture. The images or ways of describing reality [the content portrayed] are not the reality itself. The Holy Father concluded: "... only the reality that shines through these images would be what was intended and what was truly enduring." 'In the Beginning ... ' reflected and continues to reflect mainstream contemporary Catholic thought which recognizes the discoveries of modern science on the origin of the universe within the framework of the theology of creation. In principle, there is no conflict between revelation and the science of evolution.

In the 1980s, The Church's Confession of Faith had articulated the limits of theology in these matters. An adult catechism published in 1985 by the German Bishops' Conference, the CCF explained that "the Bible uses modes of expression and representation dependent on the world picture of its time; these are not binding on us. The Bible does not wish to instruct us on the empirically knowable genesis of the world or of the different species of organisms. It wishes to stress that God is the Creator of the world and its salvation..."

In this regard, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1997) lays down several key principles for an appropriate exegesis of Sacred Scripture. First, in affirming the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God, the Catechism upholds the truth of Sacred Scripture and its inerrancy in terms of "saving truth." It adopts a critical passage from the *Dei Verbum*, the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation: "... we must acknowledge that the books of scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures (DV n.11)." (CCC n. 107) "Saving truth" is normative and binding; the time-conditioned cultural expressions of the biblical meaning are not. Secondly,

Please See **A Catholic Perspective** on page 8

Why the Farm Bill Matters



Robert Gronski

By Robert Gronski, policy coordinator, National Catholic Rural Life Conference

Q: How are low-income families able to put food on the table for their children? A: Nutrition programs in the U.S. farm bill

Q: How are family farms able to keep farming when crop prices are below the cost of production? A: Farm support programs in the U.S. farm bill.

Q: How can we help protect farmland from environmental harm? A: Conservation programs in the U.S. farm bill

Q: What can the people of God do to feed the hungry, assure fair treatment of producers, and protect God's creation for present and future generations? A: Improve the U.S. farm bill. The Church has a stake in the

farm bill, now under revision by Congress. In setting farm and food policies for our nation, the farm bill has a crucial impact on how food is grown, what foods are grown, who grows the food, and who is able to eat good, nutritious food.

The Gospel calls all of us to feed the hungry, help the vulnerable among us, and care for God's creation. Many people do so through charitable work in their communities and towns. But it is possible to greatly expand our charitable work by shaping public policy and letting Congress know how we feel about the farm bill.

The time to act is now. The House completed their work on the farm bill in late July; the Senate takes up the farm bill in September. Faith and social justice groups are raising their voices and calling for policies and programs that can truly revitalize and sustain family farms. This is good for rural America and good for all who eat.

But aren't family farms virtually gone? It is true that many who want to farm cannot continue to do so or, if young adults, unable to get started. Farmland is expensive and land rental rates keep increasing, not to mention high costs for machinery, fuel, fertilizer, seeds, and other inputs. New policies can be set in place that will replenish the countryside with a multitude of sustainable farmers and ranchers. This can happen in tandem with financial incentives to conserve our natural resources and new programs to revitalize a healthy food system for all.

Farm Bill Policy Priorities

- Maintain strong nutrition programs. A top priority is a strong Nutrition program that reauthorizes and improves the Food Stamp Program, the nation's first defense against hunger, and bolsters the efforts of the emergency food assistance system. Ask Congress to maintain full funds for Nutrition, but without pulling funds from crucial farm programs.

- Make farm payments fair. Income support payments provide a safety net for farmers who grow crops subject to persistent low prices. However, these payments encourage overproduction and do not fix the low price problem. The House bill continues a failed policy where most payments go to the largest operations. A major first step is to limit the amount any farm operation can receive so that more dollars are available to other agricultural and rural development programs.

- Reward good land & water conservation. The farm bill does not receive the funding needed to adequately conserve land and water on all eligible farms and ranches. The Senate should enact conservation provisions that better support family farms while promoting land stewardship. Ask Congress to accelerate the conservation of working lands, God's creation, and substantially increase conservation funding, but limit the amount any farm or ranch operation can receive.

- Ensure fair and competitive agricultural markets. There are few remaining open and competitive markets where farmers and ranchers can sell their crops and livestock. Markets are increasingly controlled by large multinational corporations. For many farmers attempting to sell their crops and livestock, they must enter into contracts with these corporations. The House bill does not provide sufficient protection against unfair market practices. As a first step, the Senate bill should include a fair competition livestock provision that ensures

TEC: The Paschal Mystery of the Rosary



Father Eric Riley

By Father Eric Riley

Traditionally, the month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. For us in the TEC movement the Rosary can be a powerful meditation on the Paschal Mystery: the life, death and resurrection of Christ, which is the focus of TEC spirituality.

The complete Rosary has twenty mysteries for meditation; most often these mysteries are meditated upon in sets of five, which are prayed in rotation



on the different days of the week. The first set of mysteries, generally prayed on Mondays and Saturdays, are The Joyful Mysteries: the Annunciation of the Birth of Christ (Lk 1:26-38); the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is with Child, to Elizabeth who is carrying John the Baptizer in her womb (Lk 1:39-56); the Nativity, birth of the Lord Jesus in Bethlehem (Lk 2:7-19); the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:22-40); and the Finding of the Young Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52).

The second set of mysteries, generally prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays, are The Sorrowful Mysteries: the Agony of Jesus in the Garden (Mt 26:36-50); the Scourging of Jesus at the Pillar (Jn 19:1-5); the Crowning of Jesus with Thorns (Mt 27:27-30); Jesus Carries His Cross (Jn 19:16-37); the Crucifixion of Jesus (Mt 27:33-54).

The third set of mysteries, generally prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays, are The Glorious Mysteries: the Resurrection of Jesus (Lk 24:1-8); the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven (Acts 1:3-11); the Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13); the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven (although not directly expressed in Scripture, Mary is the first to experience the fullness of the promises of Christ); the Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and of Earth (Revelation 12:1).

The fourth set of mysteries, added by Pope John Paul II, generally prayed on Thursdays, are The Luminous (Light) Mysteries: the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan (Mt 3:13-17); the Wedding Feast at Cana (Jn 2:1-11); the Proclamation of the Kingdom of Heaven and the Call for Repentance (Mt 4:17-5:16); the Transfiguration of Jesus (Lk 9:28-36); the Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist (Lk 22:1-23).

These mysteries call us to a deep meditation on the Paschal Mystery of Christ. During this month of October, like Mary the Mother of Jesus, let us pray and meditate upon these mysteries, holding them in our hearts. Let us truly pray with the mysteries, and not just "rattle off" prayers.

On 9 September, we had an awesome hour of adoration, prayer, praise, and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at Blessed Mother. We prayed for you; may you know the fruit of that prayer.

Upcoming Events:

- TEC 159, 6-8 October, Madisonville. Offer Wheat!! Invite Candidates!!!! Come to the Reunion (4 PM, 7 Oct)!!! Lay Director: Danny Thomas. Spiritual Director Fr. Eric Riley
- Holy Hour, 12 November, 7 PM. Holy Redeemer, 13th Street, Beaver Dam

contracts are fair and markets are open to independent producers.

- Restore regional farm markets and local food supplies. The farm bill can help expand the opportunities for farmers and ranchers to sell their products locally and provide fresher and more nutritious foods.

Visit www.ncrlc.com to learn more about these agriculture and food policies and how to talk to Congressional representatives about a fair and just farm bill.

A Late-arriving Note about the Farm Bill:

As of Sept. 14, 2007, the NCRLC said, "The Senate Agriculture Committee may still take up the Farm Bill this month, but it's looking more likely in October. At this time, Sen. Tom Harkin, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, is waiting to mark up the bill in Committee until Senate leadership has scheduled the bill for floor debate and vote. Several issues of vital concern to family farmers and ranchers, rural communities, and consumers hang in the balance."

Knights Sing unto the Lord

By Dawn C. Ligibel

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - Since Jim De Foe began as the Director of Music at Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, he's been determined to entice more men to sing as part of the choir. Nearly one year later, he finally accomplished his goal. However, he didn't just bring more men to the existing choir; he formed an all-new, all-male choir.

The newly formed choir is comprised of Knights of Columbus members from the Msgr. Willett Council 7847. The first time they sang during mass was on July 29 as they celebrated their Corporate Communion Mass at 8 a.m.

"I had been trying to figure out how to get more men in the choir," De Foe said. "So I talked to Peter Milbauer (a council member who was already singing in the choir) and asked if he would talk to the council members." As it turns out, many members jumped at the opportunity. "I told him (De Foe) that I can't carry a tune, push a tune or drag a tune, but I'd try my best," joked Rocky Spader, council and choir member. "At the first rehearsal he actually said I did great! I guess there's enough other guys that they drowned me out," Spader chuckled.

Several members of the council attribute building interest in the Knights Choir to Milbauer. "Pete was the guy who was shot-gunning the whole project," acknowledged Spader. When asked if he was responsible for encouraging members to join, Milbauer responded with a chuckle, "More like ram-rod-ding the project. Most of them said they couldn't sing, but some wanted to sing," he explained. Nearly 30 Knights attended the first rehearsal.

At the first rehearsal most were excited and even surprised. "Many were skeptical at first," said De Foe. "They didn't think they could sound so good so quickly." Milbauer agrees, "Mr. De Foe worked his magic. At that very first practice, he proved to us that we could sound good. The man is an artist."

Bart Hulsmeyer, Deputy Grand Knight, also attributes the choir's success to De Foe. "It's his energy that's a big part of it. He's so positive and in a short period of time he trains you to be so much better."

De Foe agrees that the choir is a success. "What made me the happiest was the look of pride and satisfaction on their faces when they finished singing." The greatest reward, of course, was the response from the congregation. "It made us feel so good," Spader explained how they felt when the congregation applauded at the end of mass. "The whole group was real pleased. We were afraid they would tell us not to come back!"

But they will be back. The Knights Choir is already on the schedule whenever there is a fifth Sunday in a month, which occurs about every three months. "We don't want to knock the regular choir out of their job, that's why we'll just sing once a quarter," Spader said while laughing. In addition, De Foe has hopes that the Knights Choir will agree to sing at the next Christ Mass.

While many simply enjoy the singing, others see the choir as having a higher mission. "Singing is such a huge part of the mass," said Hulsmeyer. "I look at this as another ministry the Knights can provide."

"It's very exciting," De Foe, who is also a Knight, confirms. "Being a part of the music ministry is not just about singing. It's about leading people to worship." With their schedule already set, many Knights hope others will join the newly formed choir. "I think more will be interested now that they're convinced we sound good," Milbauer said.

De Foe, of course, will not be satisfied to simply add numbers to the Knights Choir. "I'm hoping they will enjoy it so much that they will choose to be a part of the music ministry on a regular basis." In addition, he sees this as an opportunity to recruit more voices from the congregation. "By seeing a bunch of guys up there who have never done it before shows anybody and everybody that they can do it too!"



The Sts. Peter and Paul Knights of Columbus choir stands during the 8 a.m. mass on July 29. The celebration of their Corporate Communion Mass on July 29 was their first appearance during mass after the choir formed. Photo taken by Jim De Foe.

Fall Day of Wisdom

Monday October 22, 2007

**At St. Thomas More Parish Hall,
5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY**

Registration 8:30 a.m. Program 9:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch will be served



Lorie Duquin

Lorie Duquin is the featured presenter for this year's Diocesan Fall Day of Wisdom. Mrs. DuQuinn is from Lockport, NY, and is the Director of the Evangelization Ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo, NY.

Mrs. Duquin has authored several books plus she is a writer for *Our Sunday Visitor*. She has presented workshops at national conferences and dioceses throughout the United States and Canada.

"Could you ever become a Saint?" will be the topic for the Fall Day of Wisdom

Why not make your reservation now? The day is free!

Call GinnyKnight-Simon @ 270-683-1545 or E-Mail @ ginny.knight-simon@pastoral.org

Ursuline Sisters Christmas Craft Sale

Saturday, November 10, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Precious Blood Parish Hall, 3306 Fenmore Street, Owensboro, Ky.

Homemade chili, bread and baked goods for sale. Many nice homemade items for gifts for any occasion. For more information, call Sister Rosanne Spalding at 1-270-925-3712

When Does The Hurting Stop?

The journey through grief is difficult and painful. We are forever changed by a major loss experience. Clearly, we will never be the same person we were before this loss became part of our lives. The real struggle occurs when we consciously or subconsciously resist the change that must take place if we are to survive and learn to live with our loss. (It is difficult to get to know and accept this new person who is emerging.)

Grief is a complex process, unique to each individual, based on personality type, circumstances of death, and our relationship with the person who died. There are, however, emotions common to almost all bereaved persons.

Understanding is the KEY to the tolerance and patience necessary to accept and integrate loss into our lives.

There will be a bereavement support group for anyone who has experienced a death at any time of his/her life. This group will run each Tuesday for four consecutive weeks and is open to all the public at no charge.

BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM—FOUR WEEK SESSIONS

Where: St. Romuald Parish Hall Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Contact Person: Betty Medley (270) 683-1545 ext. 357
or Charlotte Hedges (270) 683-1545 ext. 346

• Oct 22 - What Grief Is Really Like: Some common reactions to a situation no one is ever prepared to handle. Why we feel the way we do, and why no one seems to understand.

• Oct 29 - Depression: Sadness, loss, and the feeling that nothing will ever be the same. Physical symptoms; healing can happen. Anger: Nice people DO get angry. Recognizing our anger, coping with it and getting over it. (Address suicide and our feelings of outrage and shame.)

• Nov 5 - Guilt: Blaming ourselves for what has happened, handling the “what ifs...” and if onlys....(touch on suicide, and our responsibility or lack of it)

From Grief to Living Again: Putting grief in perspective learning to share our lives with the living, and realizing that we will never “get over” our grief, but we can learn to live with it.

• Nov 12 MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Catholic Perspective *(Continued from page 5)*

cultural expressions of the biblical meaning are not. Secondly, insofar as the Bible is the Word of God in human words, readers “must be attentive to what the human authors truly wanted to affirm and to what God wanted to reveal to us by their words.” (CCC n. 109)

Thirdly, identification of the intention of the sacred authors must “take into account the conditions of their time and culture, the literary genres in use at that time, and the modes of feeling, speaking and narrating then current.” (CCC n.110)

The Catechism confirms this position by again quoting directly from Del Verbum: “For the fact is that truth is differently presented and expressed in the various types of historical writing, in prophetic and poetical texts, and in other forms of literary expression.” (DV n.12) Accordingly, the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults (2006) sums up two polar positions which are not in accord with the Catholic understanding of creation and evolution: “on the one hand, by ‘creationist’ or fundamentalist biblical positions that do not take into account the literary forms of the Bible and the primary theological purpose of its teaching, and, on the other hand, by the use of theories of evolution to support a materialist and anti-religious interpretation of the world and humanity.” [USCCA, 61

The USCCA concludes: “The Bible is not a scientific textbook and should never be read as such; rather it reveals what God wants us to know for the sake of our salvation.” June 2007

Suicide: Most Misunderstood Of All Deaths

By Betty Medley



Betty Medley

Death is always painful, but its pains are compounded considerably if its cause is suicide. When a suicide occurs, we aren't just left with the loss of a person, we're also left with a legacy of anger, second-guessing, and fearful anxiety.

It's a disease and perhaps the most misunderstood of all diseases.

We tend to think that if a death is self-inflicted it is voluntary in a way that death through physical illness or accident is not. For most suicides, this isn't true. A person who falls victim to suicide dies, as does the victim of a terminal illness or fatal accident, not by his or her own choice. When people die from heart attacks, strokes, cancer, AIDS, and accidents, they die against their will. The same is true for suicide, except that in

the case of suicide the breakdown is emotional rather than physical-an emotional stroke, an emotional cancer, a breakdown of the emotional immune-system, an emotional fatality.

The two kinds of heart attacks, strokes, cancers, breakdowns of the immune-system, and fatal accidents are identical in that in neither case is the person leaving this world on the basis of a voluntary decision of his/her own will. In both cases, he or she is taken out of life against his/her own will. That's why we speak of someone as a “victim” of suicide.

Given this fact, we should not worry unduly about the eternal salvation of a suicide victim, believing (as we used to) that suicide is always an act of ultimate despair. God is infinitely more understanding than we are and God's hands are infinitely safer and more gentle than our own.

God is infinitely more understanding, loving and motherly than any mother on earth. We need not worry about the fate of anyone, no matter the cause of death, who exits this world honest, over-sensitive, gentle, over-wrought, and emotionally-crushed. God's understanding and compassion exceed our own.

Knowing all of this, however, doesn't necessarily take away our pain (and anger) at losing someone to suicide. Faith and understanding aren't meant to take our pain away but to give us hope, vision, and support as we walk within it.

We should not unduly second-guess when we lose a loved to suicide: “What might I have done? Where did I let this person down? If only I had been there? What if...?” It can be too easy to be haunted with the thought: “If only I'd been there at the right time.” Rarely would this have made a difference. Indeed, most of the time, we weren't

there for the exact reason that the person who fell victim to this disease did not want us to be there. He/she picked the moment, the spot, and the means precisely so that we wouldn't be there. Perhaps it's more accurate to say that suicide is a disease that picks its victim precisely in such a way so as to exclude others and their attentiveness. This should not be an excuse for insensitivity, especially towards those suffering from serious depression, but it should be a healthy check against false guilt and fruitless second-guessing.

We're human beings, not God. People die of illness and accidents all the time and all the love and attentiveness in the world often cannot prevent a loved one from dying. Suicide is a sickness and there are some sicknesses that all the care and love in the world cannot cure.

A proper human and faith response to suicide should not be horror, fear for the victim's salvation, or guilty second-guessing about how we failed this person. Suicide is indeed a horrible way to die, but we must understand it (at least in most cases) as a sickness, a disease, an illness, a tragic breakdown within the emotional immune-system. And then we must trust, in God's goodness, God's understanding, and God's power to redeem all things, even death, even death by suicide.

Thank You

**to the many
volunteers who
helped in any way
to make our 37th
annual picnic
a great success!
We appreciate all
who attended.**



All proceeds go to
the Ursuline Sisters'
retirement fund.

*May God bless
each of you
for your kindness
and generosity*



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

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www.ursulinesmsj.org
info@maplemount.org

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Charles & Terri LaHugh, 25
Cliff & Margaret Mills, 58
Leo & Angela Thompson, 61
Jack & Lilly Wilson, 60
George & Mary Virginia Ballard, 64

Christ the King, Madisonville

Jud & Karen Caldwell, 40
Maurice & Patty Jolley, 55

Christ the King, Scottsville

Samuel A. & Annette Harris, 54
Ken & Mary Mattingly, 52

Holy Name, Henderson

B. J. & Linda Anderson, 25
Larry & Phyllis Bumpus, 40
Joseph & Mary Ann Thomas, 40
Rudy & Agnes Gibson, 56
Thomas & Sue Hagan, 52
Leslie & Sarah Jennings, 63
Clarence & Margaret Kaminski, 58
Ray & Evelyn Shoemaker, 60
Bernard & Patsy Thomas, 51
Herman & Mary Ruth Thomas, 54
William & Virginia Thomas, 61

Holy Redeemer, Beaver Dam

George & Jean Bickett, 54

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Stuart & Jo Ann Foster, 25
Steve & Mary Jane Swigonski, 56
Francis & Wilma Roos, 59
William & Melina Baribeau, 66
Camille & Margaret Picciano, 64
Jake & Poly Leibfreid, 57

Immaculate, Owensboro

Lester & Helen Schaick, 58
Billy & Anna C. King, 58
George D. & Jennie Howard, 61
Joseph C. & Mildred Higdon, 53
Andrew A. & Charlotte Reynolds, 54
James D. & Cheryl Brown, 25
Melvin & Mary Eleanor Wathen, 55
George L. & Anna Weldon, 51

Immaculate Conception, Earlington

Joe & Martha Clark, 25

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Joseph B. & Marilou Blanford, 55
Thomas E. & Joann Castlen, 61
John & Barbara McDevitt, 61
Jack H. & Margie Clark, 58
William & Velma Dunn, 50
Harry & Doris McCrary, 51
David & Patricia Hamilton, 55
George & Margaret Terry, 61

Precious Blood, Owensboro

E. C. & Reba Goldsmith, 50

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Donald & Ellen Buckman, 53

St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph

Doug & Benola Dant, 57

St. Ambrose, Henshaw

George C. & Evelyn Henshaw, 59

St. Ann, Morganfield

Eddie & Peggy Salyers, 56

St. Anthony Axtel

Howard & Thelma Howard, 53
John & Shirley Coffey, 56

St. Anthony, Peonia

Carlos & Cathy Clemons, 25

St. Benedict, Wax

Russell & Rudell Higdon, 52

St. Elizabeth, Curdsville, Ky.

Ernie & Martha Sampson, 25 years

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Siro & Marcella Pandolfi, 59

St. Henry, Aurora

Herschel & Polly Underwood, 59

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Mike & Judy Kaufman, 40
Charles & Rosella Shoulta, 53

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Kenneth & Marilyn Rice, 40

St. Joseph, Central City

Victor & Rose Rogier, 60

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

James P. & Nellie Alvey, 58

St. Joseph, Mayfield

Harold & Barbara Hayden, 52
Joseph & June Elliott, 60

St. Leo, Murray

Alfred & Patricia Koehler, 50
Bruno & Helen Zubko, 63

St. Martin, Rome

Rick & Tammie Thomas, 25
Tony & Thomasine Weise, 51
James & Margaret Bickett, 52
John & Eloise Chandler, 52
Bill & Patti Wink, 52

St. Mary of the Fields, LaCenter

Kevin & Diana Brazell, 25

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

William & Glenda Howard, 25
Daniel & Geri Kramer, 25
Ronald & Jana Ling, 25
David & Rose Hamilton, 40
Audry & Martha Hagan, 61
William M. & Opal Boarman, 64

St. Michael, Oak Grove

Orin & Virginia Koch, 51

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Donald & Sharon Cooper, 40

St. Peter, Stanley

Kenneth & Edie McKay, 40

St. Peter, Waverly

Anthony & Betty Wolfe, 63
Louie & Rita Mills, 52

St. Pius Tenth, Calvert City

Butch & Helen Oser, 60
Tom & Paula Collins, 40

St. Pius Tenth, Owensboro

Jeff & Theresa Ashworth, 25
Mike & Cindy Aull, 25
Dennis & Jill Campbell, 25
Joseph Anthony & Angela Mayfield, 25
Frank & Phyllis Shown, 25

Rick & Laurel Walls, 25
Francis A. & Priscilla Haynes, 40
Tommy & Angela Maxwell, 40

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Merl & Marty Kannapel, 61
Charles & Louise Roach, 59
Harold & Libby Osborne, 54

St. Rose, Cloverport

John & Elizabeth Popham, 50
James & Mary Jo Carter, 57
Richard & Dorothy Carter, 58

St. Stephen, Cadiz

Charles & Betty Head, 58
Richard & Lolita Krusinski, 58

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Ed & Barbara Tichenor, 40

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St. Thomas More, Paducah

Edward & Pat Kortz, 55
David & Lynn Baker, 25

St. William, Knottsville

Harry & Betty Pedley, 59
Terry & Dona Johnson, 25

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Eugene & Mary Bickwermer, 60

Sts. Mary & James, Guthrie

Norbert & Helen Hock, 52

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Phillip & Ruby Carstone, 53
Bill & Kathryn Whittinghill, 59
Eugene & Marcella Simmons, 50

When Ministry is Messy: Practical Solutions to Difficult Problems

Presenter and Author Richard C. Brown, Ph.D. with degrees in Counseling, Education, Catholic Pastoral Theology; 25 years as counselor; Director Parish Ministries.

Co-sponsored by the Dioceses of Evansville and Owensboro

Learn about major causes of ministry conflict:

- natural personality differences
- emotional illness
- sin

Location of Workshop

Catholic Center, 4200 N Kentucky Avenue, Evansville, IN
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

October 4 & 5, 2007

Fee: \$25 two days or \$15 per day
Includes lunch and materials

Call – Donna Biggs, 270-852-8324

Email – Donna Biggs

donna.biggs@pastoral.org

Postal Mail – Donna Biggs, 600 Locust St., Owensboro KY 42301
A Seminar for Parish Staff

Learn and practice solutions used by Jesus:

- loving servanthood
 - forgiveness
 - use of the intellect
 - speaking out
- Dr. Brown's books will be available for purchase at the seminar:

"Ministry is Messy" workshop cost is \$10.00

A Practical Guide For Starting an Adult Faith Formation Program - \$15.00

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

Holiday Bazaar (9:00-3:00)

- & Lunch (10:30-2:00)

October 27 & 28, 2007

Original Watercolor Paintings, Hand Painted Items, Ceramics, Christmas Decorations, Gift Baskets, Homemade Baked Item.

Bring the whole family

Luncheon Menu: Chicken & Dressing Casserole, Corn, Green Beans, Cranberry Salad, Dessert, Roll & Drink - \$7 per person; \$4 for ages 6 & under

All proceeds go to the Parish Hall Fund.

Prayer Warriors Strive To Change Hearts, Defend Lives Of Innocent Babies

By Kelly Hedges

Editor's Note: This account of a sidewalk counseling experience at the EMW Woman's Surgical Clinic at 2nd & Market Streets in Louisville, Ky. is the author's third trip to the "abortion mill." According to a Louisville Right to Life report at the time this article was written in August, 2007 359 babies were aborted at EMW Woman's Surgical Clinic that month, bringing the total count of babies aborted in the clinic for 2007 to 2,759. We print this article here and ask everyone to please pray for an end to all abortions.

I didn't sleep again the night before going to the mill. I believe it's the effect of being anxious about who we are battling. Up all night!

My daughter Maggie, her 4 month old Max, and of course Jan went along. We got there around 6:45a.m., and one escort was sitting on the sidewalk reading and waiting. By 7:00 a.m., we had around 30 prayer warriors on both sides of the sidewalk, including one priest and one nun. The escorts were stationed at every corner, the front door, and in the parking lot.

During the arrival of all the people, my mind thinks of many things.

When the first lady comes walking down the street, the escorts run to meet her, while the sidewalk counselor is already trying to educate. This is a death march! Any minute I thought I could see the devil on her shoulder and an angel on the other! You know, like you see in a comic book, both trying to convince her that they know best. One mumbling, "Get rid of it; it's a problem you don't need." While the other is whispering, "No! This is your baby! This is a gift from God! Show Him that He is greater than you! Keep your baby!" She walked in the mill and stayed.

22 babies went in this day and 22 babies died!

I brought my camera to take pictures for the Western Ky. Catholic. I snapped a couple before they (escorts) could see me. I knew they would not like it; I am not sure why they don't, but it really gets them excited. It could just be another reason for them to try to intimidate someone. They seem to like confrontation. So, this young man, ... I am not sure I can find the words to describe him. He wears a skirt sometime, his hair is in long braids, several. He yells loudly often at people. He is tattooed, and is dirty. He began his day with a prayer! Who do you suppose he was praying to? It is well known there on the battle field that many of the escorts are involved in the occult. This young man sees me taking pictures and hurries over waving his hat in front of the camera and

October is Respect Life Month

my face. Any way the camera went, his hat went, it was almost funny how I could control him! Finally, I put my camera by my side and I said, "I love You!" Oh, boy, did that make him mad! He yelled at me, "Don't give me that f... Christian crap!" So I told him, "No, really, I love you, and pray for you!" And he spit his foulness at me again!

One of the men standing a couple of people down from me had had enough and grabbed the hat and hit the escort over the head with it and told him he had better never speak that way again in front of the women! The escort could care less what the man said; he was furious! He wanted to hit me so bad! He picked up his hat and walked off to tell his escort's cohorts. I could hear him yelling at them while telling his story.

The man with us who corrected the young man later apologized to me and those around us for his anger. He knew he should not have let his anger out. The evilness of the inside of the mill overflows to the outside.

We continued our prayers. Other ladies went in - none came out.

22 babies went in this day and 22 babies died!

There are 3 escorts older than me whom I bet are grandfathers. I could not stand it any longer watching these men escort these babies to death. I finally went up to one and asked him if he was a grandfather. His reply was "Who cares." I asked if he had a wife and children. His reply "What's that got to do with anything?" I told him, "You have grandchildren, don't you. When they were born, you held them in your arms, didn't you." His reply: "Who cares?" I told him, "Your mother who gave birth to you is in heaven, isn't she?" He just looked at me. I told him, "She is in heaven crying for you." He used the "f" word at me



Above: Raymond Wethington, Philip Calvert, and Ed Tate, all from the Diocese of Owensboro,

Below: Sister Mary Prisca Pfeffer, 91, a Sister of Mercy from Louisville, Ky. Kelly Hedges Photos

as well. I walked away and got my grandson and stood next to the mill door so he and the people inside could see him.

After the mill closes and Father closes with prayers for the mill, the workers and doctors, we are standing around talking for a minute. Some of the escorts have left. The one who was giving me trouble walked by me and spit at me. He actually spit on me. I cannot describe his face as he passed by. I was shocked!

So, another day of death. What are we to do about this? Where are the people? I am asking again: please make a trip to the abortion mill. We are going every First Saturday. If

you are a priest, please put it in the bulletin. We meet at McDonalds on East Highway 60 at the By-Pass in Owensboro at 3:15 a.m., and leave from there at 3:30 a.m. sharp. We go other Saturdays as well if you would like to come with us or just go on your own.

22 babies died Saturday. When I die and God asks me what did you do for my babies? I want to have an answer.

Kelly Hedges, JMJ

When we suffer much we have a great chance to show God that we love Him; but when we suffer little we have less occasion to show God our love; and when we do not suffer at all, our love is then neither great nor pure. (Diary,303)

- St. Maria Faustina

'Reclaiming Fatherhood' movement aims to help men touched by abortion

By Mark Pattison, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- It took a long time for attorney Chris Aubert to miss his children -- the ones he lost to abortion.

But once he did -- and it took the better part of a decade -- he was ready to make his choice for life.

Aubert is scheduled to speak at a "Reclaiming Fatherhood" conference Nov. 28-29 in San Francisco, funded by the Knights of Columbus and co-sponsored by the Knights and the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

It is being organized by the Milwaukee-based Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing, headed by Vicki Thorn, and according to the office, the event is the first to focus on the effects of abortion on men.

The conference, according to Thorn, could help men dealing with the psychological trauma of post-abortion reality the way Project Rachel -- the post-abortion healing ministry of the Catholic Church Thorn founded -- has helped women who have undergone abortions deal with their own psychological scars.

Aubert, in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service from The Woodlands, Texas, a Houston suburb, said that in 1985, when he first impregnated a woman who was "a friend, but not really a girlfriend, I was not a one-woman man, let's say, at the time, and I had no qualms about premarital sex or anything like that."

Nor did he have any qualms about her decision to have an abortion. "She got the abortion. I did not go. It was a complete and total nonevent for me," he said. "My thinking was at the time this was just a collection of nonviable tissue cells, it's perfectly legal, it's her body -- all the things today I find as laughably silly. I bought into it." He never saw the woman again.

Much the same was true in 1991, six years later, when he got his girlfriend pregnant. "I had just been civilly divorced outside the church and I was not ready to get married again. She was a Methodist, I was a 'nothing.'" Nominally Jewish, Aubert said his bar mitzvah in 1970 was the last time he had stepped into a synagogue. "She had no quarrel with the abortion. I said, 'Fine with me,'" he recalled.

There was a difference, though, between the two abortions.

"This flood of emotion came back. I realized I killed two of my kids," Aubert said.

"This time, however, I did go into the clinic with her. I went into the waiting room with her," Aubert said. "Looking back, it was probably something very, very deep within me that said, 'Something about this isn't right.' I wouldn't have been able to articulate it if you asked me. ... Something about the second one seems different."

Thorn told CNS in a Sept. 19 interview that research indicates men go through their own physical changes as they go through pregnancy with their mate. One is a lessening of testosterone. Men also bond more closely with their mate after childbirth and are willing to make sacrifices to solidify the family unit: "I'll make that midnight run for diapers, and, honey, since I'm out, do you



Vicki Thorn
Vicki Thorn is director of the Milwaukee-based National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing. Thorn spoke with Catholic News Service about a new outreach to men coping with the trauma of a post-abortion reality, much the way Project Rachel, which she founded, has helped women who have had abortions deal with their own emotional scars. She is pictured in a Sept. 19 photo in Washington. (CNS photo/Bob Roller) (Sept. 21, 2007)

want any Starbucks?" Those changes, Thorn added, are short-circuited in an abortion.

Men may react by withdrawing -- "they don't talk about their feelings like women," Thorn noted -- but also by trying to impregnate a woman again, she said.

Aubert and his girlfriend drifted apart, which he attributes to the abortion. Then he met his current wife, whom he described as "a cradle Catholic," and got married. Within two months

she was pregnant.

"The abortions started to eat away at me a little bit" by then, Aubert told CNS. At the doctor's office upon viewing the ultrasound of the child his wife was carrying, Aubert said he blurted out, "I want to meet the person that wants to debate with me whether this is a baby or not."

"This flood of emotion came back. I realized I killed two of my kids," Aubert said. "I didn't mention this to my wife, but I was just devastated by it, just devastated. I had killed two of my kids."

Aubert, who became a Catholic in 1997, said it still took him a few years to work up the nerve to talk about the abortions at confession. When he did, he added, "I was a weeping mess. It was horrible. I ended up telling my wife. She could not have been any nicer or more understanding."

Aubert said he talks about the prospective father's role in abortion "on a micro level, every day. On a macro level, once every few weeks I've done it. It might be crisis pregnancy centers, youth conferences, men's groups."

He recalls giving two addresses in one day, first in the afternoon to the crisis pregnancy organization Birthright at its Texas state meeting, and that evening to a Catholic group's benefit diner.

Editor's Note: More information on the "Reclaiming Fatherhood" conference is available at www.menandabortion.info.

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My Journey In Cursillo

Written by Sharon Brumlow



I would like to witness to you about Cursillo and what it has done for me. I had heard of Cursillo back in the 80's and what it could do for you and I wanted to be part of that experience but couldn't find the time. Several years passed and I still had not made a Cursillo. In 1992 I filled out an application to make a Cursillo weekend. The application got lost and the weekend was filled-up. I got mad because they wouldn't squeeze me in and it was not my fault the application was lost. A friend tried to get me to go several times after that weekend but I thought, I'll show them and I just won't go. In 1997 my friend asked me again. I don't know why but I said yes! I guess it was in God's time and not my time!

I had all these questions about what went on during the Cursillo weekend. I wanted to have a closer relationship with Christ and I had heard it could be life changing. My sponsor told me to participate and not anticipate.

My first day of the weekend I thought to myself what have I gotten myself into. By Saturday night I could feel a change in me. Before the weekend I believed the world was a bad place after the weekend I believed the world was a wonderful place and there were more good people in the world than bad. I felt the Holy Spirit working in me. After the weekend I was on a spiritual high. We were told that the world would be the same as it was before but we were given the tools to face the world. During the weekend I thought to myself, I would like to help with a Cursillo weekend but I would NEVER give a talk much less be coordinator. We should never say never because we don't know God's plan for us! In 1999 I worked a weekend and gave a talk. I worked several more weekends and gave several talks. In 2002 I was asked to be coordinator. I have found out we can do a lot of things we think we can't with the Holy Spirit working through us!

I have met a lot of wonderful faith filled people thru Cursillo. I invite each and every one of you to make a Cursillo weekend. The Holy spirit may change your life too!

The next Cursillo weekends are: February 28th – March 2nd 2008 (Men's) March 6th – 9th 2008 (Women's) You may contact your pastor or: Cecelia Hamilton (270) 926-4176; Sr. Elaine Burke (270) 229-4103 Ext 720; Cammi or Gerry Frey (270) 685-1319; Theresa or Charlie Krampe (270) 546-7773; Martha or Denis Wheatley (270) 927-6540; Paul Bachi (270) 338-2973; Kim Haire (270) 785-0383; Sharon Brumlow (270) 442-2636; Mary Lee (270) 886-5504; Charyl or Tim Farley (270) 826-9926.

Sister Ruth Gehres, O.S.U. Begins New Ministry at Casa Ursulina October 22

In March 2006 Sister Ruth Gehres, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, spent five weeks at the Dianna Ortiz Ursuline Center for Women in Chillán, Chile, South America. Known affectionately as Casa Ursulina (Ursuline House in Spanish), the center was founded and is directed by fellow Ursuline Sister Mary Elizabeth (Mimi) Ballard. For Sister Ruth, associate director of communications for the Ursuline Sisters, this trip was a working vacation. "I was writing a story about Casa Ursulina for our Ursulines Alive magazine, and I wanted to get to know the women personally," she explains. "It also helped me with my Spanish. And I just needed some time off."

Sister Ruth has designed a new web page for Casa Ursulina that she will maintain in her new ministry. The address for the new page is www.casaursulina.org.

Originally it may have been an innocent working vacation for Sister Ruth, but it turned into a major event in her life — one that has led to a late-life career change that is taking her 5,000 miles from Owensboro to her newest ministry with Casa Ursulina.

"When I got there last March, I found the spirit of Casa Ursulina so energizing," says Sister Ruth. "The women are strong, determined, creative. Even though they are financially poor, they are rich in many other ways. Their poverty doesn't keep them from being happy."

After five weeks in Chillán, Sister Ruth wasn't ready to leave. "I didn't want to go, but I knew I had to," she says. "The time went so fast, and I found out that I could manage with my rudimentary Spanish. The women were so encouraging! I found myself wishing I could stay, but I saw that as wishful thinking. I was too old (I thought), and I had too much responsibility here at the Mount."

Returning home, she pushed away the thought of returning to Casa Ursulina, and for three months put her head into her work. But her heart kept returning to Chillán. Finally, a very good friend asked her why she was pushing those thoughts back, and encouraged her to follow her heart. After talking to Sister Mimi, Sister Michele Morek (Ursuline congregational leader), and other friends and family members, she did just that. "Nobody thought I was too old or too crazy!" On October 22, Sister Ruth will begin her newest ministry, working with the women of Casa Ursulina in Chillán.

Sister Michele looked ahead and predicted, "But it's probably her linguistic ability that will really make her a star in her new work in Chile. She has studied several languages — French, Spanish, Italian, and German — and approaches the study of any language with real joy and great enthusiasm. Ruth is great fun, has a delightful whimsical sense of humor, loves people and new places, so I expect that she will love Chile and will be loved in turn. And I know she'll have fun!"

What are Sister Ruth's thoughts as she prepares to live among the poor in an area where families struggle daily with poverty and the problems that poverty brings?

"Being an Ursuline has given me a wonderful life," she says. "When I look back on my life and see how God has loved me through the people in my life I've already met, my education and my vocation as an Ursuline Sister, I am amazed at what a full life I've lived. I have been gifted with good health, good genes. I don't think that when you get to be 65 or 70 or more, you stop learning, stop having exciting experiences or stop serving. Retirement to me sounds very boring. My mind is alive. I want to live fully until I die."

Sister Ruth spoke with The Western Kentucky Catholic about her move to Chillan, Chile. She spoke of how the life at Casa Ursulina attracted her because of the "great dedication of the women who come there to improve life for their children and themselves." She spoke of the essential work of the house "helping women do what they were good at doing, sewing, making crafts, and providing for a household." Sr. Ruth found herself attracted to the networking among Sisters of other religious communities in Chillan, as well as the local diocesan offices in the effort to free and to nurture women and children, to give women some dignity, minister to their needs, and help them become more their own person, much like Saint Angela Merici taught her community to do.

All Christians are called to mission. We have been sent by Jesus to help to bring all people to life in His Spirit. You can be a part of the mission work of Jesus at Casa Ursulina; for information about donations to Casa Ursulina, please contact Sister Suzanne Sims at 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356. Telephone 270-229-2008, or e-mail ssims@maplemount.org.

For a more complete story about Sister Ruth's change in ministry, go to http://www.ursulinesmsj.org/Sisters%20in%20Ministry/Sister_Ruth_Gehres_SIM.php



In "Friendship and Solidarity, Chilean women walk in the footsteps of Angela Merici," Sister Ruth Gehres, O.S.U. wrote in the Fall of 2006, "Just a few years ago, Casa Ursulina was only a dream — a deep desire in the hearts and minds of Ursuline Sister Mary Elizabeth ("Mimi") Ballard and seven other women in the city of Chillán in central Chile. Today, close to 200 women of Chillán experience the fulfillment of that dream in their daily lives at the Dianna Ortiz Ursuline Center for Women. Here the women work together to develop resources for their personal and economic growth. And here they find a spiritual home in the tradition of Ursuline founder Saint Angela Merici. The center, affectionately known as Casa Ursulina (Ursuline House), stands in the midst of the Población Vicente Pérez Rosales — a "neighborhood" of approximately 17,000 persons which to American eyes looks like a vast government housing project. It is a place where poverty and struggle are a daily fact of life." Starting on October 22, 2007, Sister Ruth Gehres, above at left, and Sister Mimi Ballard will minister together at Casa Ursulina. MSJ Photo from <http://www.casaursulina.org>

17th Annual Diocesan Marian Congress

Sunday, October 14, 2-5 PM at the Diocesan Marian Shrine
St. Joseph Catholic Church 434 Church St. Bowling Green, KY

THEME: MARY, MOTHER OF DIVINE HOPE
Address by Bishop McRaith,
Crowning of Statue of Mary,
Speaker, Rev. Mother Catherine Marie, Passionist
Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Music, Refreshments
Display of Religious Articles, Outdoor Procession,

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament,
Homily, Confessions, Eucharistic Procession
with Blessing of Sick, Benediction,
(For more info, call Joann Bradford 270-586-5926)



100th Birthday

By Mel Howard

WAX, Ky. - The Mass program for Saint Benedict's August 26, 2007 Mass announced, "Mass of Thanksgiving For God's Generous and Abundant Blessings on the Occasion of Rosaline Johnston's 100th Birthday."

Rosaline herself would have been first to proclaim that the reason why all the people had gathered in Saint Benedict Church this day was to participate in the Mass. And though she was honored here this day by her family, friends, and Catholic community for her long life as a faithful disciple of Jesus, Rosaline did not get too worked up about it all. She simply walked into the church with her family and friends, went to her usual pew (fourth back from the left front, center aisle seat; they even had a sign on it, "Rosaline's Favorite Sunday Seat.") Still, Rosaline did not let on much that this was a very different Sunday celebration of the Mass for her. She sang and participated in the Mass as she always has.

Really, it wasn't until several minutes after the Mass ended that Rosaline let on that the day was affecting her much differently from all those other Sundays when she came to church, rain or shine, snow, wind, or ice, in sickness or health, happy or sad.

"Rosaline represents to us a century of the practice of our Faith. Rosaline is a witness and example of the importance of church and of our presence in Church. Rosaline, thank you. You remind us all of the importance of being related

to God and His Church." pastor Father Brian Johnson said as he offered Rosaline a memorial plaque honoring her birthday, August 29, 1907 when she entered the faith community of Saint Benedict's parish.

When they gave her a plaque for doing what she has always done, Rosaline smiled and looked throughout the church and simply said, "Thank you," illustrating that sweet disposition and humble way of interacting with all people that has characterized her long life. Rosaline no doubt could have looked at each person in the church that day and called them by name or spoken to them of a shared experience.



During Her 100th birthday party, Rosaline Johnston held Zachary Seth Pierce, 2 weeks old, her great-great-nephew. Staff Photo



Father Brian Johnson presented a plaque recognizing Rosaline Johnston's 100 years of life and active participation in the Catholic Church on August 26, 2007, at St. Benedict Church near Wax, Ky. Staff Photo

At 100, Rosaline's memory is still very sharp.

Many of Rosaline's nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, cousins and even great-great nephews such as Zachary Seth Pierce, 2 weeks old, celebrated with Saint Benedict's Parish this day.

St. Benedict School Reunion
 St. Benedict School Reunion, Wax, Ky. will be Sunday October 21, 2007. Reunion will be in the basement of St. Benedict Church after 10:00 am Mass. Potluck lunch. Everyone welcome. For more information call LaMont Miller 270-259-3303



A Group photo of those Sophia Award winners who attended the Sept. 16, 2007 celebration in St. Stephen Cathedral. The names and parishes of all the winners are on page 14. Staff Photo

2007 Sophia Award Winners

Blessed Mother - Owensboro, **Ben & Thelma Crump**; Blessed Sacrament Chapel, **Jim McCarter**; Christ the King - Madisonville, **Joe & Daisy Rocha**; Christ the King - Scottsville, **Bob & Sandy Blencoe**; Holy Name of Jesus, **Ann L. Hargis**; Holy Spirit - Bowling Green, **Ray & Helen Grudzielanek**; Immaculate Conception - Hawesville, **Bob Ogle & Joann Ogle**; Immaculate Parish - Owensboro, **Joe & Sue Riney**; Our Lady of Lourdes, **Wanda W. Hargis**; Precious Blood, **Bill & Rita Elder**; Sacred Heart - Hickman, **Mary Theresa Ward**; Sacred Heart - Waverly, Margaret Thomas; St. Agnes - Uniontown, TIE, **Bernard & Geraldine French**, **Benedict & Rita French**; St. Alphonsus - St. Joseph, **Joe Paul & Joyce Warren**; St. Ambrose - Henshaw; **Christine Weber**; St. Ann - Morganfield, **Franklin & Agnes Hancock**; St. Anthony - Axtel, **Maxine Hinton**; St. Anthony - Peonia, **Rebecca Jacobs**; St. Anthony - Utica (Brown's Valley) **Maurice & Duppy Payne**; St. Augustine - Grayson Springs - **Evelyn Mudd**; St. Augustine - Reed - **Posey B. & Violet Newman**; St. Benedict - Wax - **Rosaline Johnston**; St. Charles - Bardwell - **LaVerne Elliott**; St. Columba - Lewisport - **Eva Marsch Howard**; St. Francis Borgia - Sturgis - **Tony & Lita Pfingston**; St. Jerome - Fancy Farm - TIE - **Rudy & Judy Elliott & Elmer J. Elliott**; St. John the Baptist - Fordsville - **Bob & Sharrie Cinnamond**; St. Joseph - Bowling Green - **Jean Fulkerson**; St. Joseph - Central City - **Sister Jean Claire Ballard & Fr. Francis Mastrovito.T.O.R.** same trophy, Both Posthumously ; St. Joseph Leitchfield - **Harold Brown**; St. Joseph - Mayfield - **Katherine Lenihan**; Sts. Joseph & Paul - Owensboro - **Pat & Birdie Wedding**; St. Jude - Clinton; - **Bertha Meyers**; St. Lawrence - Philpot - **Catherine Brown**; St. Leo - Murray - **Paul & Pallie Kurz**; St. Mark - Eddyville - TIE - **James & Margie Hibbard & Ralph Keeney**; St. Martin - Rome - **Mary Jean Keller**; St. Mary of the Fields - La Center - **Charles Rucks**; St. Mary of the Woods - Franklin - **Sharon Maloney**; St. Mary of the Woods - McQuady - **Shelby "Bud" Newton**; St. Mary of the Woods - Whitesville - **Maria Beyke**; St. Michael the Archangel - Oak Grove - **Gloria Maldinado**; St. Paul - Princeton - **Lana Pugh**; St. Peter Alcantara - Stanley - **Joann Millay** - St. Peter of Antioch - Waverly - **Clarence (deceased) & Virginia Powell**; Sts. Peter & Paul - Hopkinsville - **Margie Nosbusch**; St. Pius X - Calvert City - TIE - **Delores Neal & Sara Williams**; St. Pius X - Owensboro, **Mildred Smith**; St. Romuald - Hardinsburg - TIE - **J.W. & Lorena Bland & George and Nancy Walz**; St. Rose - Cloverport - **Teresa Mattingly**; St. Thomas More - Paducah - **Robert & Cleo Higdon**; St. Stephen - Cadiz - TIE - **Joann Harvey & John Charron (one trophy)**; St. Stephen Cathedral - Owensboro **Lou Jones**; St. William - Knottsville - **Marvin & Josephine Boling**; St. William of Vercelli - Marion - **Allen & Arlene Summers**.



Some of the 2007 Sophia Award winners. At top left, Mildred Smith, St. Pius X, Owensboro; at left, Ann Hargas, Holy Name, Henderson, and Pat & Birdie Wedding with their pastor Fr. Carl McCarty, Sts. Joseph and Paul, Owensboro. Staff Photos

Sophia Award Is Like A "Jesus Award" For Families of Sophia Nominees

By Mel Howard

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Diocesan Sophia Awards were given to 60 winners from parishes in the diocese on September 16, 2007 at St. Stephen Cathedral. Winners were selected by a parish vote.

The Owensboro Diocese's Sophia Award, conferred in St. Stephen Cathedral, began in 1999 as a chance for the people in the pews to recognize the good things that senior citizens have done for the Church in the past and are still actively doing. Father Joe Mills suggested the award's name. Sophia is a Greek word meaning skill, intelligence, wisdom. Each parish in the diocese can nominate people for this award.

Coordinator of the Office of Wisdom, Ginny Knight-Simon, explained the qualities which the original committee guiding the work of the diocesan Office of Wisdom suggested. She said, "The nominee must be 65, portray her good Catholic faith in her everyday life, and be known as role models in her parish and in her town or city community. The Sophia Award winner can be physically active or only spiritually active in ministry and this can include the home-bound or nursing home people. Home bound people, those now living in a nursing home, or in an assisted living facility, may not now be, but were great leaders in their church a long time ago, and this is a way to acknowledge them now. They may not be physically able to be active in church ministries, but they are great pray-ers or listeners, or have great historic knowledge to impart to the young. The award may be conferred posthumously. The winner may be a priest or a Sister or Brother, or a single person or two unrelated people ministering in the same parish."

The Sophia Award is unique because this award is given not for huge money donations to a church a person, but for doing the little things that help a family, a parish or a town community. Ginny said, "Owensboro is the only diocese in the USA that acknowledges senior citizens from anywhere in the diocese for a ministry which only senior citizens perform for the Church. On the diocesan level, it is a great equalizer; the award is given to people of great means as well as people who aren't wealthy. Family members come from other states, Washington state, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee. A little girl about age 5 told me a few years back that she wanted to see the award given 'because Grandama teaches me Jesus stories and I want to see her get her Jesus prize.'"

Even though Sophia Award day is a time when awards are given to senior citizens, the Mass is truly an intergenerational celebration.

The award's importance grows as there are so many senior Catholics now (24% of our diocesan mailing database are people 55 or older). Also, Ginny said, "Pope John Paul II called for a recognition and some type of ministry in each diocese to affirm the contributions of senior Catholics. In other places, senior Catholic programs are frequently combined under the Catholic Charities umbrella and senior Catholic issues become aging or medical issues. In our diocese, the Sophia Award Mass is a celebration of the gift of life, especially the lives of senior Catholics now and their past lives. It is a way to thank them for all they have done and all the things they continue to do."

The fascinating thing about this day when Sophia Awards are conferred that people who do not attend the Mass will never see is the powerful effect on family members of seeing their loved one receive an award from the Church for being just who they are. The Sophia Award recognizes the fact that we all seek to engage the wisdom of our seniors. Most have been with a grandparent and listened to their stories, asked them questions, hear how they learned, how they did their work, succeeded, failed, gained insight, and then shared their wisdom whether sought or not. The bright light of a long life bent toward God draws us like a sunflower turns toward the sun in the morning. "Old age hath yet its usefulness and its toil," a poet wrote, though old age may feature a bent body, arthritic hands, wrinkled faces, gray or balding heads, a slow or limping gait, these are all signs of a life given to work and show the endurance of life's stresses and pain. These are like badges of success at having done a great work, a work of birthing the Church in everyday life. The Sophia Award recognizes our senior Catholics' abilities to integrate mind, soul, body, religion, work, spirituality, and life experiences in order to pass on a legacy of their faith in God as the source and provider for all of life to their families and to their communities. With this Sophia award, the local diocesan church expresses once more as we do with other Owensboro diocesan awards given for excellence, a belief that the holy is everywhere, and that the Church is for everybody.

Bishop John McRaith thanked all the award winners for being "true disciples, true stewards of the faith and the gifts which God has given to you. Don't stop now, tell your story of how you've received the mercy of God."



Prayer is at the foundation for student activities in Catholic schools. In the photograph above, the Owensboro Catholic High School Boys Cross Country team gathers in fervent prayer before competing in the Madisonville Invitational on September 1, 2007. Photo submitted by Jim Mattingly



Young Bearcats - Incoming Brescia University students struck a pose, excited to be the 2011 Class! Brescia welcomed the class of 2011 during New Student Orientation on Sunday, August 19. This year marks the largest new student enrollment since 2003! Brescia Photo

Immaculate Parishioners Celebrate Silver Anniversary and New Beginning Of Youth Group



Parish of Immaculate's Youth Group was recently re-activated under the leadership of Heather Eichholz, the new youth director. The group, with about 10 in attendance, met at the church's Parish Center. Ms. Eichholz said she is expecting the group to increase in size during subsequent meetings.



Gene Gaffey receives Holy Communion from Father Tony Jones, pastor of Parish of the Immaculate during the recent mass celebrating the church's 50th anniversary. Ms. Gaffey also received Holy Communion during the church's first mass a half-century ago.

Former Mayfield teacher celebrates golden jubilee of religious vows



Sister Corda Trouy

Benedictine Sister Corda Trouy celebrated the 50th anniversary of her profession of religious vows on Saturday, August 18, at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind. Between 1993 and 1997, Sister Corda served as DRE and worked in the RCIA program at St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield and taught at St. Joseph School.

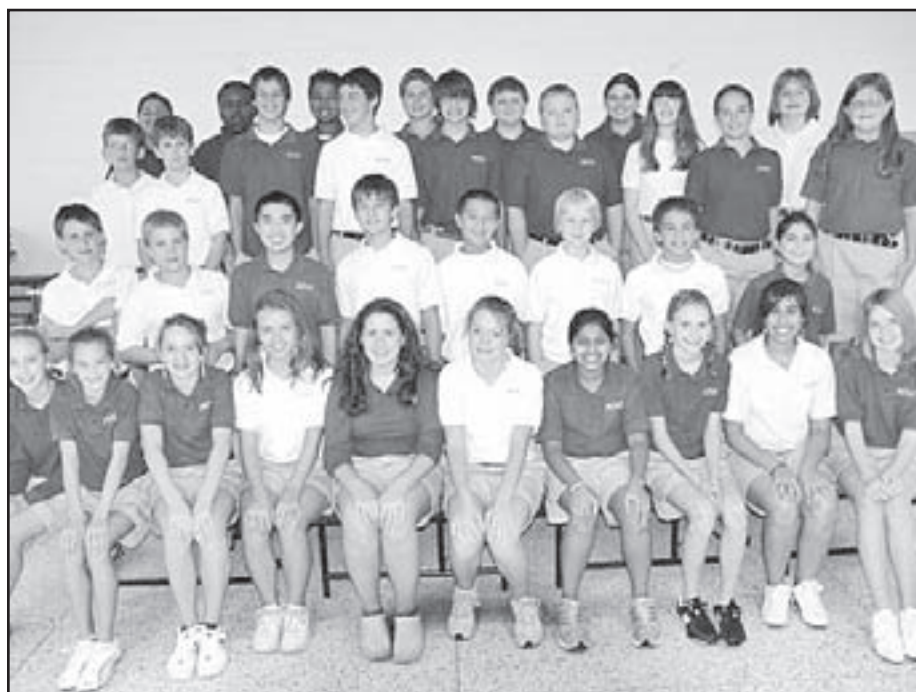
A native of New Albany, Ind., Sister Corda entered St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys, Pa., in 1955. She made her first profession of monastic vows in 1957 and her final profession in 1960. In 2001, she transferred to the Ferdinand monastery.

Since her transfer, she has taught religious education at Schnellville and Siberia in Indiana. Currently, she teaches religious education at St. Ferdinand Parish, assists in activities for Hildegard Health Center, and does support services at the monastery.

While at St. Joseph Monastery, she taught school in St. Marys, Lucinda, and Kersey, all in Pa., and in Mayfield. She was also a hospital chaplain at Andrew Kaul Memorial Hospital in St. Marys.

Three other Sisters of St. Benedict, Sisters Jan Youart, Mary Agnes Sermersheim, and Christine Kempf, also celebrated their 50th anniversary of religious profession on August 18.

Founded in 1867, the Ferdinand Benedictines currently number 180 and serve in the areas of education, parish work, health care, counseling, retreat and spirituality work, social services, and mission work in Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Maryland, Italy, Peru, and Guatemala.



2007-2008 TIP Qualifiers (7th Graders) from Holy Name School

The following Holy Name School seventh graders have qualified for Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) by scoring at or above the 95th National Percentile on specific subtests of their CAT6 tests. Through the TIP program, these students have been offered the opportunity to take either the SAT or the ACT as seventh graders. In addition, they receive educational journals and academic camp guides, as well as recognition for their outstanding performance. Front Row, left to right: Maggie Hagan, Rachel Horter, Ann Leigh McVicar, Nikki Shoemaker, Anna Dewey, Tirsia Spiller, Anna Vettiankal, Katherine Wilson, Aveena Patel, Caitlin West. Middle Row, left to right: Quinn Thomas, Logan Green, Carlo Casino, John Meuth, Robert Payne, Chandler Marshall, Logan Wedding, Catherine Galbraith. Back Row, left to right: Link Hardy, Arsenio Sarmiento, Zachary Jones, Ira Hay, Hunter Comer, Edwin Parrillas, Alex Wimber, Christopher Meuth, Will Tucker, Matthew Starks, Eric Johnson, Ciara Sauer, Anna Kelley, Kathleen Schreiner, Melanie Ashworth, Evie Beckert. Submitted by Connie McFarland.

Going To NCYC in November

In photo below: on Saturday, September 8th following the 5 PM Mass at St. Francis de Sales, a couple of the men from the Men's Prayer Breakfast, several parents, Youth Directors Zack and Anne Ault, and 5 Life Teen members held a spaghetti dinner as a fund-raiser to help send the teens to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Columbus, Ohio in November. A pancake breakfast and another fund-raiser will also be held. From Left to Right: Zack Ault, Rebekka Welth, Olivia Inman, Derreck Anderson, Jil Yong, and Anne Ault. Laikin Simons absent. Edie Keeney Photo



Tapping The Inner Power To Heal

A Retreat At Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Center, Nov. 16-18, 2007

By Father Ray Clark

You are visiting a family member or friend in the hospital. You have gone to console them. As you visit, they are the one at peace, they listen to you. And as you leave, you have been consoled by them. We all know remarkable people like this who use their sickness as a means of healing for themselves and others.

Each of us possesses these strengths. This is the conviction of Dr. Richard Johnson, a Catholic gerontologist who has identified these healing gifts and how each of us can develop them. Dr. Johnson will be leading a retreat at Mt. St. Joseph Retreat Center on the weekend of November 16-18.

The retreat is for those with physical diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, lupus, MS, Lou Gehrig's disease, bowel, liver, pancreatic or lung disease. It is for those with emotional or mental maladies such as depression, anxiety, bi-polar disorder and the whole realm of addictions.

It is for those experiencing spiritual pain, such as grief, unforgiveness, abuse and family of origin issues.

The retreat is also for caregivers and those who work with the sick. Dr. Johnson has extended a special invitation to those who work in nursing homes. Continuing Education Units are available.

The retreat begins with supper on Friday evening and ends after lunch on Sunday. Lodging is available. People pay what they can afford. Funding has been provided by the Disciples Respond Fund, St. Mary's Hospital and Owensboro Medical Health System. For more information please call the Family Life Office at the Catholic Pastoral Center (270) 683-1545.



In one of our plays, Rowdy, "Joseph Hayden," learns that he doesn't have to prove anything because God is so strong he can take care of us all.



Andrew Payne was being led by a youth from the "Young Riders 4-H Club." this was our Avalanche Ranch Finale.



Karen Rumage, Amanda Davis, and Bayly Zoglmann were volunteering in the nursery to take care of the many little ones while their moms were volunteering in the program.



Melissa Bates had all of the children's attention during one of the Wild Bible Adventures.



Lexi Payne and Nathan Jones hold the Operation Kid to Kid, Prayer Bears, which were sent to the children of Mandeville, Jamaica.



Bettie Wagner told the story of how the snack we were eating applied to the Bible Story that day.

At Left: Preschool was led by Chris Zoglmann and her many youth and adult helpers to teach, play and sing about Jesus and God's love.

St. Pius X Owensboro: Elements of a Vacation Bible School



Father Richard Meredith was explaining one of the many games to the children and Jake Hayden was the first one picked to start the game.



Julie Cox, Jeremy Wathen, and Maddie Zoglmann were preparing for the ending story of the day where Jesus died on a cross and rose to new life so we could live with him forever.



Susan Damin was helping the children with their craft activity for the day. All photos this page submitted by Cathy Williams

KY Bishops Ask Governor To Choose Life Instead of Death For Ralph Baze

By Glenn Rutherford, Louisville Record Assistant Editor

On September 7, 2007, Kentucky's Catholic bishops asked Governor Ernie Fletcher to commute the pending death sentence for convicted murderer Ralph Baze.

Fletcher has signed a death warrant for Baze, who is scheduled to be executed Sept. 25 at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, Ky. Archbishop of Louisville Joseph E. Kurtz and Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of the Diocese of Lexington met with the governor on Sept. 7 to urge clemency for Baze and for Marco Chapman, a Northern Kentucky man who is also on death row.

And while the governor made no promises to the two Catholic leaders, Archbishop Kurtz said the meeting was warm and cordial and allowed for "a fair and open exchange of ideas." In their 25-minute meeting, they urged the governor to commute the sentences of Baze and Chapman to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"Bishop Gainer and I were able to clearly make the distinction between the authority the state has to protect its citizens and to hold people accountable for appropriate behavior," and the governor's authority to use capital punishment, the archbishop said. "However, while we rec-

ognize the governor has the legal authority to exercise the death penalty," he added, "we don't agree on the exercising of that authority."

Archbishop Kurtz said he, Bishop Gainer and the governor "spent a good deal of time" discussing the morality surrounding capital punishment, and said they noted the distinction between the "intrinsic evil of ever taking innocent life and the different analysis that we in the church have concerning the death penalty."

"In the church we have concluded that in the U.S. we have options that protect the public and hold people accountable for their actions," he explained. "Therefore, we do not believe the death penalty is appropriate."

The archbishop also noted that Fletcher was appreciative that the bishops "had a chance to share our deep concerns for the victims of crimes."

"We were able to tell him that we were aware of the hardships placed on families because of some of the crimes involved in these cases," he said. "But when all is said and done, we do not believe that the taking of a life will end a cycle of violence."

On that same day that the Catholic leaders met with the governor, public defenders representing Baze gave a written plea for clemency to Fletcher. In that plea, the lawyers told the governor that the jury

that sentenced Baze to die was lied to by a prosecutor and did not hear testimony that would have supported Baze's claim of self-defense.

Archbishop Kurtz and Bishop Gainer also presented the governor with a letter signed by all four of the state's Catholic bishops. Bishop John J. McRaith of Owensboro and Bishop Roger J. Foys of Covington were unable to attend the Sept. 7 meeting in Frankfort.

Baze was convicted and sentenced to death for the 1992 shooting deaths of Powell County Sheriff Steve Bennett and one of his deputies, Arthur Briscoe. Chapman is on death row for the 2002 rape and murder of Carolyn Marksberry and for the stabbing deaths of two of her three children. The third child survived the attack.

Edward Monahan, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, the public policy arm of the state's bishops, accompanied Archbishop Kurtz and Bishop Gainer to the governor's office but did not attend the meeting. In the letter to Fletcher, the state's bishops told the governor that, as Catholic bishops, they believe "the death penalty is unnecessary and unjustified in our time and circumstances."

"In particular, we ask that you commute the death sentences of Ralph Baze

and Marco Chapman to life without parole," the letter said. "This sentence will honor the principle of the sacredness of human life while holding these men accountable for their behavior and insuring the safety of our communities."

Monahan also noted that as of Sept. 8 nearly 1,500 people had signed a "Not in Our Name" petition asking the governor to commute the death sentence for Baze. "My understanding is that (Baze's) public defenders are seeking a stay of execution so that the courts can review problems with the way lethal injection is conducted in Kentucky," Monahan said. "There are two or three other cases before federal District Court Judge Karen Caldwell, and that issue is also being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court."

Monahan also said he and Father Patrick Delahanty, chair of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and associate director of the Catholic conference, were encouraged by the recent decision by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to commute a death sentence in that state.

"I'd hope that Gov. Fletcher would be influenced by that decision by another chief executive," Monahan said. "We think there is a growing awareness about the serious problems with the application of the death penalty in the U.S."

Editor's Note: The Catholic Conference of Kentucky announced on Sept. 13.: "The Kentucky Supreme Court has ordered a stop to the execution of Ralph Baze so the Court has time to determine if his trial was improperly held in the wrong county."

THANK YOU: CCK thanks all those who have signed the petition to ask the Governor to sentence Mr. Baze to prison rather than execute him."

Low-income Workers In Kentucky Need Your Help

Help Lift 250,000 Workers Out Of Poverty Take Action!

Lower The Taxes Of 8 Million Low-income Working Americans

FRANKFORT, Ky. - The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is our nation's largest and most effective anti-poverty program. By augmenting the wages of low-income working Americans and offsetting the burden of payroll taxes, the EITC has been conclusively shown to encourage work while simultaneously reducing poverty. In 2004, over 22 million working Americans received an average tax credit of \$1,817.

However, single, low-income workers without children are not treated equitably under the current structure. In 2007, the maximum credit for these workers is barely 15 percent of a comparable credit for a one-child single parent. These workers are eligible for few other tax relief options, and ultimately, are left to grapple with the double burden of low income and a disproportionate tax burden.

As a result, single adults of working age make up nearly one-third of all

Americans classified as poor, and face some of the most formidable barriers preventing their occupational or educational advancement.

Congressman John Yarmuth has sponsored H.R. 2951, The Tax Relief for All Workers Act, which will expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for single childless workers. Currently, those earning \$12,836 or less can claim this credit. This bill will increase the amount a person can earn and still claim a credit to \$16,399, allowing more persons to claim the credit.

Those receiving this credit will have more money in their own pockets and reduce their federal tax liability by 41%, keeping them out of poverty. This additional \$600 per year might buy two months rent, or 6 months groceries, keep the lights on, or pay some medical expenses. In other words this is a substantial help to single, low-income workers who are childless.

For more information about pov-

erty in the United States, visit the website of Catholic Charities USA and its Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America.

You Are Cordially Invited To Experience

Hispanic Hospitality ON SUNDAY, OCT. 21.

A Banquet will be served at 5:00 and at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will include FOLKLORE DANCES And a MEXICAN FAMILY BAND from SEBREE. ADULTS and TEENS, \$8, CHILDREN 6-12, \$4, 5 And Under, Free.

Come And Fellowship! Find The Open Hearts And Hands Of The Hispanic Community!

Proceeds will go for operating expenses of the Centro Latino and the Hispanic Ministry in St. Joseph and Paul Parish.



Susan Warrell Photo

Women and Men, Holy Together Being A Gentleman



I had so many ideas of how I wanted to approach the subject of what it takes to be a gentleman. To understand why there is a decline in courtesy and proper manners to women. Before any one gets offended, let me make one thing perfectly clear. I am not singling out anyone. This is just an idea of mine because of conversations I have with my son Ben. How women are portrayed and treated by men.

As I began to write I realized this article wasn't going to be easy. I will give you a hint. Ok, time's up. "I am a FEMALE!!" I am a woman with a woman's perspective and can only relate my feelings as a woman and how I feel a lady ought to be treated.

In order for me to write about men and their behavior towards women, I needed to ask some pretty tough questions to men.

I started out the interviewing process with my son-in-law, Caleb Payne. As I was asking Caleb some questions, my daughter Amanda chimed in right away and I knew that this was going to be the classic battle of the sexes argument. "It was classic!" I enjoyed the different answers I was getting even though it was getting a little tense. I'm such an instigator. They both had some very provoking opinions.

The first question I presented to Caleb was this, "Do you think it is outdated to open the car door for a lady?" "No, not at all," he replied. "I think that over time, once the relationship gets more comfortable, you tend to not open the door for her as you first did when you just started dating. We should do it more often, but I have to admit I stopped opening the door for Amanda after we were dating for a while."

"When you first meet a girl do you talk more or listen to her more?" At the beginning I did more of the listening because I was shy. "I would have to say that Amanda did most of the talking. We we're pretty fortunate because we were friends first and that was nice because we already had a connection. I'm a good listener though."

Caleb is 21 years old now, and has admitted to me that in just a short time since he was in high school he has seen some pretty significant changes in the portrayal of women. The media and reality shows have really been bad for women. He feels that a lot of responsibility of how a woman is treated is also how she presents herself. If she doesn't act like a lady and talks trash and dresses real skimpy then she brings it on herself how she will be treated. Amanda, his wife quickly chimed in on this conversation and agreed with him. "If you want to be taken seriously and be treated with common courtesy then you need to act appropriately. You're more likely going to be given more respect by a gentleman if you conduct yourself as a lady. Good point, Amanda!" To me that was a valid statement. If you want to be treated with respect than respecting yourself should become a priority. Appearances and manners are very important to make an impression on others.

"Do you think girls put up with boy's bad manners in things like being late, impolite phone or e mail language, cussing or swearing, or chauvinistic remarks because they want to try to please boys?" "Well, that depends on the girl. Some girls are going to do anything to get noticed even if it demeans them. But, you have some who want to be treated with respect and that will decide how they will be treated. There is no doubt that women are treated as objects but I feel they bring a lot of it on themselves because they don't demand respect. If a more women spoke up and said they would appreciate it, if you didn't cuss like that in front of me many guys would be a little embarrassed and then try not to do it again."

Then I asked a question; I pretty much already knew what the answer would be. I asked, "If you saw a girl wearing inappropriate clothing would you make a comment to her?"

"No way, it isn't any of my business unless it was my wife or children." Is it ok, to tell a girl she is Hot? "Yeah, I don't see anything wrong with that if I know her well enough to talk to her like that. I wouldn't use that choice of words if it wasn't someone I knew." If it is someone I barely know, I would tell her she looks really nice. Anyway, women now like that expression. Who doesn't want to be told that they are hot?"

I expressed to Caleb and Amanda that I think that very saying has taken the place of some very nice compliments. To me, by far, telling a lady she is very pretty or beautiful is so much more. I know for a fact that there are some young men who step up and have been taught well the proper etiquette of how to treat a lady. But we as parents have



Julie Onstott

The Western Kentucky Catholic, October, 2007 19

our work cut out for us. The devil is working overtime to demoralize their thoughts and images of women. The proof of all of his work is in our music, the TV, and ads in magazines. Parents have more obstacles now in raising their sons and daughters. The temptations are smack in our faces every day. Now commercials have become inappropriate and degrading for women. What it all boils down too is that if we want to be treated with dignity and respect, we need to respect ourselves, and conduct ourselves as ladies, and, set an example. Men, keep on opening up the doors for women, show us ladies how blessed we are to have the perfect gentleman by our side. A man that is a gentleman is a real Man of character. I know they are out there because I have been honored to be around some very good men. I applaud your parents for teaching you your manners.

+JMJ+, Julie Onstott

High School Juniors, Seniors: Check Out Brescia University's Catholic Connection Grant

OWENSBORO, Ky. - Brescia University, the only Catholic University in the Diocese, is committed to providing intellectual and moral formation for its students which fosters a renewal of faith, critically engages contemporary social problems, and encourages students to pursue professions in a spirit of servant leadership.

One of the ways in which Brescia seeks to do the above and make a difference in the lives of its students, community and Church, is by creating the Catholic Connection Grant. This grant allows Catholic high school students an opportunity to study with the best and brightest at a tuition reduction of 50%.

The Catholic Connection Grant is for new students who have graduated from a Catholic high school or who have graduated from a public high school but have received a recommendation from their parish priest. This is an exciting opportunity for Catholic high school students to continue their faith-based education at a higher education institution which believes in educating the whole person; mind, body and spirit. "Any Catholic parent should give this the most serious consideration as they discuss college futures with their children, especially as they progress through high school," says Fr. Richard Meredith, pastor at St. Pius Tenth Parish in Owensboro. Chris Houk, Brescia's Dean of Admissions, says that offering this grant to students who receive a recommendation from their parish priest makes private, Catholic education available and affordable for more people. "We are excited to offer this opportunity to the many counties in the Owensboro Diocese who do not have a Catholic high school to send their children to."

Brescia's new president, Fr. Larry Hostetter, has been visiting parishes in the Owensboro Diocese, conducting weekend Masses and spreading the word about the availability of quality Catholic higher education. At Brescia, students can learn at an institution externally recognized for its academic excellence. *The U.S. News & World Report* ranks Brescia one of the top 35 colleges in the South in their "America's Best Colleges" 2008 edition. Brescia was also ranked this year by the Princeton Review as one of the "Best Southeastern Colleges."

Brescia University is dedicated to being a place where students can receive an excellent education and also grow in their faith. The cornerstone of Brescia's exceptional academic programs is its foundation in the liberal arts. A liberal arts education provides awareness in a variety of disciplines teaching students how to enrich their thinking and reasoning, how to analyze information and solve problems, and how to scrutinize situations in order to make sound decisions. The Brescia educational experience is not only directed to the individual but also attends to each individual's responsibility to serve the community. Students discover at Brescia that service and scholarship are paths to be followed for a lifetime. Over 1,000 hours of community service were performed by our campus family last year.

For more information on receiving your associate, bachelor's or master's degree at Brescia University through traditional, evening or weekend classes, contact the Office of Admissions at 1-877-BRESCIA or admissions@brescia.edu. You can also visit the website at www.brescia.edu.



Can these marriages be saved?

A Story About a Counseling Program

"We don't have a communication problem, I just don't love him the way I should." Sally*, a slight woman who was meticulously dressed, appeared very calm in demeanor and sure of herself. Sam*, on the other hand, was nervously glancing hopefully at his wife. Sally and Sam were sitting in the office of Kathleen Peters, a marriage and family therapist, telling the story of their relationship.

Sally continued, "We go to Mass with our children every Sunday, and we don't believe in divorce, we don't want a divorce, but if something does not change ... well, I am not sure I want to stay in the marriage the way it is. I am not even sure you can help us. We don't argue ... it is more like I am living with my friend." Sam's eyes begged for help, clearly conveying the fear that was locked in his heart.

As a therapist, I knew that any marriage where both parties are willing to work on the relationship has a high chance of success. I was pleased that both spouses presented for therapy. This means that they are both willing to at least do the initial work necessary to bring the relationship back to where they both feel comfortable.

After working with Sally and Sam for several sessions, Sally was able to write this testimonial: "My husband and I had been married for 15 years and I was ready to end our marriage. My husband asked me to please try counseling before we made any final decisions. I reluctantly agree. I didn't see what counseling would do for us. We already talked, we told each other what we didn't like and I thought we tried to fix the problems. Everything would be good for a couple weeks; then it would be back to normal and I was tired of myself and our children living that roller coaster. After attending two counseling sessions, we started to understand that we were not hearing each other, we were always assuming what the other was thinking and not really listening. There was too much bitterness built between us both to be able to work the issues out on our own. We needed a counselor or someone to say "time out" before things turned into an argument. We both didn't realize what it took to keep a marriage working. Through counseling, we know that we have to both be committed to constantly keep time for ourselves, our marriage, and our family. We have also discovered this is not easy. It is a constant battle to keep things from interrupting this time, and it's very easy to put it off. Kathleen said something that made a lot of sense to me: If you're sick, you go to the doctor. So why not go to counseling when your marriage is sick?" We still have a lot to work on, but we set goals during our sessions to try to keep things moving in the right direction. And, we will probably once or twice a year attend another marriage counseling session just to make sure things are moving in the right direction."

Sally and Sam are enjoying a renewed relationship in every aspect of their marriage. They note that their children seem to be more settled as they remain comfortable and loving with each other.

Joe* and Ellen* came to counseling very out of touch with each other. . After the second session, Joe called the counselor and said, "I don't know what to do, I am so afraid that I am losing my wife and my family. She won't come to counseling any more."

The next session, I was very surprised to see both Joe and Ellen. She flatly told me as I was sitting down, that she had made up her mind and she would not continue her life the way it is going. Counseling had given her the courage to make up her mind. But as the session evolved, it was quite evident that Ellen still loved Joe and was looking for a way to make the relationship work. Through work and bringing God's hand into the therapy and the marriage, Joe and Ellen were able to bring their marriage back to where it needed to be.

Joe writes: "I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Fr. Mike Clark and the Catholic Charities in guiding me and my wife, Ellen* to Mrs. Peters.

"About 15 years ago, I went to a different marriage counselor with mixed results that ended in divorce. I must admit that with that failure, I probably pre-judged all female counselors.

"After recovery in A.A., my mind has been opened to different ideas, Thank God! I believe it has been by God's design that we were sent to Mrs. Peters. After 11 years of marriage, our goals and direction were somehow or somewhat lost. After meeting together with Mrs. Peters, our marriage has been brought to a new or higher way of

Please see Saving Marriages? On page 24

Body Language: Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture By Christopher West



Christopher West

Catholic Call-to-Arms: Defend the Splendor of Sexual Love!

If you are in the loop on Catholic news and articles circulated on the Internet, by now you have probably come across Robert George's recent article in the journal *First Things*, "Danger and Opportunity: A Plea to Catholics." Therein George, a professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University, calls all Catholics to get off their duffs (my expression) in order to transform our society and save our culture from suicide.

He writes: "There are many profound respects in which our culture is in need of transformation. . . . There are two issues, however, that are so central to our future . . . that they must, surely, be given a certain priority. Both are on the table now and will be resolved – for better or for worse – in the next decade or so. Critical (possibly irreversible) decisions will be made in the next year or two."

What are these two crucial issues? Marriage and bioethical questions. "In respect of both matters," George maintains, "things will go one way or the other depending on the posture and actions of Catholics." Why does he put so much weight on our shoulders? Because the Catholic Church alone has a vision of sexual love and the sanctity of life coherent enough to save the culture of death from, well . . . death.

"An alert and engaged Catholic community," says George, "would recognize that these issues are in our hands. We cannot do it by ourselves; but our allies cannot win without us, nor can they lose with us. Our activity . . . will make the critical difference."

If Catholics are engaged on marriage and bioethical issues and are working closely with other people of good will "grave injustices and the erosion of central moral principles will be, to a significant extent, averted. . . . If, on the other hand, the Catholic community compromises itself, abdicates its responsibilities, and sits on the sidelines," George predicts that "the already deeply wounded institution of marriage will collapse and the brave new world of biotechnology will transform procreation into manufacture, and nascent human life into mere disposable 'research material.'"

This brave new world is not far fetched. It's already well underway. Marriages are crumbling and human beings are already being manufactured in laboratories. How did we get here? In 1968, Pope Paul VI predicted it would happen. It would come, he foresaw, if society embraced contraception (see *Humanae Vitae*, n. 17).

Oh paalease . . . Not that issue again! Why doesn't the church just get over it and stay out of my bedroom?!

Well, not only the church, but the entire world has a vested interest in what happens in our bedrooms. What happens there (or wherever else men and women are coupling) actually determines the world in which we live. When sex is oriented towards lasting love and life, it builds marriages that last and families that foster life. In turn, those families become the basic building blocks of a civilization of love and a culture of life.

The opposite is also true. When sex is oriented against lasting love and against life, the end result is that love doesn't last, families collapse, and human life erodes at its very foundation. The end result can only be a culture of death. Paul VI saw it coming. That in itself should cause us to want to give the oft maligned teaching of *Humanae Vitae* a closer look.

May I suggest John Paul II's "theology of the body" as a great place to start? Just Google the term and you'll find lots of resources to help. John Paul himself said that the whole of his theology of the body – 129 talks delivered over five years – constitutes "an extensive commentary on the doctrine contained precisely in *Humanae Vitae*" (TOB133:2).

Those who take up arms in this battle for the dignity of sexual love and human life will find themselves staring a mighty Goliath in the face. All that's needed to win, though, is a small stone and a sling. The stone is Christ. There is no other victory. And the sling that gives us the proper aim is John Paul II's theology of the body. Let's take it up, study it, and then get off our duffs and make a difference!

Marian Conference

Saturday, Nov 3, 2007

Begins at 9:30 a.m.

\$35 for the entire day (includes Lunch & Supper)

Presenter: Richard May
Mariologist

Guest on Johnette Benkovic's
"Living Life Abundantly"

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Conference Open to Men and Women

JUSTICE MAKING in a GLOBALIZED WORLD



The Contemporary Woman Program delights in welcoming Father Diarmuid O'Murchu to Brescia University campus, and invites the public to his presentation. A member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Diarmuid O'Murchu is a social psychologist whose entire working life has been in social ministry. In that capacity, he has worked as a couple's counselor, in bereavement work, in AIDS-HIV counseling and laterally with homeless people and

refugees. As a workshop leader and group facilitator he has worked in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, India, Peru, and several African countries. Father O'Murchu's best known books include: *Quantum Theology* (1996 — revised in 2004), *Reclaiming Spirituality* (1998), *Evolutionary Faith* (2002), *Catching Up with Jesus* (2005), *The Transformation of Desire* (2007).

Presenter: Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC. Date: November 8, 2007
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Place: Science Building Lecture Hall Cost: \$10.00 per person (students - \$5)

Tickets may be purchased prior to the lecture or you may pay at the door. Contact: Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, Director of the Contemporary Woman Program at Brescia University, 717 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301 270-686-4275 rosemarita.obryan@brescia.edu

Brescia University Online

Ministry Formation Classes

Th 105: Introduction to the New Testament

Bishop Fulton Sheen, upon receiving an Emmy Award in the 1950s for his television program on scripture, wryly noted, "I would like to thank my writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John." And indeed many thanks are owed these four, along with the Apostle Paul, and others...yet we know so little about them. Join Fr. Ray Clark and explore the writers of the New Testament and the world they inhabited. You will gain an introduction to modern biblical scholarship and a clearer understanding of the Roman Catholic approach to scripture.

Class begins August 20 and runs through October 15. Registration deadline is Monday, August 13.

Th 109: Introduction to Ministry

Ministry has changed rapidly in the Roman Catholic Church, yet the words we use to describe lay leadership are often overlapping or unclear in their meaning. This course is an overview of ministry in the Church, historically and currently, and its implications for those exploring the call to serve the Church in professional roles of ministry. Th 109 includes an introduction to the National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministry and the Bishops' recent landmark document, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*.

Class begins Tuesday, October 23 and concludes December 18. Registration deadline is Monday, October 15.

Th 110: The Catholic Faith: An Introduction to Theology

At the dawn of the last millennium, St. Anselm said that theology is "faith seeking understanding." In the first years of this new millennium you will access the best of modern technology to examine the ancient truths of our Church and by doing so, deepen and enlighten your own faith. Th 110 is an introduction to Catholic theology and examines how the Church prayerfully receives, seeks to understand, and communicates God's revelation to humanity.

Class begins Monday, October 22 and concludes December 18. Registration deadline is Monday, October 15.

Special rates for these 3 credit hour college classes apply to those who are members of the Owensboro Diocese:

- Th 105: New Testament - \$90 tuition + \$40 online fee = \$130 total cost
- Th 109: Intro to Ministry Formation - \$90 tuition + \$40 online fee = \$130 total cost
- Th 110: Catholic Faith - \$50 tuition + \$40 online fee = \$90 total

For more information or to register for a class, please contact: Ministry Formation Program, Brescia University, 717 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY 42301. 270-686-2114 mfp@brescia.edu



Ursuline Sisters Christmas Craft Sale

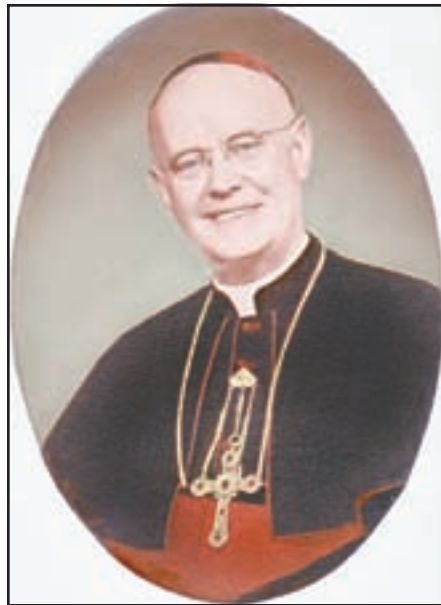
Saturday, November 10, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Precious Blood Parish Hall, 3306 Fenmore Street, Owensboro, Ky.
Homemade chili, bread and baked goods for sale. Many nice homemade items for gifts for any occasion. For more information, call Sister Rosanne Spalding at 1-270-925-3712

The LAND OF COTTON

Reflections on the Life of the Founding Bishop of Owensboro, Francis R. Cotton, and the early days of the Owensboro Diocese, part 14.

By Rev. Benjamin Luther

The new Diocese of Owensboro was created out of the Louisville Diocese, and the decree of erection from Rome designated the area as the 32 counties of western Kentucky by Pope Pius XI, and Father Francis Ridgely Cotton, Chancellor of the Diocese of Louisville, was appointed to be the first Bishop of Owensboro. When our diocese was created, the Diocese of Louisville simultaneously was raised to be an Archdiocese, and Bishop John Alexander Floresch was appointed as the first Metropolitan Archbishop, with the creation of a new Province, consisting of the dioceses in the States of Kentucky and Tennessee (previously, part of the Metropolitan Province of Cincinnati). In the new Province, there were then the Louisville Archdiocese, the Diocese of Owensboro, the Diocese of Covington, and the Diocese of Nashville.



Bishop Francis R. Cotton

Appointed the Bishop of Owensboro in late 1937, Father Cotton was consecrated Bishop in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville by Archbishop Floresch, and installed by him as he took formal possession of our diocese in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Owensboro on March 8, 1938.

Bishop Cotton began his episcopal ministry in service to the Church in western Kentucky in a time of national and even international economic slump, following the infamous crash of the stock market on Wall Street only 9 years before his appointment. This meant a challenge, indeed, in expanding the growth of his new diocese, for money was in short supply.

Older pastors who lived through that the time of the "Great Depression" told of Sunday collections of a few dollars. The Depression did not really come to a complete end until 1941, with the outbreak of the Second World War, which triggered an economic boon with the creation of wartime products for our military and also that of our allies. Unemployment virtually ceased. The economic amelioration in America continued through to the end of the Second World War in 1945, and went well beyond.

As a result of the economic situation in the late 1930's and into the 1940's, the expansion of the Catholic Church in western Kentucky was slowed, indeed. Even when the economy improved with the onset of World War II, many items were rationed as certain materials were designated for wartime production. Following the year 1945 and the end of the War, the life of the Church began to speed up. From 1945 to 1960, Bishop Cotton and his priests, religious, and lay people worked for an expansion of our Church.

Evidence of this is easily seen when statistics comparing the Diocese of Owensboro at its inception in 1938, and where matters stood when Bishop Cotton died in 1960. In 1938, the Owensboro Diocese consisted of 58 parishes, and they were served by 40 priests, whereas in 1960 there were 63 parishes served by 75 priests. When our diocese was established, there were no Catholic hospitals. In 1960, there were three — in Morganfield, Owensboro, and Paducah. In round numbers, the Catholic population of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1938 was 24,000, and in 1960 it had grown to 36,000.

It is interesting to compare statistics of the Catholic school system in 1938 and 1960. In 1938, there were 4,700 children in grade/high schools, and in 1960, more than 11,000. Catholic grade schools increased from 33 to 49, high schools from 11 to 22, and a Catholic college was established — Brescia, now our university — originally Mt. St. Joseph Junior College on the grounds of the Ursuline Sisters' Motherhouse, moved into the City of Owensboro and expanded from a two year college to four. A seminary was opened at South Union, St. Maur's (later, St. Mark's) staffed by the Benedictine Monks from Minnesota. New religious orders of men increased from two to four, and religious

orders of women grew from four to ten. Parishes with resident priests increased from 33 to 39, and "mission" churches attached to and served by resident pastors increased from 23 to 26. Families were generally larger in the days of the 1930's to the 1960's, and the annual report of Baptisms confirms that fact. What is also interesting is the considerable number of adult converts to the Faith during the same time frame, the growth in the number of men studying for the priesthood, and of novices in religious communities of women.

Bishop Cotton invited the Passionist Nuns into the Owensboro Diocese and their monastery was established in the City (today, near Whitesville), and continues its prayer work for the Church. The Carmelites of the Divine Heart of Jesus of Kirkwood, Missouri, were also invited into our diocese, and established "Carmel Home," which also flourishes today, and is contemplating an expansion of its physical facilities.

In 1949, Bishop Cotton traveled with Archbishop Floresch to Rome and was received in audience by Pope Pius XII. They returned to Rome for the celebration of the definition of the Dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 1, 1950. On both occasions, Bishop Cotton presented to Pius XII a list of petitions for him to grant for the Diocese of Owensboro, including blessings for his priests, for the religious of his diocese, for the Catholic schools and for Brescia College and other institutions. He asked the Holy Father to bless his priests especially, to ask the Lord for their spiritual growth. Pius XII gladly granted all his requests in virtue of being the Successor of St. Peter, with the keys of the kingdom of heaven and the power of those keys. Bishop Cotton also had a private audience with the Blessed Pope John XXIII. In audience with both Pontiffs, he submitted the 5-year report of all the parishes and other institutions of the Diocese of Owensboro, as required by law.

In 1958, on the Feast of the Apostle St. Paul, in the Apostle's Major Basilica in Rome, Blessed Pope John XXIII surprised everyone with the announcement of an ecumenical council. As it turned out, its name was "Second Vatican Council," and it opened in 1961. Bishop Cotton received correspondence from Rome, as did all the 2,400 Bishops worldwide, asking for any suggestions for the work of the forthcoming Council. In early 1960, he responded with a letter written in elegant Latin, in which he begged to inform the authorities in Rome, to the effect that he was the Bishop of a new diocese, that he and his priests and people supported the work of the forthcoming Council, and would be much in prayer for it.

Precious Blood Day Care Grandparents Highly Prize Grandparents Day



Precious Blood Day Care in Owensboro hosted a breakfast in honor of its Grandparents on Monday, September 10, 2007. The event has a tremendous turnout of forty-five Grandparents and Great-grandparents. The school has an enrollment of 55 students. Submitted photos.



"We Are All Really Responsible For All."

Bishops Adopt Two Statements; Offer Guidance to Catholics about Political Activity and HPV Vaccine

By **Ed Monahan, CCK Executive Director**

At their August Board meeting, the Bishops of Kentucky approved two communications for Catholics. One statement is on the issue of political activity, and the other on the HPV vaccine.

Political Activity

In August 2006 and in April 2007 the Kentucky Bishops communicated with Catholic church, education and Catholic Charities leaders encouraging active participation in the public square and emphasizing their longstanding policy prohibiting partisan political activity by churches and individuals representing our church acting in their official capacities. They stated, "only voting guide materials published directly by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (e.g., Faithful Citizenship) or by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky may be distributed in parishes."

The Bishops write again to express appreciation for the "faithful implementation of the CCK Policy on Political Activity," and the "faithful encouragement of civic involvement." The Bishops communicate again on this topic because "the general election in Kentucky approaches and because the Office of General Counsel of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a revised 2007 Political Activity Guidelines for Catholic Organizations. These guidelines provide commonsense explanation of the rules and provide practical examples." The Bishops ask that church leaders "review the guidelines and educate [their] parish leaders on them."

Links to the full text of both the USCCB revised guidelines and Kentucky Bishops' policies on political activity are available on the home page of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky's web page at www.ccky.org in the right hand column.

HPV Vaccination and Parental Responsibility

The full text of the Bishops' position is below and also available on the website's (www.ccky.org) Public Witness page.

§1.0 Immunization of young females with the HPV [human papilloma virus] vaccine as a protection against cervical cancer poses no inherent moral objection. Rather, from a Catholic perspective, the HPV vaccine can be viewed as a responsible and acceptable measure for preventing cervical cancer.

§2.0 Consonant with parental and guardian obligations toward good medical decisions concerning minor children, parents, and legal guardians enjoy the right to assess the necessity and appropriateness of HPV vaccine for their daughters. This right should be exercised after seeking competent medical advice. This right must be respected by statute.

§2.1 Parents are primary educators and care-givers for their children. As such they are obliged to instruct their children and to model for their charges responsible civic and moral behavior. Since HPV does not in itself promote sexual immorality or permissiveness; and, since the HPV vaccine is not a panacea for preventing all strains of HPV infection, parental responsibility for the moral and spiritual formation of their children in the virtue of chastity is indispensable. Chastity before marriage and fidelity within marriage serves as the best defense against such infections.

§3.0 HPV is categorized as a behaviorally transmitted communicable disease and not a contagious disease. As such, advocacy for a public policy to mandate universal school-based vaccinations is not supported as appropriate by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

§4.0 The ability to pay for the HPV vaccine should not be the determining factor for such immunization. Access for children who are uninsured or without means to pay for the vaccine should be made available.

17th Annual Diocesan Marian Congress Sunday, OCT 14 2:00-5:00pm

At Diocesan Shrine, "Mary, Mother of the Church and Model of All Christians."
St. Joseph Catholic Church 434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY

Theme: Mary, Mother Of Divine Hope

In the Parish Center:

- Address by Bishop McRaith - Crowning of Statue of Mary
- Speaker, Rev. Mother Catherine Marie, Passionist
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy - Music; Refreshments
- Display of Religious Articles

Outdoor Procession:

- Our Lady of Fatima Statue, Knights of Columbus, Porters
- Rosary, Hymn

In the Church:

- Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - Homily
- Eucharistic Procession with Blessing of Sick
- Benediction
- Confessions — Heard throughout

Visit the beautiful Shrine. EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

(For information, call Joann Bradford 270-586-5926)



MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2007

October 2007

- 5-7 Marian Retreat with
Msgr. Bernard Powers
- 6 Private Wedding Reception
- 7 Rosary Walk Prayer Day
- 8-10 Retreats International
- 12-13 Grace Fellowship
- 15-19 Spiritual Direction Institute
- Week 5
- 20 Private Wedding Reception
- 20-21 Alanon
- 26-28 Catholic Engaged Encounter

November 2007

- 2-4 Mount Hope Weekend
- 5-7 Thomas Merton Retreat:
Seeds of Contemplation
with Fr. Tony Shonis and
Marty Hill
- 9-11 Men's and Women's Retreat
with Sr. Cheryl Clemons
- 10 Grief and Loss
- 12-14 Grace in Aging
- 15 Sierra Club/Water Sentinels
- 16-18 Healing Retreat

December 2007

- 22 Winter Solstice Sunrise
Celebration

Please join us Sunday, October 7
as we pray and walk the Rosary
Walk together for the Feast of the
Holy Rosary at Maple Mount!



Center-sponsored programs
are in **bold letters**. To register, call
270-229-0200, ext. 413

NEED A NICE LOCATION
for your business or social
meeting? We can accommodate
large or small groups.
To schedule your event, call
Kathy McCarty at
270-229-0200, Ext. 413 or e-mail
kmccarty@maplemount.org

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

Migration Celebration: We Are All More Alike Than Different

By Mel Howard

THE GASPER RIVER RETREAT CENTER - The Diocese of Owensboro culminated Diocesan Migration Week on August 25, 2007 with a day-long celebration at the Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center. Bishop John McRaith celebrated a multicultural Mass followed by food, music, and traditional dances from different cultures. The participants celebrated our diversity as a Diocese, whether their family migrated one or five generations ago. The day's celebration opened in the banquet hall with a Mass at which Bishop John McRaith presided and concelebrated with Fr. Stan Puryear, Fr. Jason McClure, Fr. Carmelo Jimenez, Fr. Frank Ruff, Fr. Vic Subb, and Fr. Al Bremer. The celebration continued in the main lodge of the retreat center with a meal followed by entertainment.

Bishop John welcomed nearly 150 participants to the Mass with the words, "We start this celebration today with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, one thing that brings us all together." In the opening song, the assembly sang "In Christ, There is no East or West." The first reading from Ezekiel 37:15-19, 21-22,26-28 told the story of how the Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel to tell the Israelites to take two sticks, one representing Judah and the Israelites associated with it, and the other stick representing Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and the other the House of Israel. Ezekiel told the people to join the two sticks together "so that they become one in your hand." The Lord said that he would make the tribes one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. Never again shall they be two nations. God said, "My dwelling place shall be with them; I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

In a very heartfelt homily, Bishop John McRaith called the diocese to find ways to bring "the two sticks (of the houses of Israel) together into one church. There are many ways which we, as an American people, can find excuses to keep immigrants apart from the citizenry of the United States, but our Faith as disciples of Jesus impels us to find ways to bring the peoples together into one Church.

Hosting a Diocesan Migration Week in such a beautiful, natural setting as the newly organized diocesan youth camp at the Gasper River site is one way to help immigrants feel more welcome, and as Bishop John said, "...to bring people from all sides to one place and have not two kingdoms, but a covenant of peace." He also urged us all to be mindful of Native Americans who really welcomed our ancestors here when we were immigrant families from other countries. This theme of our being all descents of immigrant families to this country was acted out later in this day as Diocesan Coordinator



Patti Murphy, at left, asking descendants of immigrants to this country to tell some of their story. Staff Photo

for the Justice for Immigrants Campaign Patti Murphy led the crowd of 150 or more in speaking about their ancestry as first, second, third, or fourth generation immigrants.

Bishop John reminded us that we are all fellow citizens and members of the household of God, as Saint Paul taught. This is a source of our unity that we are all precious in the eyes of God. Bishop John then drew a picture for us, the picture that God wants us to be: "We are one body," Bishop John said, "each part equal to the other. All are precious children of God called to love each other."

"We are aware of the differences that can be stumbling blocks to unity," Bishop John said. "We can't do this (draw God's picture) in separate groups or individually. We make this journey as one body. We can't allow our differences to come between us. We must work to come together as one body to do the will of God to treat one another with respect. The Mass is the source and the summit of all Christian living. What better way to begin this Migration Celebration and our growing in faith, one in love?"

During the afternoon, participants shared a delicious meal, danced, and enjoyed watching and performing traditional dances from different cultures. There was time for simple conversation and story-telling. This reporter spoke with one young man while standing in the waters of the Gasper River as we watched smallmouth bass minnows swim under rocks. We managed to communicate though neither spoke the other's language very well. As he shared some of his experiences with me, I kept thinking of how he had left his home, family, and most of his possessions to come here. I wondered as we talked, "Can I imagine myself without all my stuff, just as I am? What kind of person am I? What would be my reason for being in this place within the USA? How would I have been received? What would I have to talk about? Who would speak to me, especially if I spoke a language different from the natives?"

A Migration Celebration is a good thing. It brings those who get together to celebrate our roots to an awareness that we are so much more alike than we are different.

October is Respect Life Month

Can these marriages be saved?

(Continued from page 20)

living, thinking, and loving. What impressed me the most was Mrs. Peters' ability to listen to and separate fact from fiction. Her laughter at our insurmountable problems was quite refreshing. In A. A., we have a saying about making mountains out of mouse turds.

"We have been truly blessed by our "angel" with the warm smile and laughter."

And Ellen writes: "Earlier this year, I came to a point in my life that I didn't know if I wanted to stay married or leave my husband. I sought help and suggestions from my 12 step group and wasn't satisfied, something was not right. It was suggested that I talk to our priest. I had talked to him before in the past and know in my gut that is what I needed to do. Fr. Mike suggested many things and the only one that felt right was the counseling. He knows our financial situation and informed me that Catholic Charities would help with counseling. I was willing to do anything! He also suggested Mrs. Peters. I made the appointment and WOW! I believe nothing happens by coincidence and that Mrs. Peters had us pegged the moment she met us. As each day passes and I look back I am in awe at the power and presence of God. My husband and I have recommitted to our marriage and to Christ. We are both grateful and excited of our days ahead. We have a saying in A.A. that simply states, 'God is never late.'"

Counseling helps with relationships, depression, stress, marriages, children, job related issues, phobias, spiritual issues and any other issues that stand in the way of a fulfilling life. Many marriages can be brought back together, relationships can be healed, and hearts can be mended. If you are looking for something different in your life, Kathleen Peters, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Owensboro, Ky., is ready to help. Call 270-926-4880.

Catholic Charities has a Congregational Assistance Program (CAP) program to help anyone find counseling at discounted affordable rates. CAP is a joint venture with Catholic Charities, the individual parish, and the therapist to provide affordable counseling for Catholic parishioners and sometimes others in need of short term therapy. The therapist discounts the session rate and the remaining fee is divided between the client's parish and Catholic Charities. The program is anonymous and is available for individuals, couples, and families. Therapists are available in Owensboro, Bowling Green and Paducah.

If you want information on the CAP program, please call Catholic Charities at 270-683-1545 or talk to your parish priest.

**names have been changed to protect identity.*

St. Romuald VBS Takes “A Wild Ride through God’s Word”

The Western Kentucky Catholic, October, 2007 25

Submitted by Kim Brumfield, DRE K-6th

HARDINSBURG, Ky. - St. Romuald Catholic Church held its Vacation Bible School the week of July 23-26. There were over 100 children present each night and over 50 helpers to assist.

The children learned about Avalanche Ranch, “A Wild Ride through God’s Word.” Each night the children learned a new Bible Point and story about Jesus. They also enjoyed making fun crafts, learning new songs, eating good snacks and having fun with their friends! The children also took on a Daily Challenge during the three-day span and performed over 200 Daily Challenges which showed how they could be examples of Jesus’ love.

Each child stuffed a small Prayer Bear which had a special prayer message in its front pocket. They have been and will be given to people who are sick and need to know someone said a special prayer for them.

On Saturday, the closing of VBS was celebrated at the 5pm Mass with the children performing their newly learned songs along with motions. They did a great job! Following Mass, the children, volunteers and parents enjoyed a pool party at the Breckinridge County Community Center.

All the fun and learning would not have been possible without all the wonderful volunteers who donated their time each night. Everyone did a great job and it was very much appreciated.



Taking time between classes is one of the VBS 4 & 5 year old classes. They are holding the Prayer Bears that each student made at VBS which are being given to individuals who are sick and need to know someone is prayer for them. The class was taught by Gayle Poole.



Moving their hands to the music is Music leader Bridget Lucas along with Landon Bratcher, Abby Tivitt, Drew Hinton, Taylor Hines, Rhannon Huffines, Tori Lucas, Hannah Kennedy and Kallie Jarboe.



Above Right: following the closing Mass, the VBS children stood in the front of Church and performed their VBS songs.



At Left: during craft time, 5 year old Lauren Whitfill takes time to pose with her teacher and sister-Stephanie Whitfill. They are both the daughters of Ricky & Betty Whitfill.

Our Roots



A History of Koinonia

By Bob Cinnamond

Koinonia has become a popular weekend retreat all across the Owensboro Diocese for adults. It is different from Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, or TEC in that it is a parish or area sponsored retreat instead of a diocese sponsored activity. Koinonia participants also go home in the evening. Koinonia evolved from TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) that began in the Diocese of Battle Creek Michigan in 1965.

The Koinonia retreat includes talks by priests and lay people, fun activities, good food, reconciliation, table discussions, and a good review of our Catholic beliefs. Participants arrive on Friday evening, return on Saturday, and end with a special Mass on Sunday. The theme of the weekend is the Paschal Mystery which is the dying, rising, and going forth in Christ.

The first Koinonia was held in September of 1976 in the Diocese of Springfield IL. So many adults wanted to make a TEC in that diocese that the TEC community decided to offer a weekend just for adults. The word "Koinonia" means community and seemed appropriate since TEC and Koinonia are community experiences.

Jim and Sue Morris from the TEC community in Springfield IL became the directors of the new retreat program and still act as facilitators as the Koinonia movement continues to spread across the United States. Presently there are over 200 Koinonia Centers in the United States.

The Rev. Bob Willett offered the first Koinonia in the Diocese of Owensboro at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Paducah, Ky. in April of 1994. I attended the second Koinonia in Paducah in October 1994 and was deeply moved by the love and sharing that I received during the weekend. I helped to facilitate the first area Koinonia in Owensboro at Blessed Mother in October of 1995.

Parish Koinonia retreats began at Blessed Mother (3/1996) Precious Blood Parish (4/1997), St Stephen (10/1997), Holy Spirit (11/1997), St. Peter and Sacred Heart in Waverly (11/1997), Ss. Joseph & Paul (11/1997), Holy Name (11/1997), St. Agnes Uniontown (3/1998), and St. Mary's Whitesville (2/2000). Since 2000 many other parishes in the diocese have offered the Koinonia as a beautiful way to build Christian Community within their parish or area.

Koinonia is a great experience to enliven your faith. Does your faith needs a shot in the arm? If you are struggling with a problem, need to make new friends, just plain bored with life, or would like to get involved in something new, you should try Koinonia. It is building Christian Community all across the Diocese of Owensboro.

Nun says time in prison showed her difficulty of life behind bars

VILLA MARIA, Pa. (CNS) -- Serving a prison sentence in a federal penitentiary is something that Sister Sheila Salmon will never forget. But she learned some life lessons there that she will carry with her wherever she goes. Among them: that federal prisoners are treated as things, not as people; that many people in prisons should not be there; and that "being imprisoned was a special gift from God." Sister Sheila, a Sister of the Humility of Mary, was back at her motherhouse in western Pennsylvania recently and was interviewed by the Catholic Exponent concerning her misdemeanor sentence in Florida for protesting at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly known as the U.S. Army School of the Americas, in Fort Ben-



Sister Sheila Salmon

ning, Ga. Her motherhouse is in Villa Maria, which is in the Pittsburgh Diocese. The Exponent is the newspaper of the neighboring Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio. The nun, who lives in Sebastian, Fla., and does outreach work with Mexican migrants at Our Lady of Guadalupe there, served a 100-day sentence in early 2007 for her participation in the annual peaceful protest last November against the school, which trains Latin America security personnel in combat and counterinsurgency.

Sowing the Seeds

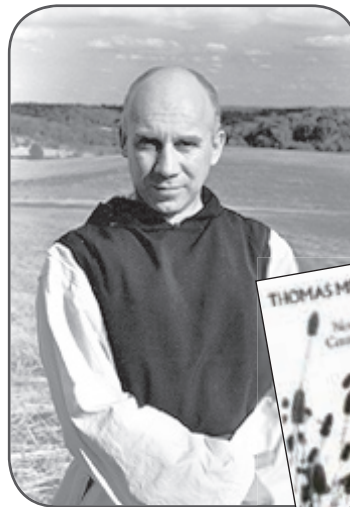
Based on the book *New Seeds of Contemplation*

By Thomas Merton

Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday

November 5-6-7, 2007

Retreat directed by
Father Anthony Shonis
and Ms. Marty Hill



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-0200
www.msjccenter.org

"Sowing the Seeds" is a retreat based on the book *New Seeds of Contemplation* by Trappist Monk Thomas Merton. The cost of this retreat is \$160 (includes a room for two nights and meals) or \$110 for commuters. To register, contact Kathy McCarty: 270-229-0200, ext. 413, or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org.

A brochure can be found online at www.msjcenter.org.

You are invited to the second annual Alumnae Memorial Mass

For deceased classmates, faculty, family and friends of
Mount Saint Joseph Academy and College at Maple Mount

Saturday, November 3
10:30 a.m.

Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse Chapel

Send prayer requests in care of the
Mount Saint Joseph Alumnae Office,
8001 Cummings Rd., Maple Mount, KY 42356
or e-mail alumnae@maplemount.org

Mass will be followed by lunch
with the Ursuline Sisters

Please RSVP by October 25
270-229-2006



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

www.ursulinesmsj.org



2007 Catholic Committee on Scouting Announces their Fall Retreat – High Adventure with Christ



The Owensboro Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCOS) would like to announce their annual retreat for Catholic Boy Scouts. The retreat will be held in Mammoth Cave National Park on the weekend of October 12, 13, & 14, and costs \$35. The retreat will be open to any age Boy Scout and 2nd year Webelo if the Webelo is accompanied by a parent or Guardian. This year the retreat will be a high adventure retreat that will include hiking & orienteering in old growth forest, overnight canoe camping and a night spent out on an island in the middle of the Green River. This Retreat will provide an opportunity for Boy Scouts to hike, canoe, play, and pray. Also information will be available on the various religious medals that are available to Boy Scouts.

All Scouts must be a certified Boy Scouts of America "Swimmer" and Canoe Rental, if needed, will be the responsibility of each participant

The Religious Emblem Application Deadline is 12/31/07, and the annual awards mass and reception for both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts will be held at St. Stephen's Cathedral on March 9th, 2008. If you have questions about emblems, please contact Fr. Ken Mikulcik at (270) 247-2843.

Please contact Matthew Keyser, CCOS Committee Member for more information at 270-842-1582 or at mkeyser@insightbb.com.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS RETREAT

FOR WOMEN AND MEN



GOD IN THE ORDINARY:
INSIGHTS FROM EVELYN UNDERHILL

NOVEMBER 9-11, 2007

RETREAT DIRECTOR: SISTER CHERYL CLEMONS, OSU

Retreat cost: \$160 residents, \$110 commuters, \$295 couples.
To register, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0200, ext. 413
or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org



A brochure can be found online at www.msjcenter.org

Join us for a meaningful Marian Retreat October 5-7, 2007



*"Knowing Who We Are
Is So Important"*

*Retreat Director
Msgr. Bernard Powers*

The call of the Blessed Virgin Mother is a personal call to each of us:

- to grow in holiness
- to come alive to the Holy Spirit according to the example of Jesus
- to become the person that God is calling us to be

The Marian Retreat will include opportunities for solitude as well as for communal prayer. Retreat fee is \$160 (or \$110 for commuters). Contact Kathy McCarty at (270) 229-0200, ext. 413.



Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9999
270-229-0200
www.msjcenter.org
msjcenter@maplemount.org

Consecrated Virginity in the World: A Gift for the Church and in the Church

International Congress-Pilgrimage of the Order of Consecrated Virgins

May 14-20, 2008, Rome, Italy

If any consecrated virgins are interested in attending this gathering, please call the Bishop's Office for more information at 270-683-1545, ext. 340.

Relevant Radio seeks to blunt impact of \$4.7 million FCC penalty

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Relevant Radio, which calls itself the United States' largest Catholic radio network, is negotiating with the Federal Communications Commission to erase a proposed \$4.7 million penalty levied after the network withdrew its bid in an Arizona radio spectrum auction. Relevant Radio, which broadcasts Catholic-themed talk and music over 17 company-owned stations and 17 additional affiliates, said it expects a decision by the FCC before the year is out. Under FCC regulations, the federal agency can eliminate all of the penalty, or none of it. There is no in-between. Bob Atwell, chairman of Relevant Radio and its nonprofit parent, Starboard Media Foundation, said that the FCC is aware of Relevant's circumstances. The proposed penalty is "more than one-third of our (annual) budget" of \$12 million, he said, and more than the net worth of Advance Acquisitions, Starboard's for-profit arm that engaged in the auction. The \$4.7 million is the difference between Advance's \$6.85 million bid in 2004 to the FCC for a new spot on the FM spectrum being created in Yarnell, Ariz., 85 miles from Phoenix, and the eventual sale price.

Family in Crisis? Don't be Afraid to Seek Help

By Pat S. Smith



Our 20-year-old son had returned home after living away for two years due to pressure from financial woes and poor health last semester. He now has agreed to live with us throughout his college years and we will provide for him until graduation. He is home again and we were excited because we had finally dealt with being empty nesters. We thought it would be wonderful to be a

family again, but realized quickly there would be an adjustment. Our son stressed us out a lot, never coming home several nights in a row and sleeping all day, then getting up irritable near our special dinner time when we would watch TV and talk about the day together. But we were also pressuring him a lot with questionings about different things like getting him to go to Mass early on Sundays. We had also laid down some rules that he thought were impossible to follow.

After about three weeks and several conflicts, we decided it was time to seek help. We chose a middle-aged man with a fine reputation in marriage and family counseling, Dr. Bill Hanshaw. Although our son at first balked, he later knew he it would be necessary for his input would also help each family member understand each other.

After a few sessions, things calmed down and our son concluded that needing counseling doesn't mean "I am crazy" or "something is seriously wrong with me." This is very important because if your family needs help, don't be afraid to ask for it. Families in distress are not crazy people trying to get sane, rather they are sick people trying to find wholeness again for their homes. It was important to all of us to try to understand each other and in my case each time we would have a disagreement I would feel my self-esteem plummet and wind up feeling down and unworthy.

Dr. Hanshaw explained at length that I should not think of self-esteem as the problem but my own self-acceptance. He explained that we should not judge or be judged by what we do, but rather who we are: God's sanctuary for our earthly bodies which are only fallible human beings doing our best in any given situation. And God loves us unconditionally no matter if we are the wealthiest person alive or a homeless person living under a bridge cooking his beans on a Sterno can. I began to understand. The self is what YOU ARE and not WHAT you do. That homeless person is not to be judged and is no worse than any other and is loved and cared for by God, just like everyone else. "God," he explained, "wants us to accept ourselves as His sanctuary and self-acceptance is the key to living happily even during times we may be stressed or in crisis."

I had a sudden awakening. So God wants us to accept ourselves as we are. It doesn't matter what anyone else THINKS. We should not let anyone cause us to NOT feel the love we should have for ourselves, as we are fallible, always going to make mistakes, but God lives in our hearts and He alone can judge us.

I began to see this gradually as basic truth. God

does not judge us by what we can do. I can type 80 words per minute, some people could never reach that. Some women can bake beautifully decorated homemade cakes, I can't. And I have tried. I know many Catholic women who have had 7-8 children. I was barely getting by trying to raise just one right now. But I can laugh at myself "a little" now when someone snubs me at work, or my son is "grouchy" or irritable. I am not a bad Mother, I did nothing wrong to cause this stressful situation. I know now I am God's sanctuary and He lives in my heart. I am going forward with my life now, trying my best to be a good Catholic mother and wife who will make mistakes along the way, perhaps every day. But I feel now that my life is pleasing to God, as long as I try to do my best. He will do the rest!

Several weeks have passed since we entered counseling. I can now relate that the quarrels, the hurts and the anger were useless. I don't have to let myself get upset or stressed; now I just remember Dr. Hanshaw's words, "You cannot be what you DO, just what you ARE, a fallible human being."

Little by little, our son is back into the family. My expectations of his living at home were way off as were his expectations of me and my spouse. I know now that entering family counseling was a very good thing to do and we are slowly adjusting to a new family all over again. It has been almost like having a new baby in the home; except this "new baby" is fully grown with a mind of his own, and his own sets of standards.

Yes, we have decided on some rules and boundaries. For instance, if our son is going to be out past midnight, he calls to let us know. If he starts to get into an angry or irritable mood with either me or his Dad, we stop it right there. None of us can succeed if we continue to quarrel.

We are going to continue our family counseling especially since our son will start his sophomore year at Western. He has had a long, restful summer at "his parents' house," and we all have agreed it is time to buckle down and get serious about life in general, and college in particular. We all need a peaceful home if our son is to succeed in his studies.

Having a counselor listen objectively, I learned that I was wrong to expect the same things I had expected from my son when he was 10 or 11 years old. After all he is an adult now. We are going to continue our counseling as our family progresses and be able to discuss conflict and stressful situations as they arise. I will listen more and learn as the fully trained counselor helps us through readjustment period in our family. And I will know it is okay. I have accepted my son as he is, and myself as all I am and can

Happy Marriage

Percent of U.S. adults who say these things are very important for a successful marriage.

FAITHFULNESS



HAPPY SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP



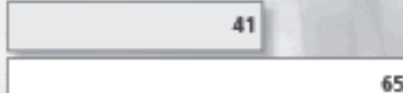
ADEQUATE INCOME



SHARED RELIGIOUS BELIEFS



CHILDREN



Source: Pew Research Center

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A Pew Research Center study shows a detachment between marriage and parenting. Survey results in 2007 and 1990 showed faithfulness is considered the most important factor in a successful marriage. (CNS graphic/Emlly Thompson) (July 19, 2007)

ever be, a Mother who will make mistakes, although trying my best to live a Christian life. And as a mother, I continue to pray the Rosary daily as Mary, the Blessed Mother DOES give me the strength to carry on and helps me when I start to get down or stressed. I can get over it, let it go, and go on. I know God is helping me as He has said, "Come unto me all ye who are heavily burdened, and I will take your yoke upon me." (paraphrased) What more could I ask than to be living in the shelter of HIS wings and going about life this way?

I urge you, don't worry about what "other people might think" to keep you from finding peace through counseling, Christian or otherwise. It could be just the help you need to forget about self-esteem and learn self-acceptance through God's love.

Pat S. Smith is a freelance writer who lives in Bowling Green with her husband and 20 year old son. They attend Holy Spirit Parish where, incidentally, free counseling is offered by two therapists who are certified to help parish members in stressful situations and other life problems.



By Jeannie Boone

I was on my way to Paducah to spend the afternoon with a granddaughter I had not seen for several months; sitting next to me was granddaughter Claire; we were excited and happy. As we passed a house in Ledbetter my heart gave a start and suddenly I was back in time, on a gorgeous Autumn day, walking up into that yard with Edna at my side. We were laughing at our yard sale finds, thrilled with the old white van I had purchased to haul our stuff, and we both spied an antique bridge lamp at the same time. Claire's voice eased me back to the

present but not before the stabbing pain of remembered loss had dealt its blow. Tears fell freely and I missed Edna just as deeply and sadly as when my grief was new... years ago.

It was that same morning as I prepared for our drive; I went searching for something that no longer matters and in my rummaging I found a school picture of Katy taken in first grade. For several years I've been able to look at her pictures and smile at the memories, for the most part. But on this day I was plunged into sorrow and the feeling of complete helplessness; my little girl was dead, and I was lost. I literally had to force myself to get up off the floor and continue my tasks.

As we neared the city, I realized that these painful fresh episodes of grief had been rising to the surface for several days and I knew why, as well.

Anticipatory grief occurs when we know someone is dying and though we may have weeks, or months, to come to terms with the loss, the day to day care often consumes our energy. What happens is that the suffering of our loved one allows us to let go gradually, and there is a sense of relief when the death occurs. NOT that we don't grieve; it's just that much of that grief work is done in anticipation of the death. And where there was great suffering it may seem almost selfish to cry at the death.

But, in the weeks that follow, after we've had a chance to rest and gather our senses, grief catches up with us. The funeral is over, everybody is gone and the casseroles are eaten, dishes returned... we can find that we're weepy and moody, extremely sad and tired for no reason we can see.

I had cared for a dear, independent and proud, spinster for several years and she suffered so much in her final weeks, dying just days shy of her 99th birthday. The dying was a blessing and her life a full one. She was a devoted Christian. I was relieved her pain was over. I did not expect to feel any loss... but the grief is here, manifesting itself in memories of other losses that were not anticipated and not blessings.

We are such complex creatures and the more I experience the more I marvel at our Creator... and the more love and compassion I feel for those around me. I thank God for the opportunity I had to care for this woman, I learned so much, and I grew in spirit. I will grieve the loss but praise the life.

May God be with you, wherever you happen to be on the path of your life. And always remember that there is no pain or sorrow that cannot be laid at the foot of the cross. Email: kyboones2@hotmail.com

Saint Sebastian, Calhoun, Celebrates Some Young Church Members' Rites of Passage



Eight young women and men enjoyed a graduation mass in their honor at St. Sebastian Catholic Church May 27, 2007. Callie Hayden was Co-Valedictorian of the McLean County High School 2007 graduation class. Left to right: Ashley Dant, Rev. Pete Hughes, Julie Hayden, Katie Green, Callie Hayden, Hillary Young, Troy Hancock, Bobby Harper, and Annie Durbin. Submitted by Marie B. Caraway



Four young boys made their First Communion at St. Sebastian Catholic Church in Calhoun, Ky., May 6, 2007. Rev. Pete Hughes officiated at the mass celebration the boys receiving their sacrament. Left to right: Cooper Bishop, Jamen Dant, Kameron Vaught, and Isaac Caraway.

October Music Fest

St. Lawrence-St. William Parishes will be hosting their 6th annual October Music Fest on Sunday, October 7th, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Sandwiches, chili, snacks and soft drinks will be on sale to benefit the Mary Carrico Memorial School's 7th and 8th grade activities. Invite your family and friends; bring a lawn chair and enjoy the afternoon with us. Rain or shine! Take HWY 60 E. from Owensboro to HWY 144 for 12 miles, go through Knottsville on HWY 144. 2 miles east of Knottsville, turn left on Saint Lawrence Road. (There is a sign on the corner of 144 and St. Lawrence Road) St. Lawrence Church and grounds are on the right at the top of the hill on St. Lawrence Road.

Precious Blood Parish Blesses New Preschool Room For 4&5-Year-Olds



OWENSBORO, Ky. - On September 17, 2007, the Precious Blood Preschool opened its new 4&5 year-old classroom with a blessing by pastor Father Brad Whistle. With preschool staff and nine students who will begin their classroom education here, Father Brad prayed, "Today we are going to do something special, we are going to have a blessing and ask Jesus to watch over you and all that takes place in this room."

The prayer of Blessing of a Preschool Room continued: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Listen to what Jesus tells his friends about little children: A reading from Matthew: "Then children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The friends didn't want them to come, but Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' After that Jesus placed his hands on them, and he went away."

- (Story Books) Bless these books and may we always enjoy reading them.
- (Toys) Bless these toys and may we always share with one another.
- (Flag) Bless this flag and may we show respect to it as we say the Pledge Allegiance.
- (Computers) Bless these computers that we may learn from the activities on them.
- (Charts) Bless these charts that we use in our circle time and may we always listen.
- (Cots) Bless our cots that we may have a good rest at nap time.
- (Door) Bless this door and may all who enters here have a happy and safe day.

The prayer concluded with "Together let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father."

Father Brad Whistle, pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Owensboro, posed with nine students in the Precious Blood Preschool 4-5 Year-old room after a September 17, 2007, blessing of the new classroom. From left are David Wolfe, Max Pride, Brianna Copeland, Aaron Thomas, Emma Lee, Abbie Gore, Zack Thompson holding their Book of Prayers, Thomas Clouse, and Ben Murphy. Submitted by Monti Millay Preschool Director

Busy bishops must put prayer at top of daily agenda, pope says

By Catholic News Service

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) -- Busy bishops need to put prayer and reflection at the top of their daily agenda, Pope Benedict XVI told a group of recently ordained bishops.

Bishops face many demands and time-consuming tasks and duties, "but the top priority in the life of a successor of the apostles must be reserved for God," he said.

The pope's remarks came during a Sept. 22 audience at the papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome. He spoke to more than 100 bishops who were attending a meeting in Rome for bishops ordained in the last year.

A deeply spiritual and rich prayer life will help the bishop stay close to and imitate Christ, the pope said. It will also help him "become sensitive and merciful toward everyone" and help him discern others' real needs, he said.

"Prayer teaches love and opens the heart to pastoral charity," enabling the bishop to welcome everyone who turns to him, he said.

Pope Benedict asked the bishops to pay special attention to their priests in their prayers.

Priests will feel encouraged knowing that their bishop is "close to them in prayer, affection, and is always ready to receive, listen to, support and encourage" them, he said.

The pope urged bishops to "be men of prayer," adding that "it is from prayer that a bishop draws light, strength and comfort for his pastoral activity."

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With Zack Thompson, left, and Ben Murphy, center, watching Father Brad Whistle blessed a board with charts saying, "Bless these charts that we use in our circle time and may we always listen." Photo submitted by Monti Millay

Sister Lisa Marie of the Sisters of the Lamb of God professed her perpetual vows on July 21, 2007 at Immaculate Church in Owensboro. Bishop John McRaith presided at the ceremony with Father Timothy Sweeney and Father Tony Jones concelebrating.

The profession celebration's music and liturgy reflected the Sisters' missions in France, America, Africa, and Mexico. At the Offertory procession, the Sisters from Nigeria here in Owensboro sang and danced in the way the proocession is done in their homeland.

The gospel was about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. Father Timothy gave the homily; he said that "Jesus taught the meaning of His death by performing the service of a slave. In a religious community, loving one another with mutual affection, anticipating one another in showing honor, fervent in spirituality, enruding affliction and persevering in prayer is a foot washing by another name.

At the end of Mass, Bishop John McRaith said that a vocation begins in the family; he thanked Sister Lisa Marie's parents, LaVern and Judy Pottinger of Rice Lake, WI, for encouraging Sister Lisa Marie's vocation. Her nrother Brock was an altar server for the Mass; a nephew, Collin was ring bearer for Sister Lisa Marie. Her sister, Traci, carried flowers for the entrance procession, and Sister Lisa Marie carried with her a rose her mother brought to the ceremony for her daughter.



Sister Lisa Marie received a Cross from Bishop John McRaith as Sister Claire Marie stood with her during her July 21 profession of Perpetual Vows. Submitted Photo

A Journey of Love

By Sister Lisa Marie

All of my life I have longed to be more deeply intimate with Jesus and little did I know that this desire would lead me to religious life. I was very involved in prayer groups and other movements in the Church, but I never felt close enough to God and him to me. I longed for this intimacy so much that I expected the relationship to deepen fast, therefore I didn't have patience with God or myself Later I began to understand that God was taking me at my pace and not the pace I wished to go. He was slowly drawing me closer to himself without my realizing it. After I had been in religious formation for a couple of years, I began to look back at my life and I saw how much God had transformed me.

God gave me the gift of service to those who are marginalized. I discovered my gift of working with the elderly and I thought this would be my lifetime work for God. However, that was soon to change. A few months before I made my temporary vows, I went to spend a month in our mission in Mexico. I was deeply moved and desired to work among the poor. God fulfilled that desire by sending me to work in our mission for this past year and I will continue to work there. We work with the children and young adults with special needs and gifts. My experience with them has humbled me to realize that God has chosen me to work with these very special people. My service is broader than I thought it was. These people with special gifts are a real inspiration to me and I hope one day they will be an inspiration to others also. They area great example of how Jesus lived. They are simple, compassionate, loving and full of joy.

I am very grateful to God for having chosen me to be his spouse. My whole being is full of joy, a joy that has no words. Like our founder said "It is a great secret to be ready, to be pliable, to be molded by the will of God, manifested through circumstances, persons, and things."

Madisonville Knights Put Up Monument To The Unborn In Forest Lawn Cemetery

"IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE UNBORN CHILDREN"

MADISONVILLE,Ky. - In 2004 the Father Gerard J. Glahn Council No. 11,132 of the Knights of Columbus erected a Monument to the Unborn at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Madisonville, KY. Acts of vandalism over several months forced the Knights of move the monument to Christ the King Church property.

In late 2006, pastor Fr. Jerry Calhoun was contacted by Christ the King parishioners who work at Regional Medical Center in Madisonville, KY. These parishioners were concerned that fetuses delivered, and left, at the hospital be properly cared for, not disposed of as "bio-hazardous waste." These parishioners and RMC employees included Jennifer Hardesty, nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; Bob Schaefer, Laboratory Director; and Liz Hoard, Histology Supervisor. Recognizing that these are children created by God and wanting to give the Church's witness to such, Fr. Jerry met with them and assured them that Christ the King Parish would provide a Christian Burial Service for each baby. These are not aborted babies, rather babies who were not carried to full term, or long enough to survive.

On May 19, 2007, Bob Schaefer brought the first three tiny infants to Christ the King. They were buried in a dignified and prayerful service.



Pictured at the Monument to the Unborn, left to right, Fr. Jerry Calhoun, Pastor of Christ the King Church, and Bob Schaefer, parishioner and RMC employee. Submitted Photo

Young women want to be 'countercultural' in religious life



Mother Ann Marie Karlovic congratulates a newly professed member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia during a July 30 Mass at which 11 sisters made their first profession of vows at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville, Tenn. (CNS photo/The resa Laurence, Tennessee Register) (Aug. 23, 2007)

By Andrea Slivka, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Valerie Stringer, 24, became interested in religious life while attending a Catholic high school run by religious sisters.

Now at the University of Illinois, she is seriously considering entering a religious community and has a few characteristics in mind when looking for one.

After growing up with a love for Pope John Paul II, she said she and other women in the campus ministry's vocations discernment group look for communities that express faithfulness to the pope and to the teachings of the church.

She said a pope's adherence to what he believes to be true, even when unpopular, is attractive to the young women because it stands in contrast to politicians and others who regularly change their opinions and values.

"We're looking for something that can provide us with guidance and a cornerstone on how to live our lives," she said.

A desire to be faithful to the pope and the church is just one common characteristic noticed in young women by those helping them discern whether they have a vocation and also by leaders of organizations that work with religious communities, based on interviews by Catholic News

Service.

Michael Wick, executive director for the Institute on Religious Life in Libertyville, Ill., told CNS that today's young women also look for communities with a shared sense of purpose, prayer life and apostolate.

Ten years ago, older sisters thought fewer women were joining religious life partly because "there is not a strong enough community identity to attract them," reported the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington.

Franciscan Sister Janice Keenan, a campus minister at the University of Illinois in Champaign, said young women also look for communities that focus on spirituality and service in the church and that would help them have a prayer life.

Some young women are also motivated by a desire to share their experience of God with others.

Sister Mary Gabriel Devlin, vocations director for the Sisters of Life in New York, said young women who contact her have experienced God's love in such a way that they realize they are called to give that to everyone.

"They see (religious life) as an oppor-

tunity for their love to become a gift, yes, to the Lord, but also to the people they will serve," Sister Mary Gabriel said.

Sister Teresa Benedicta Block, a 25-year-old who recently took final vows as a Sister of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in Ann Arbor, Mich., said she first had a similar desire as a teenager while taking a driver education course with students who happened to be young drug dealers. Hearing them say that their parents let them do whatever they wanted caused her to realize they were saying no one cared about them enough to mind what they did.

"It really awoke in me the desire of 'how am I going to give to others what I've been given,'" she said, adding that the desire and question eventually led her to realize she was called to religious life.

The young women also want to be examples of Christ in the world, Wick said. They are looking for a community that is "trying to live the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in a way that is countercultural and a witness to the Gospel."

For other young women, wearing a traditional habit is a symbol of being countercultural and of representing Christ in the church, although it's not the only criterion they have when looking at communities, he said.

Of 13 young women interviewed by CNS, 12 said they would prefer to wear a habit of common dress and veil; they often cited the habit as an inspiration to others and a visible witness of consecrated life.

"I think the habit is a visible sign that points to Christ, and it is a beautiful gift to silently remind people of God by what they wear, as well as make themselves available to people in need of spiritual guidance without having to say a word," said one of them.

An online survey by VocationMatch.com, which matches users' interests with compatible communities, has gathered statistics on those interested in vocations.

Of the 2,711 who answered a question about habits, 51 percent said they would want to wear a habit all the time, while another 20 percent said they would look for a community that wears it optionally. Of the 4,800 respondents to the survey, 65 percent were female and 55 percent were under the age of 30.

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Ever thought about becoming a sister?

Join us for an Ursuline Way of Life Weekend Nov. 30



The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph are hosting an Ursuline Way of Life Weekend on November 30-December 2, 2007 at their motherhouse at Maple Mount (15 miles west of Owensboro).

Ursuline Way of Life Weekends introduce young women to aspects of living a consecrated life, following the Rule of their founder, Saint Angela Merici, Ursuline ministries, and the traditions of the Mount Saint Joseph congregation.

Single, Catholic women ages 18-30 are invited to come as guests and to be inspired by Saint Angela's life, her spirituality, and her vision for her followers during this particular weekend.

This is a weekend experience to pray, relax, explore, reflect, and to meet other women who are seeking to know where God is leading them. It's also a time to meet and relate to women who have followed God's call to be Ursuline Sisters.

The weekend begins Friday at 7:30 p.m. and ends Sunday at 1 p.m. There is no cost to attend. Overnight accommodations and meals will be provided.

Young women who are only slightly interested in the possibility of becoming a sister or just curious about religious life are welcome. Bring a friend!

For more information, contact Sister Alicia Coomes, OSU, at (270) 229-4103, Ext. 214, or e-mail vocations@maplemount.org.

St. Bernard Abbey to Host “Come and See Vocation Retreat”

The Western Kentucky Catholic, October, 2007 **33**

Cullman, AL - Life itself is a mystery. It would follow that major aspects of life are involved with mystery. Birth and death, marriage and childbirth- these are really a mystery to most of us.

Response to mystery can be positive, however. If the Christian realizes that God is calling him to give his life to Him, it is through vocation discernment that man meets the unknown and the unfathomable. This is, in fact, the only way to encounter God and those times we come closest to God in acting in and through our lives. It is a time of looking into, asking ourselves what God wants us to do. It is an honest attempt to get all the hints that God is giving us about what HE would like us to do with our life.

If you think you have an answer to the question of whether you have a religious vocation and are at a stage in which you can take the next step, then consider attending the next “Come and See” vocation retreat at St. Bernard Abbey. The monastery will host a vocation retreat on October 5-7, 2007. It is designed for men between the ages of 18 and 45 years of age.

It is at this time that young men and adults will be able to experience first hand not only the life of the monk but gain insight into their calling to serve Christ in the Church as a monk and priest, especially as it relates to their attitude and aptitude to monastic life, which involves the right disposition of the heart and frame of mind.

It is also a time of being able to have someone who speaks for the Church, validate your vocation. And they cannot accept you until they get to know you and see how you do when you try to follow this particular type of lifestyle.

Those in attendance will participate in the Liturgy of the Hours, celebration of the Eucharist and have enough time to visit the Blessed Sacrament chapel where one can encounter Christ in the silence of their heart.

You will also get to know other monastic seekers and learn about their background, vocation journey and how they came to arrive at St. Bernard. Finally, the vocation prospect will be able to hear from members of the community speak and discuss in conference format, the Rule of St. Benedict, the monastic vocation, and various aspects of the liturgy and musical, work and formation programs.



Walkers For Life

This picture is of the walkers from St Sebastian in Calhoun in the Owensboro Walk for Life, Sept 8th 2007. From left to right is Father John Okoro, Earlene Abney, Sherry Abney holding son Mason Abney, Greg Abney and Donna Dant. Earlene was recognized for Collecting the most money for the walk. Submitted by Jerry Abney

On Sunday, the participants will take part in a panel discussion on what life at the Abbey is really like. Participants will include junior monks and novices. They will also hear the testimony of a vocation candidate who plans on entering the monastery in June, 2008. Other topics will be discussed if time allows.

To obtain more information about the retreat, contact Br. Mark Worsham, Vocation Director, St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, AL by calling (800) 722-0999, ext 137 or using his e-mail address: stbernardmonastery@yahoo.com. Space is limited. There is no charge for the retreat.

Our Lady of Monte Cassino Shrine

Your parishioners are invited to attend the Sunday afternoon Pilgrimage services in May and October in honor of Our Blessed Mother. The pilgrimage service lasts about an hour. After the opening hymn and a short sermon, the rosary procession takes place on the grounds. The service ends with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin and a hymn.

The sermons this year will be:

October 7: “Mary: Faith-filled Woman,” Sr. Joella Kidwell, OSB

October 14: “Marian Shrines and Pilgrimages,” Br. Maurus Zoeller, OSB

October 21: “Mary, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother,” Fr. Richard Hindel, OSB

October 28: “Mary, Queen and Handmaid” Fr. Paul Nord, OSB

The pilgrimage services each Sunday in May and October, begin at 2:00 p.m. (CDT). The Monte Cassino Shrine is located one mile east of the Archabbey. For further information, call (812) 357-6585 or 357-6501.

Cathedral Club 50 Scenic Fall Tour Saturday, October 27, 2007

Tour includes Historical Hanson, the Land Between The Lakes, Dinner at famous Patti's Place, evening at the Kentucky Opry House featuring “The Ol Tyme Rock N' Roll Show voted best in western Kentucky. Menu: 1-inch porkchop and chicken breast dinner, baked potato, salad, dessert, drink, and gratuity. Tour departs at 10:00 a.m. and returns at approximately 11:30 p.m. Cost is \$62.00 per person, Includes Transportation, dinner, and show. Coach service (Toby Tours)
Please call 1-270-683-81800 or 1-270-993-5119.

Women Invited To Experience Monastery Life

Single Catholic women, ages 18 to 40, who want to experience the Benedictine way of life are invited to attend a Benedictine Life Weekend October 19-21 at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana.

The weekend will focus on the theme “Obedience in Monastic Life.” Participants will have the opportunity to experience the rhythm of the monastic schedule, pray with the sisters, and participate in community life, as well as meet other women who are considering religious life.

There is no charge for the program, which runs from 7 p.m. CDT Friday to 1 p.m. Sunday. Women wishing to register or obtain more information can call Sister Anita Louise Lowe or Sister Agnes Marie Dauby at 800-738-9999 or e-mail them at vocation@thedome.org.

Registration is also available online at www.thedome.org, where there is more information about the vocation program of the Ferdinand Benedictines.

Founded in 1867, the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, are 180 religious women who minister in schools, parishes, church institutions, health care facilities, retreat centers, and social service agencies. They currently serve in Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Maryland, Italy, Peru, and Guatemala.



Abortion is profoundly anti-women.

Three quarters of its victims are women:

Half the babies and all the mothers.

- Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta
Mother Teresa of Calcutta is seen during a visit to Phoenix, Ariz., in 1989. A new book, titled "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light," was released Sept. 4, one day before the 10th anniversary of her death. The book, a compilation of letters Blessed Mother Teresa wrote to her spiritual advisers, reveals the darkness of soul that she experienced for many years. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Bishop Soenneker Home Keeps The True Home Feeling In All Its Activities



Red every Friday. The reason ? We here at the Bishop Soenneker Home, next door to Saint William Church in Knottsville, Ky., have chosen like many other Americans, to wear red shirts on Fridays, to show our support for our troops .We are showing our love of God , country and home . We need to show solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect . If everyone of us who loves our country will share this idea with all their acquaintances , it will not be long before the USA is covered in RED and it will let our troops know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

The first thing a soldier says when asked " What can we do to make things better for you ? They will answer "We need your support and your prayers."

Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity , by example , and wear something Red every Friday until our troops come home.



We here at Bishop Soenneker Home are very blessed with the volunteering of these two great young girls . They are Madeline Millay of Knottsville and Cailyn Carr of Hawesville . They called and asked if they could do volunteer work for us . They each come one day a week and talk with our residents , polish fingernails , do crafts , and share their beautiful smiles and love with different ones of our residents. Their selflessness is greatly appreciated and we look forward to their time with us each week - youth in action. Photos Submitted by Arlene Cecil, Activity Director



**Holy Souls In Purgatory Novena
 October 25 to November 2, 2007**

Join with others in prayer at the Diocesan Marian Shrine:

Mary, Mother of the Church & Model of All Christians.

The Shrine is located at historic St. Joseph Church, 434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THE NOVENA

Prayer for the Faithful Departed

O gentlest Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on the souls of Your servants. Be not severe in Your judgment, but let some drops of Your Precious Blood fall upon our beloved departed, and do You, O merciful Savior, send Your angels to conduct the souls of your servants to a place of refreshment and peace. AMEN.

Dear Diocesan Marian Shrine Committee,

Please include the names of my deceased family and friends in the prayers of those who gather at **Mary, Mother of the Church & Model of All Christians Diocesan Shrine** for this *Holy Souls in Purgatory Novena*. Please accept this donation for my intention(s) of Holy Souls in this Novena.

NAMES TO BE REMEMBERED: 1) _____,

2) _____, 3) _____,

4) _____, 5) _____,

Donor's Name: _____, **Address:** _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Send to:

➔ Marian Shrine Committee, c/o Jean Fulkerson, 526 E. 13th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101

SISTER MARIA THERESA BRADDOCK, SCN, 96, Died Sept 2, 2007

Sister Maria Theresa Braddock, SCN, 96, a native of Morganfield, KY, died September 2, 2007 at Nazareth Home. She had been a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth for 75 years.

Sister served in the apostolate of elementary education in Kentucky, Massachusetts, Ohio and South Carolina for 51 years. In Louisville Sister taught at St. Cecilia School from 1933-38. In other localities in Kentucky Sister taught at St. Clare School, Colesburg, KY from 1948-50; at St. Vincent de Paul School, New Hope, KY from 1950-61; at Fancy Farm Grade School, Fancy Farm, KY from 1961-66, and at Good Shepherd School, Frankfort, KY from 1966-68.

In retirement Sister taught the Laubach Method in Adult Education at the Nazareth Learning Center, Nazareth, KY from 1986-87; was Asst. Coordinator of the Wolfe Co. Literacy Program at Campton, KY from 1987-88; served in Child Care at Children's Edition, Inc., Louisville from 1988-2000; and worked in the Literacy Program at St. Augustine Learning Center from 1994-2000. Sister became a resident at Nazareth Home in 2001 where she served in the Apostolate of Prayer.

Survivors include one sister, Ruby Pittman of Jefferson, GA, several nieces and nephews, and her Sisters in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. Memorials may be made to SCN Missions, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.



Saint Ann School, Morganfield, Ky. Staff members front row left to right - Peg French, Cassy Brooks, Bethany Ziegemeier, Susie Buckman, Beth Hendrickson (Principal); Next row up, Connie Simmons, Cindy Loxley, Mary Beth Mason, Kathy Brewe; Next row, Jennifer Wurth, Carrie French, Leigh Ann Vowels, Debbie Padgett; Back row, Renee French, Charlotte Hollis, Bob Wallace, Brigitte Mallory. St. Ann School opened the school year with excitement on August 9th. Submitted Photo

News From Saint Ann School, Morganfield, Ky.



St. Ann School students were greeted by Evan Almighty and Al Mighty on the the 1st day of school. Evan was Vickie Ervin and Al was Laura Ervin. Principal Beth Hendrickson handed out a prayer card and a breakfast bar to each student. The theme for the first day was "Working Together To Change The World." Photo submitted by J. Brantley

2007 Little Mr. and Ms. Kentucky County Fair

Hunter Robinson and Tori French were crowned Little Kentucky County Fair August 16, 2007 at the Kentucky State Fair. Tori is the daughter of Peggy and Mark French, Hunter is the son of Briana and Rodney Robinson all of Morganfield. Tori is a third grader and Hunter a first grader at St. Ann School in Morganfield Ky. Photo submitted by J. Brantley



October is Respect Life Month

Prayer Warriors

Continued from page 10

he had a wife and children. His reply "What's that got to do with anything?" I told him, "You have grandchildren, don't you. When they were born, you held them in your arms, didn't you." His reply: "Who cares?" I told him, "Your mother who gave birth to you is in heaven, isn't she?" He just looked at me. I told him, "She is in heaven crying for you." He used the "f" word at me as well. I walked away and got my grandson and stood next to the mill door so he and the people inside could see him.

After the mill closes and Father closes with prayers for the mill, the workers and doctors, we are standing around talking for a minute. Some of the escorts have left. The one who was giving me trouble walked by me and spit at me. He actually spit on me. I cannot describe his face as he passed by. I was shocked!

So, another day of death. What are we to do about this? Where are the people? I am asking again: please make a trip to the abortion mill. We are going every First Saturday. If you are a priest, please put it in the bulletin. We meet at McDonalds on East Highway 60 at the By-Pass in Owensboro at 3:15 a.m., and leave from there at 3:30 a.m. sharp. We go other Saturdays as well if you would like to come with us or just go on your own.

22 babies died Saturday. When I die and God asks me what did you do for my babies? I want to have an answer.

Kelly Hedges, JMJ

When we suffer much we have a great chance to show God that we love Him; but when we suffer little we have less occasion to show God our love; and when we do not suffer at all, our love is then neither great nor pure. (Diary,303) St. Maria Faustina

Volunteer Nurses

MAPLE MOUNT<Ky. - Four nurses made a trip to Jamaica to volunteer at medical clinics May 12-23. They were helping Mary Danhauer of Owensboro, who has lived and worked in Jamaica for over two years. They brought lots of vitamins with them at her request.

In photo at right, Dora Dunkley of Santa Cruz in Jamaica, left, stands behind Sister Jacinta Powers, OSU, center, an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph, and Becky Letcher of Lexington in the medical clinic in Santa Cruz. The nurses were dispensing medication. MSJ Photos



Martha House (blue shirt), a nurse and a member of St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, volunteered at the medical clinic in Maggotty, Jamaica. She is shown here explaining medications to patients. MSJ Photos



Above left, Sister Michele Morek, OSU, congregational leader of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, welcomes Brescia President Father Larry Hostetter, STD, to the Brescia Appreciation Dinner at the Mount. Above right, Sister Rose Marita O'Bryan, OSU, director of the Contemporary Woman Program at Brescia, and Director of Mission Effectiveness for the Ursuline Sisters, poses with Brescia instructor Tina Wolken at the Brescia dinner. Ms. Wolken is instructor of education and special education and coordinator of middle grades at Brescia.



BRESCIA APPRECIATION DINNER – The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph held their annual Brescia Appreciation Dinner August 15 at the Mount, hosting Brescia school officials and faculty members. Among the faculty members in attendance were, left to right, Vicki Tinsley (Psychology department), Carole Maillet (Biology), Conrad Toepfer (Biology), and Sandra Obilade (Business).



MSJ PICNIC VOLUNTEERS: Frank and Kenny Hardesty worked non-stop helping to cut and deliver barbecued meats for the dinner tables at the Mount Saint Joseph Picnic Sept. 9. Staff Photo



PICNIC WORK: at left, a woman's work is never done: Sister Jacinta Powers cleaning up a meat saw at the end of the Mount Saint Joseph Picnic Sept. 9. Sr. Jacinta was really sweating it!. Staff Photo

A Very Compassionate Ministry

By Edie Keeney

PADUCAH, Ky. - The Bereavement Committee at St Francis de Sales in Paducah is a very special ministry inspired by dedication, love and compassion. The present committee consists of 9 women supported by an additional 100+ families who have volunteered to supply food for the meals that follow funerals of members of St. Francis or a member of their families.

The beginning of the Bereavement Committee goes back many years to the practice of the Daughters of Isabella. When a member of their group or a member of her family died, after the funeral, the Daughters would prepare and take a meal to the home of the deceased. After 7 or 8 years the meal was moved to the St. Francis parish hall to allow more room and the bereavement meal was offered to all members of the church and their families. The Daughters of Isabella donated \$25 to pay for the meat and church members provided food for the rest of the meal. The Daughters continue to donate \$25 for each funeral meal. A group of ladies volunteered to be the group who organized and served these meals and they became the Bereavement Committee.

Planning for the meal begins with phone calls to some 28-30 of the 100+ that have volunteered to bring different dishes. If they are expecting groups larger than 50 more calls are made. Some of the volunteers have favorite foods that they always prepare and the menu soon comes together. At 8 or 8:30 in the morning of the funeral, 5-6 or more members arrive at the parish hall to decorate the tables and begin preparing to serve the meal. Mary Ann Wooten and Pat Dowd have taken on as a special mission to make the tables as welcoming as possible. "They shop for decorations like the rest of us shop for our grandkids. They have bought decorations for every season of the year," Christine Quigley commented, "If there is a large number of people expected they frequently decorate the tables the day before." The food begins to arrive and is kept either hot or cold and the meal begins to come together. The ladies serve the meal and try to anticipate any needs. After the meal comes the clean up and after 7-8 hours they can return home. Pat Dowd commented, "It is hard work and we come even when we have to change plans but we get much more than we give." Chris Quigley added, "It's an honor to be able to serve the members of our parish. It is a much needed ministry. It's great how these activities bring people together. I have met and become friends with these ladies." Helen Simmons remembered, "Some times we are really busy, recently there were 2 funerals the same day and the families shared the meal. One time we had 5 funerals in 2 weeks."

Mary Forbes explained, "In the fall of 1999 we moved to Paducah from Illinois. My husband died and later that year I joined the group. I really enjoy belonging to St. Francis and I have become friends with the ladies in the committee. Mary Ann



Members of The Bereavement Committee at St Francis de Sales in Paducah from left, in the back row: Christine Quigley, Mary Ann Wooten, Pat Dowd, Mary Forbes, Rose Mary Kloss; front row: Donna Trologo, Delores Cromwell, Kitty Vaughn, Helen Simmons. Submitted Photo

Wooten also joined after the death of her husband, "All of my family are from Illinois and it meant a lot to me to have the meal provided for us." She went on to say, "The committee members get all the thanks and praise but we only serve the meal, the thanks really belongs to those who generously prepare the food." Christine Quigley speaking for the group said, "It is a real joy for us to see so many people working together during a time of need and a real pleasure to serve our friends in our beautiful new parish hall. We contribute a huge part of our success to the 100+ families that bring the food. They respond in such a caring and generous way. In a thank you note recently, an out of town family member compared our meal presentation to the banquet that her deceased mother must be having in heaven. As a committee, we feel that we get so much more than we give." Fr. Brian Roby added, "The ministry of the Bereavement Committee is a valuable outreach of our parish. It is a celebration of life as the families gather around the table." After the funeral, the church sends a card to each family expressing sympathy and prayers.



FAMILY VOLUNTEERS: Sister Mimi Ballard's sisters from Nelson County volunteered in several booths for the Mount Picnic Sept. 9; from left, Dee, Orlene, Sally, Patty, Ottie, Mary and Susie. Their parents are Lawrence and Orlene Ballard, and the family attends Saint Joseph Proto Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky. Staff Photo



FAMILY VOLUNTEERS: Judy Schell served tables at the Mount Saint Joseph Picnic's dinner tables Sept. 9. Here, she served barbecued chicken to an out-of-town visitor. In the photo at right, Judy's husband, Bob, and her son, Joey, were



busy cutting mutton on an electric meat saw on the picnic grounds just behind the dinner tables. For many Western Kentucky Catholics, the Mount Saint Joseph Picnic is a traditional family work and visiting time for whole families. Grandparents Day falls on this date most years. Staff Photos

It Costs More to be Poor

By Fr. John S. Rausch, 2007 Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award Winner

A row of identical signs arranged like landing lights at an airport repeat the appealing offer: "Borrow \$200, Repay \$203." This modern spider-to-fly invitation displayed in front of the office of payday lenders appeals to hard strapped workers who just need a boost till payday. What's three bucks? Technically, since the loan spans only 14 days, three bucks in this case represents 39 percent interest (APR). After this introductory offer, the second \$200 loan will demand a \$230 repayment—or 390 percent APR!

Payday lenders, together with pawnshops, check-cashers, tax refund lenders, rent-to-own stores and "buy here/pay here" used car lots represent the fringe economy. The term "fringe economy" refers to those businesses that engage in financially predatory relationships with low-income or heavily indebted consumers by charging excessive interest rates or exorbitant fees and prices for goods and services. Other parts of the fringe economy include credit card companies charging sky-high late payments or over-the-credit-limit penalties, cell phone providers pushing excessive prepaid plans and subprime mortgage lenders hiding the real cost of the mortgage.

The scope of the fringe economy reveals a structure for the poor and credit-challenged that parallels the mainstream economy for the middle class. Fully 10 percent of U.S. households, more than 12 million, have no relationship with a mainstream financial service provider, such as a bank or credit union. These "unbanked" must rely on the fringe economy for services like check cashing, bill payments, short-term loans and appliance rentals.

The exorbitant fees and prices demonstrate why the poor pay more for basic services. The \$6.6 billion a year rent-to-own (RTO) industry, for example, serves 2.7



St. Ann, Morganfield, staff members front row left to right: Peg French, Cassy Brooks, Bethany Ziegemeier, Susie Buckman, Beth Hendrickson (Principal); Next row up: Connie Simmons, Cindy Loxley, Mary Beth Mason, Kathy Brewer; Next row: Jennifer Wurth, Carrie French, Leigh Ann Vowels, Debbie Padgett; Back row: Renee French, Charlotte Hollis, Bob Wallace, Brigette Mallory. St. Ann School opened the school year with excitement on August 9th. Submitted photo

Bishops pledge to use church resources to stop human trafficking

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Calling human trafficking "a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person," Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., said the Catholic bishops "pledge to use the resources of the church to help end this affliction. We also pledge to use our teaching authority to educate Catholics and others about human trafficking," said Bishop Barnes, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration. Bishop Barnes said in a statement dated Sept. 12 and released the next day by the U.S. bishops' conference in Washington, "As many as 700,000 persons are trafficked globally each year," the bishop said, including an estimated 17,500 trafficked each year into the United States. Human trafficking, Bishop Barnes said, is "a modern-day form of slavery, and it is the largest manifestation of slavery today."

million households with 8,300 stores. Typically, a dinette table and chairs might rent for \$11.99 per week till full customer ownership after 61 weeks. This arrangement doubles the cost of the furniture, and if the customer misses one payment, the item can be repossessed.

Other examples from the fringe economy include tax refund anticipation loans with fees and interest that take 16 percent of the tax refund. "Buy-here/pay-here" used car lots frequently charge 28 percent APR for a high-mileage, grossly overpriced vehicle, and money transfers from the United States to Latin America can easily exceed 9 percent of the transferred amount.

Corporations participating in the fringe economy argue their high interest rates and fees reflect the increased risks of dealing with the economically unstable. However, ACE Cash Express reports transaction losses for check cashing at less than one percent, and pawnshops generally loan only 50 percent of the item's value to buffer themselves against loss. Tax preparers are guaranteed repayment when the refund check arrives, and payday lenders require a post-dated check.

While credit should be helping low-income people improve their lives, the fringe economy encourages people to live beyond their means and takes advantage of their lack of financial sophistication. Fringe economy firms are basically growing rich from their financing arrangements and from keeping customers continually enmeshed in debt.

Around the world the poor have fought the money lenders through collective action with institutions like the Grameen Bank and credit unions. These are structures people of faith can explore as more middle class families slide into the ranks of the working poor. Universal health care would save countless families from bankruptcy, while a standard living wage would shrink the pool of the financially desperate. Add to this stricter and enforced usury laws and you create rungs on the ladder for moving up.

The vision: replace the spider-to-fly economy with one permitting a-place-at-the-table for everyone.



The Diocesan Rural Life Celebration

was held Aug. 12, 2007 at the Sportscenter in Owensboro. The Diocesan Rural Life Committee presented Bishop McRaith with a plaque commemorating his 25 year ordination as Bishop of Owensboro Diocese. Joe Elliott, chairman of the Rural Life Committee, spoke of the Bishop's achievements and Matt Scott, President of the Owensboro Catholic FFA, made the presentation. The 5th Annual Rural Life Celebration was scheduled for 8-12-07 at 5:00 PM in the air conditioned comfort of the Owensboro Sportscenter. Those invited to come enjoyed a festival of free BBQ chicken, music, and reflection on the important connection between the farming community and all who enjoy eating. There were about 400 people present at the event. Jeff Nalley was the MC. There were three speakers for the event, however two shared the podium together. John Kuegel Jr., and his wife Leigh Ann discussed family farming, and David Johnson from Swedish Match also spoke. The Reid Family (as in Reid's Orchard) was presented the Lifetime Achievement award for their contribution to the community and agriculture in the area. Photo submitted by OCHS FFA Chapter.

A Personal Story of Life in A Cloister



Monastic Reflections by Brother Conrad Fleischmann, OCSO, a monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani for 38 years and a native of Owensboro, Ky., is a little book which tells how he saw what went on around him in the monastery, how he experienced it, how he made his way through the days of the life in a cloistered community. Have you ever had the sensation of wondering just how someone did things in their life, say, a grandparent? How did he do this or that at the moment you are doing the same action? Two people doing the same piece of work, for example, building a fence around a pasture on the same farm as your Grandpa worked? You say to yourself as you use his hammer, his fence stretcher, "So that was how he did it!" Suddenly, in a mystical other-worldly way, you see him at work; you sense just what his way was. That's how he did it. Brother Conrad's *Monastic Reflections* is a deceptively simple look through his monastic life which can transport a reader into a curious sensation of a little kid learning to ride a bike: "Hey, I'm doing it! I'm riding!"

Brother Conrad is a farmer by trade living a Cistercian lifestyle. He tells us that he will be 81 in 2010. Huh? So what? You have to have reflected with Brother Conrad

Continued on page 41

Get Some Of That Magic In You

Reviewed by Mel Howard

The Magic In You! is a little book that adults can read in 15 minutes, get up and leave the doctor's office feeling strangely gentler, and then may take a month of reflection and meditation to figure out for themselves why.

As a children's book, *The Magic In You!* communicates immediately about the gentle joys of loving flowers, lady bugs, and butterflies. A six year-old may pick up this book and look at its pictures; some of its words are hard for them since they're just starting to read: shimmering, sparkles, reflection, kaleidoscope, continued. But if an adult says the words, the young reader will get to know their meanings. This is a good book for a parent to use to read to their pre-schooler or primary grade student who is beginning to read. The story line is engaging: a very pretty flower grows up in a crack by the road and learning to bloom and grow where she is planted, the little flower finds she helps many of God's creatures not by any kind of magic, but by just being a beautiful, happy little flower any time she wants.

GIGO folks will take a look at this book and say: "Too busy. It's for people who have self-esteem problems." And then, "Bah, Humbug." But their kids will understand it, and like this little book.

This book is, as Mrs. Lady Bug tells the little flower (does anybody else see the Saint here?), "Splendid idea! Simply ingenious!"



VOLUNTEER WORKER:

Bishop John McRaith enjoys meeting Western Kentucky Catholics in every kind of situation. Here he is seen driving a tractor for a Hayride With The Bishop around the Mount Saint Joseph farm fields during the Sept. 9, 2007 Mount Saint Joseph Picnic for the benefit of the retired Sisters living at the Mount. A hallmark of his service as Bishop among us has been his availability to all for sharing stories, listening, visiting, providing spiritual guidance, administering the Sacraments, giving counsel, and just generally being a good friend to any whom he meets. A farmer from his boyhood years in New Ulm, Minnesota, Bishop John feels a particular kinship with town or rural folks who are acquainted with country things. Staff Photo

No one's a stranger to Ohio pastor beloved by rural community

By Tim Puet, Catholic News Service

DANVILLE, Ohio (CNS) -- Spend an afternoon with Father F. Richard Snoke and it's obvious he's a priest who knows and loves his people and is loved by them in return.

Driving through his sprawling rural parish in the Diocese of Columbus, the 71-year-old pastor of St. Luke Church in Danville seemed to know the story of every house along his route -- its current and past owners, their occupations and their family ties.

He stopped at about a half-dozen homes, receiving warm greetings from everyone and talking about subjects such as the lack of rain, Danville High School girls basketball, why one woman's potato crop had died and his own multiple gardens, with church matters rarely being mentioned.

People kept teasing the big man in suspenders with the full head of hair and "Santa Claus" beard, saying he needed a haircut; indeed, anyone not aware of his identity would be unlikely to guess he was a priest.

He has served the community since 1987. He is so revered that in 1999, when he was about to reach the diocese's standard 12-year maximum for pastors to serve in any parish, scores of parishioners petitioned then-Bishop James A. Griffin to waive the rule in his case.

"Lots of people were upset when they realized someone else might take my place, and 122 of them wrote letters telling the bishop they needed me here," he told The Catholic Times diocesan newspaper.

"It was decided I'd stay here on a year-to-year basis as long as I was healthy," Father Snoke said. "This is my 20th year at St. Luke's and I hope to stay on for many more years."

Parishioner Earl Colopy said the reason Father Snoke's tenure in the parish has been so successful is that "he doesn't know a stranger. He's quite a rural guy."

Don Hawk, who has 4,000 turkeys and grows corn, soybeans and wheat on his 500-acre family farm, describes the priest as "kind of like I feel St. Luke himself must have been."

"He's just a rock for the community, dedicated to family, faith and values. You can see he's one of us and we feel comfortable with him," Hawk said.

It's easy for Father Snoke to talk with parishioners about farm subjects because he grew up on a farm southwest of Lancaster, where he raised the Fairfield County Fair's 1949 grand champion market hog.

"Like many boys, I 'played priest' when I was young, but I had sort of a delayed vocation," he said. "I worked at a factory for a while and went to agriculture college at Ohio State for a couple of years, but

I didn't like that and began feeling a pull toward studying divinity."

Ordained in 1965, he spent two years as an assistant pastor and the next 10 in high school administration, first as an assistant principal then principal.

His last 30 years in the priesthood have been in rural communities. The church he serves now is one of the oldest in the diocese, tracing its origins to 1820, when Daniel and George Sapp of Maryland and settled in the area.

Most of his parishioners who live on farms are on land that's belonged to their family for at least one or two generations. "We don't have anything that could really be called a factory farm in the parish," he said. "The Hawks have their 4,000 turkeys, but that's nothing compared with some of the big egg-laying operations elsewhere in the state.

"What you have here is several generations of families in which all the members work together and have a significant role," he added. "That's the only way to succeed today with a small farming operation."



Father F. Richard Snoke, right, pastor of St. Luke Church in Danville, Ohio, talks with parishioner Don Blanchard at the Blanchard family farm about 60 miles northeast of Columbus, Ohio. Father Snoke has served the rural parish since 1987 and is so revered that in 1999 scores of parishioners successfully petitioned to waive the diocesan rule that pastors serve a maximum of 12 years in one place. (CNS photo/Jack Kustron, Catholic Times) (Aug. 20, 2007)

Having families sticking together on their land has contributed to stability in the parish. However, Father Snoke said things are changing somewhat as people move to Apple Valley to retire around a man-made lake near Danville.

"If a young priest were to ask me how to succeed in a parish like this, I'd tell him, 'Get to know your families and take them as they are. Don't try to go in and change things all at once, but get people to know and like you and all will be fine,'" Father Snoke said.

"Personal contact makes the difference," he added. "Those who don't know the people who live in this area might think of them as hicks, but a good many of them are college-educated, as you have to be these days to run a farm, and they come back here because they recognize the good things about living here. Church and family hold them together, and it's a privilege to be their pastor."

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Saint Meinrad choirmaster to lead chant tour of Europe

Fr. Jeremy King, OSB, choirmaster of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, will help lead a pilgrimage to Austria and Switzerland from April 9-18, 2008. These two nations, along with Germany, have had a great influence on the Catholic Church in the United States, as the roots of many American Benedictine monasteries of men and women can be traced to this part of Europe.

While many pilgrimage tours are organized for parishes or dioceses, this tour is open to men and women from many churches and dioceses who are interested in both the heritage of Benedictine monasticism and the treasure of Gregorian chant and English chant, or plainsong.

The tour will include visits to monasteries that excel in contemporary liturgical music as well as the chant tradition. From Vienna, through Salzburg and to Saint Meinrad's mother abbey, Maria Einsiedeln, there will be opportunities to join the monks as they sing the Liturgy of the Hours and celebrate Mass.

The cities of Vienna and Salzburg also offer other art and cultural opportunities. Salzburg, for example, is where the musical "The Sound of Music" was filmed.

Travelers on this pilgrimage will learn simple Latin and English chants to be used for the celebration of Mass each day. While parish musicians, especially small parish choirs, are encouraged to join the tour, non-singers are welcome as well.

For more information, visit the Web site, www.stmeinrad.choirtravelinfo.com, or contact Larry Wickersham at Classic Choir Tours, phone (812) 273-6888 or e-mail larrywickersham@verizon.net.

Priests hope to highlight torture issue during trial for trespassing

The Western Kentucky Catholic, October, 2007 41

By Michael Vick, Catholic News Service

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) -- Though they face a possible gag order preventing them from discussing U.S. policy on torture during their upcoming trial, Franciscan Father Louis Vitale and Jesuit Father Steve Kelly say their rejection of torture is the prime reason they face jail time for an incident at a military base last November.

"Our concern is that the issue of torture has become a major phenomenon in society," Father Vitale told Catholic San Francisco, the archdiocesan newspaper. "It's inhuman, but it's become acceptable." Father Vitale claims that, despite government assurances to the contrary, the recent record of U.S. conduct exposes torture as part of the Bush administration's interrogation policies.

"What is happening is that, although they profess that they don't teach torture, what results is torture," he said. "We know the end product based on what goes on at Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib." He was referring, respectively, to the U.S. detention facility in Cuba and the prison in Iraq that is run by coalition forces west of Baghdad.

Father Vitale, 74, retired pastor at St. Boniface Church in San Francisco, and Father Kelly, 58, who worked with Redwood City's Catholic Worker community, both face charges in Tucson, Ariz., of trespassing at Fort Huachuca near Sierra Vista. The two priests went to the military complex to deliver a letter decrying torture to Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, then commanding officer there. After being denied entrance, the two knelt to pray and were subsequently arrested. Both could face a 10-month prison sentence if convicted. Father Vitale said the pair went to Fort Huachuca largely because Fast was stationed there. She was the senior military intelligence officer in Iraq during the scandal over the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib and is now deputy director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center at Fort Monroe in Virginia.

Responding by e-mail to questions from *Catholic San Francisco*, Fast said, "The U.S. Army does not approve of or condone torture. Numerous safeguards have been put into place to ensure that interrogators can request clarification, if in doubt, or report cases where they may suspect wrongdoing." She said she did not recall having seen the letter from Fathers Kelly and Vitale. It had been "handled in legal channels," she said. "The two priests were well aware that their trespassing actions would lead to their arrest," she added.

Father Kelly said concern about victims of torture was only part of the priests' focus. "We are also worried about the souls of these 18-, 19- and 20-year-old soldiers who are being coerced into torture," he said. Father Kelly said immoral interrogation policies could hurt American security by emboldening those who violently oppose U.S. policy. He called the upcoming trial a "kangaroo court," but said he sees positives. "Ironically, they're furthering our cause by bringing attention to the issue, and putting Fort Huachuca on the map."

Father Vitale emphasized that church teaching never sanctions torture. "Torture is unacceptable in the eyes of the church," he said. "It's not a reliable way to get information, but in any case it is simply an inhumane treatment of others."

At a pretrial hearing Aug. 13 in Tucson, Bill Quigley, a law professor and director of both the Law Clinic and the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center at Loyola University in New Orleans, asked Magistrate Hector Estrada to dismiss the charges against the priests and deny the prosecution's request to prohibit certain testimony at the trial. Estrada said he would rule on the pretrial motions by the end of August and then set a date for trial. Copyright (c) 2007 Catholic News Service/U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops



Franciscan Father Louis Vitale and Jesuit Father Steve Kelly pose with a sign Aug. 12 outside Fort Huachuca in Arizona. Father Vitale, 74, retired pastor at St. Boniface Church in San Francisco, and Father Kelly, 58, who worked with the Catholic Worker community in Redwood City, Calif., both face charges in Tucson, Ariz., of trespassing at Fort Huachuca, a U.S. military base near Sierra Vista. (CNS photo/Felice Cohen-Joppa, courtesy Tortureon-Trial.org) (Aug. 21, 2007)

A Personal Story (Continued from page 39)

in his little book to know the deceptively simple answer to this one. It's sorta like the poster of the two men in overalls asking, "Been Farmin' Long?"

Brother Conrad kicks off his book with a talk he has given a number of times on the history of farming from 1848 to the present at the Abbey of Gethsemani at Trappist, Kentucky, near New Haven. Various craftsmen came to live at the Abbey in that span of time, each adding his craft, his gift to the land, the buildings, the people, and the life of the cloistered community. He writes of kilns and cows, tree cutting and pastures, cheese and grain crops, dairy work and herd maintenance. Brother Conrad is a monk-farmer closely acquainted with alfalfa pellets, corn, and hay as well as Kentucky State Fair prize-winning Holstein bulls.

He writes of brother monks who were sent to other towns and states to begin new monasteries, usually from scratch. The story of the farm and the livelihood at Abbey of Getsemani is one of adapting to new industries, based on available manpower. At the time of this book, there were about 75 monks at Getsemani mostly working in one of three industries - cheese, fruitcakes, and fudge offered for sale through a mail-order catalogue. Finishing that part of the book, Brother Conrad launches into prayers one can say anytime and anyplace. Just like a monk - always it is work and prayer. Ora et labora, and alone with the Alone.

Brother Conrad reflects on the struggle with meditation, prayer for a horse, a retreat he made at Merton's hermitage, things that he ponders ("For we all make many mistakes." *James 3:2*), a poem to his Mom, a poem about an oak tree, the rhythm of life like an ocean wave. You get the opinion that Brother Conrad's mind is always busy with something. He closes his reflections with a prayer of thanks, a part of which reads, "I thank you, Dear Lord, ...for my vocation ...Feeling of being free after the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Taste of an orange, Family visits, Sudden flight of quail, A nephew playing with his son, To accept myself as I am, To accept others as they are, To see the good in another and forget the bad."

And the book is over. You want to go back into it. That is it? Did I miss something? If you do go back into it, *Monastic Reflections* shows some more of how Brother Conrad did some of his day in a cloister, and see again his little images, his small pictures that may escape someone being always busy, but that can mean so much to help such a busy one stay on track in life, to one day hear as did Marietta, who was "full of good humor," and among Conrad's TOP TEN in Heaven, the words, "Enter into the joy of the Lord."

Reviewed by Mel Howard.

Maple Mount to host praying of Rosary October 7

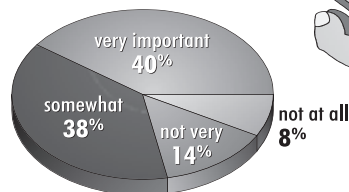
The Ursuline Sisters' Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center at Maple Mount is recognizing October as the month of the Rosary with a community wide praying of the Rosary Sunday, October 7, along the memorial rosary walk at the Center. The prayers will begin at 2 p.m. Fall-themed refreshments will be served after the walk. There is no cost for the event.

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary, primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated each year on October 7. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

The retreat center is located at Saint Joseph, 15 miles west of Owensboro on Highway 56 at Cummings Road. For additional information call (270) 229-0200.

Devotional Practice

Most Catholic adults say devotional practices, such as praying the rosary or Eucharistic adoration, are important to their sense of being Catholic. How important?



From random sample survey of 2,635 self-identified U.S. adult Catholics

Source: CARA Catholic Poll 2000

© 2000 CNS Graphics

Most adult Catholics -- 78 percent -- say devotional practices, such as praying the rosary, are very or somewhat important to their sense of being Catholic. (CNS graphic by Anthony De Feo)

Vocation

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



Above, Diocesan Seminarians take part in a team building activity with Fr. Andy Garner and Ben Warrell. Below, Jim Johnson takes great care in painting trim during a camp service. Photos by Susan Warrell.



“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity,”

(Psalms 133:1) was the theme for the 2007 Owensboro Seminarians annual retreat held August 16-19 at the brand new diocesan camp, Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center, in Bowling Green. This retreat was also a great opportunity for us to spend four days together as diocesan brothers, to pray together, exchange experiences and grow in fellowship as we walk through our seminary formation and discernment.

We started with Mass at the Curia, presided by our Bishop, John McRaith. Later, after being introduced to the Pastoral Center Staff, we proceeded to our destination: the Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center. As soon as we arrived there, we were graciously received by Ben Warrell, who made us feel at home from the very beginning. Ben coordinated some community building activities with us that evening. Father Andy Garner immediately set up a Chapel for prayer, a place at which most of us would go and do our personal prayer.

The next day we painted one of the buildings of the retreat center. That was our community project and our way to support our diocesan camp. After quite a day of painting walls (some other guys scraped floors at another building) we were surprised with a delicious dinner prepared by specialty chef Dr. Fred Litke and his talented sous chefs ... his wife Nancy, and Larena Lawson; it was an unforgettable evening of good food, great company, and even a piñata.

The following day we went canoeing down Green River for about six hours. The trip was unique, filled with adventure (i.e. Josh and Will’s canoe flipped, Julio and Paco taking Fr. Andy in a zigzag trip due to their unsynchronized paddling, getting stuck between some fallen trees, and even lifting up the canoe because the water level was really low at some points). We had a great time: a few hours surrounded by nature and discovering how generous the Lord is to give us such great natural beauty. That evening, after dinner, we prayed together and shared experiences, anecdotes, advice, and pearls of wisdom.

The next morning we headed back to Owensboro for a delicious lunch provided by the Owensboro and Henderson Serra Clubs. We all had a great time along with our Bishop, the Serrans, some seminarians’ relatives and friends. We had the opportunity to express our gratitude and to also sing “happy birthday” to vocation warrior Larena Lawson. Right after lunch we drove to Henderson for Mass at Holy Name, in which our brother Daniel Dillard was presented with a Knights of Columbus Chalice. The day concluded with a great meal hosted by the Henderson Knights at their hall.

We are 13 men following Jesus, the High Priest: Ryan, Paco, Josh, Daniel, and Uwem at Saint Meinrad School of Theology; Jim, Gary, Julio, Jared, Trevor, and Will at St. John Vianney in Minnesota; Basilio Az at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Mexico City, and Steve doing his pastoral internship in Paducah.



Daniel Dillard receives chalice and paten from 4th degree Knight of Columbus at Holy Name in Henderson on August 19th. Photo by Larena Lawson.



The Seminarians take part in a 6 hour canoe trip, which was a test of strength, endurance and perseverance. It was a time of adventure amid beautiful nature. It was a time to learn teamwork and synchronization. From left to right: Fr. Andy Garner, Byron Macias (with his back to us), Julio Barrera, giving us a thumbs up, and Steve Hohman. Photo by Ben Warrell.

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.



Fr. Andy Garner (far right) presents this year’s seminarians to the CPC staff during the first staff meeting of the year, Aug. 16th. From left to right: Josh McCarty, Steve Hohman, Jared Kaelin, Byron Macias, Julio Barrera, Trevor Johnson, Jim Johnson, Gary Clark, Will Thompson, Daniel Dillard, and Ryan Harpole (behind Fr. Andy) Staff Photo Composite.

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Celebración de los Inmigrantes: Todos Somos Más Semejantes Que Diferentes

Por Mel Howard, Editor

Traducido por Tami Schneider

EL CENTRO DE RETIROS DE GASPER RIVER – La Diócesis de Owensboro culminó la Semana Diocesana de la Migración el 25 de agosto del 2007 con una celebración de todo el día en el Centro Católico de Retiros de Gasper River. El Obispo John McRaith celebró una misa multicultural, seguidamente fue la comida, música y bailes tradicionales de diferentes culturas. Los participantes celebraron nuestra diversidad como Diócesis, sin importar si su familia inmigró hace una generación o cinco generaciones. Las celebraciones del día empezaron en el salón de banquetes con una misa, el cual presidió el Obispo John McRaith y la concelebraron el P. Stan Puryear, el P. Jason McClure, el P. Carmelo Jiménez, el P. Frank Ruff, y el P. Al Bremer. La celebración siguió en el edificio principal del centro de retiros con una comida y después la diversión.

El Obispo John dio la bienvenida a alrededor de 150 participantes a la misa con estas palabras, “Empezamos la celebración de hoy con el Santo Sacrificio de la Misa, la única cosa que nos reúne a todos juntos.” En el canto de entrada, la asamblea cantó, “En Cristo no existe ni este ni oeste.” La primera lectura de Ezequiel 37:15-19,21-22,26-28 contó el cuento de como la Palabra del Señor vino a Ezequiel para que dijera los Israelitas a tomar dos palos, uno que representa a Juda y los Israelitas asociados con él, y el otro palo que representa a José, el palos de Efraín y la otra casa de Israel. Ezequiel le dijo a la gente que se juntaran los dos palos “para que se hagan uno solo en su mano.” El Señor dijo que iba a hacer de los tribus una nación en la tierra, en los montes de Israel. Nunca más volverán a ser dos naciones. Dios dijo, “Mi morada será con ellos; Yo seré



Stos. José y Pablo iniciaron la semana Diocesana para Celebrar la Inmigración con una cena multicultural. Más de cien personas se reunieron en el nuevo Centro Parroquial para disfrutar platos nativos de países en varios rincones del mundo. Comieron platos de Polonia, México, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Canadá y muchos otros países. Parroquias por toda la diócesis llevaron acabo sus propias actividades y festividades durante la semana. La semana terminó con una gran celebración en el Gaspar River Catholic Retreat Center. En la foto a la izquierda, una mamá enseña a su hijo las banderas de diferentes países. A la derecha, Victorina Ajú sirve tostadas de Guatemala mientras Chris Gutiérrez ayuda a poner la mesa. Fotos por Tami Schneider.

La Danza de los Viejitos es un baile que se originó en Michoacán. Supuestamente hubo un tiempo en que los viejitos en Michoacán, México, bailaron jubilosamente por toda la noche. Es un baile chistoso donde los que bailen se ponen máscaras de viejitos junto con la ropa típica de campesinos. El baile empieza con unos hombres viejos de espaldas adoloridas e inclinadas, con muy poco movimiento. Estos movimientos se vuelven en un baile vigoroso, donde tiemblan y tosen y por fin se caen los “viejitos.” La danza ha perdido su significado original, y ahora simplemente representa la riqueza de la vida expresado en una danza, como un regalo al Niño Jesús, como no tenían los recursos para poder ofrecerle nada más. El baile se hace varias veces al año, durante las fiestas religiosas. Foto por S. Warrell.



su Dios, y ellos serán mi pueblo.”

En una homilía predicado del corazón, el Obispo John McRaith llamó a la diócesis a encontrar maneras de “juntar los dos palos (de las casas de Israel) en una sola Iglesia. Hay muchas maneras en que nosotros, como pueblo Americano podemos encontrar excusas para aislar a los inmigrantes de los demás ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, pero nuestra Fe como discípulos de Jesús, nos impulsa a encontrar maneras de traer juntos a todas las personas en una sola Iglesia.

Hospedar la Celebración Diocesana de Inmigración en un lugar natural tan bello
(sigue en la página 3)



Todos miran mientras la Hermana Margaret, la Hermana Consolata y Michael Chidi Onuoha, un candidato de los Glenmary, disfrutaban un baile tradicional de la Africa. Foto por Susan Warrell.

Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana



+El Más Reverendo John J. McRaith, D.D.
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro

Estimado Pueblo de Dios,
Si no fuera por la experiencia feliz que he tenido por 25 años de poner mi mejor esfuerzo en servirles y trabajar con ustedes en llevar acabo la misión de la Iglesia, no estuviera escribiendo esta carta.

He encontrado que los sacerdotes, religiosos y laicos de esta diócesis – todos ustedes – son un pueblo con una profunda fe en el amor de Dios. He sido testigo de un deseo ardiente de su parte de llevar acabo la misión de la Iglesia. Como ya saben, nuestra misión es contar a todas las personas de esta diócesis y más allá, que Jesús nos ama tanto que estuvo dispuesto a sufrir, morir y resucitar de la muerte por nuestra salvación. Ustedes, el Pueblo de Dios—Su Iglesia—han demostrado una y otra vez su disponibilidad de hacer cualquier cosa necesaria para difundir la

Buena Nueva. Han sido generosos con su tiempo, sus talentos y sus recursos materiales, entre los cuales, todos son necesarios para llevar acabo la misión de la Iglesia.

Después de mucha oración y consulta, he hecho la decisión de lanzar una campaña capital diocesana (Diocesan Capital Campaign).

Como ya saben, hemos trabajado muy duro a través de los años para llegar a ser una diócesis comprometida a llevar acabo su misión a través de la corresponsabilidad cristiana. Con que todos vivan como buenos administradores de los dones que Dios les haya dado, las necesidades de la Iglesia están realizadas.

Ustedes han sido maravillosamente generosos en sus parroquias y en la diócesis para lograr esta meta. Le pido a Dios que esta campaña capital, *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana*, se trate más de ser buenos administradores de los dones de Dios (lo cual significa todo lo que tenemos, incluyendo a la vida misma) que de cuanto dinero podemos recaudar.

Se hizo la decisión de tener la campaña capital basada en la corresponsabilidad a causa de cuatro necesidades que nos enfrentan en este tiempo en particular. Estas cuatro necesidades merecen su consideración mientras administran con mucha oración lo que Dios les ha dado.

Tenemos que:

1. Proveer un centro de campamento y retiros lleno de fe para fomentar y fortalecer la identidad católica de nuestros jóvenes.
2. Llenar completamente al Fondo Caritativo Diocesano (Diocesan Charitable Trust Fund, Inc.), lo cual se estableció para beneficiar a nuestros sacerdotes enfermos y retirados. Mientras este fondo ha crecido a través de los años, un estatus completamente lleno asegurará que quedan satisfechas por la diócesis las necesidades de nuestros sacerdotes en los años por venir.
3. Ayudar con los fondos necesarios para restaurar y renovar nuestro catedral, la iglesia madre de la diócesis establecida por Roma en 1937. La catedral es llamado a ser la iglesia modelo para la diócesis en todas las maneras, lo cual incluye el edificio mismo de la iglesia.
4. Establecer un fondo diocesano de donaciones para las escuelas católicas y la educación religiosa para cumplir con las necesidades educacionales crecientes de nuestros hijos y jóvenes. La Ley Canónica nos manda que todos deben tener la oportunidad de recibir una buena educación católica. Tenemos parroquias que necesitan la ayuda de la diócesis para apoyar a los padres para dar a sus hijos una buena educación católica.



Un grupo de adultos se reunieron el 23 de agosto para platicar sobre el plan diocesano para la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, 2008. Las Jornadas Mundiales de la Juventud ocurren cada 2-3 años, cuando el Santo Padre se reúne en una ciudad ya determinado con cientos de miles de jóvenes de todas partes del mundo. El Papa Juan Pablo II empezó esta tradición en el inicio de su papado en 1979. La próxima jornada se llevará acabo en Sydney, Australia, en julio del 2008 con el Papa Benedicto XVI.

Como la mayoría de nuestros jóvenes no pueden asistir al evento actual a causa del precio muy alto, la diócesis está planeando un evento local durante

las mismas fechas de la Jornada actual en Australia. Este evento tomará lugar el 18 y 19 de julio en el nuevo Centro Católico de Retiros de Gasper River cerca de Bowling Green, KY.

El comité de planeación espera atraer al evento a cientos de jóvenes por toda la diócesis y también a jóvenes de otras diócesis cercanas. Mantendremos un costo muy bajo para motivar la participación.

El grupo empezó con oración y escucharon la versión en inglés de la Canción de Tema de JMJ cantado por Guy Sebastian, un artista popular de Australia. Después leyeron y reflexionaron sobre la carta del Papa Benedicto XVI a los jóvenes del mundo en la ocasión del JMJ 2008. Después de hablar en grupo, surgieron muchas ideas y discutieron sus implicaciones. Concluyeron escuchando la versión internacional de la misma canción y rezando una oración de JMJ 2008.

Queremos invitar a todos los jóvenes, empezando con los que van a entrar a noveno grado el año que viene y para arriba que marquen sus calendarios para asistir a esa oportunidad tan increíble. Nuestra visión es patrocinar nuestra propia peregrinación de caminata y transmitir el evento en vivo desde Australia. El fin de semana también incluirá mucha música en vivo, Adoración de Santísimo un festival de películas y mucho más! ¡Nos vemos allí!

Un fondo de donaciones crecerá donde pueda hacer una diferencia, permitiendo que la diócesis apoye a las parroquias necesitadas, con las escuelas católicas y/o los programas de Educación Religiosa.

Les presento a ustedes, la gente de la Iglesia de Kentucky del Oeste, estas causas dignas, y les pido que consideren con oración su respuesta. Por favor, recen sobre esta petición por las necesidades de la Iglesia diocesana y responder como buenos administradores de los dones que Dios les ha dado.

Ser un administrador bueno es una parte básica de la vida de fe de cada Católico Romano. La corresponsabilidad nos pone en contacto con el hecho que un Dios amante quien nos ha dado todo lo que tenemos. Una manera que podemos demostrar nuestro amor a Dios y a nuestras hermanas y hermanos es intentar a ser buenos administradores.

(continúa en la página 3)

(continuado de la página 1)

como el campamento diocesano de jóvenes recién organizado en Gaspar River era una manera de ayudar a los inmigrantes a sentirse más acogidos, y como dijo el Obispo John, "...a traer gente de todos lados a un solo lugar y no tener dos reinos sino una alianza de paz." También nos exhortó a todos a tener en mente a los Americanos Nativos quienes realmente dieron la bienvenida a nuestros antepasados aquí cuando éramos familias inmigrantes de otros países. Este tema del hecho que todos somos descendientes de familias inmigrantes a este país se actuó más tarde en el día cuando Patti Murphy guió a las 150 personas (o más) reunidos en hablar de su ascendencia como inmigrantes de primera, segunda, tercera, o cuarta generación.

El Obispo John nos recordó que todos somos conciudadanos y miembros de la familia de Dios, como enseñó San Pablo. Esto es una fuente de nuestra unidad, que todos somos preciosos a los ojos de Dios. El Obispo John luego nos hizo un dibujo, la imagen que Dios quiere que seamos: "Somos un cuerpo," dijo el Obispo John, "cada parte es igual a la otra parte. Todos somos los hijos preciosos de Dios y llamados a amar los unos a los otros."

"Somos conscientes de las diferencias que pueden estorbar la unidad," dijo el Obispo John. "No podemos hacer esto (hacer el dibujo de Dios) en grupos separados o individuos. Hacemos este viaje como un cuerpo. No podemos permitir que nuestras diferencias vengán entre nosotros. Tenemos que trabajar para venir juntos como un cuerpo para hacer la voluntad de Dios y tratarnos con respeto. La Misa es la fuente y la cumbre de la vida entera del cristiano. ¿Qué mejor manera hay de empezar esta Celebración de la Migración y nuestro crecimiento en la fe, que unidos en el amor?"

Durante la tarde, los participantes compartieron una comida deliciosa, bailaron, y disfrutaron de ver los bailes tradicionales de diferentes culturas. Había tiempo para simplemente conversar y de compartir cuentos. Este reportero conversó con un joven mientras se pararon en el agua del Gaspar River y miraron los pececillos de boca chiquilla nadar por debajo de las rocas. Logramos comunicarnos aunque no hablamos el mismo idioma. Mientras él compartió algunas de sus experiencias conmigo, me puse a pensar como había dejado a su casa, su familia, y la mayoría de sus posesiones al venir para acá. Me pregunté mientras hablamos, "¿Me puedo imaginar tal cual como soy, sin todas mis cosas? ¿Qué tipo de persona soy? ¿Qué hubiera sido mi razón de estar en este lugar adentro de Los Estados Unidos? ¿Cómo me hubieran recibido? ¿Sobre qué cosas les platicaría? ¿Quién me hablaría a mí, especialmente si hablara un lenguaje diferente que la gente nativa?"

Una Celebración de Migración es una cosa buena. Trae a aquellos que se reunieron a celebrar nuestros raíces a ser conscientes que somos mucho más semejantes que diferentes.



Patti Murphy, la organizadora del evento, da una introducción para la parte de diversión de la celebración. En el fondo, pueden ver colgadas muchas banderas de diferentes países, que dieron color y ambiente al evento, Foto por Susan Warrell.



El Obispo John McRaith celebró la Santa Misa para iniciar la Celebración Diocesana de la Inmigración en el Centro Católico de Retiros de Gaspar River el 25 de agosto. Este foto se tomó durante el momento del ofertorio. Foto por Susan Warrell.

(continuado de la página 2)

Tengo confianza que estos cuatro necesidades van a ayudar a esta diócesis para llevar acabo la misión de la Iglesia, y tengo la confianza igual que la Iglesia – el pueblo de Dios de Kentucky del Oeste —va a realizar estas necesidades siendo buenos administradores.

Hablando en términos de dinero, la meta para esta campaña capital diocesana ha sido puesta a 9 millones de dólares. Aunque es mucho dinero, la campaña busca aportar económicamente a ministerios esenciales de la Iglesia. Sé que si todos participamos en la mejor medida según nuestras habilidades como buenos administradores, se puede lograr esta meta para la misión de la Iglesia.

Ante todo lo demás, les pido sus oraciones. Juntos oremos que se haga la voluntad de Dios y que con la ayuda de Dios podemos hacer una diferencia en cumplir con las necesidades de hoy y realizar la misión del futuro.

Van a estar oyendo mucho más sobre la campaña capital diocesana, *Respondiendo a las Necesidades de Hoy y la Visión de Mañana*, en los meses por venir, pero quise compartir al menos un poco con ustedes en este momento.

Que todos seamos buenos administradores de los dones de Dios como El quiere que seamos, para que tengamos siempre en mente la necesidad de ser agradecidos por lo que tenemos y dispuestos a compartir los dones de Dios con los demás, incluyendo con nuestros hermanos y hermanas de la Diócesis de Owensboro – la Iglesia de Kentucky del Oeste.

Que la bendición de Dios esté con todos ustedes.

Sinceramente en Cristo.

John J. McRaith

El Más Reverendo John J. McRaith
Obispo de la Diócesis de Owensboro



La Comunidad de Beaver Dam Despida al Hermano David Henley

Por Luis Ajú

Como amigo y compañero del Hno. David en la labor misionera, quiero escribir acerca de nuestra trayectoria. Yo, como un trabajador Multicultural de los Misioneros de Glenmary en el área rural de la Diócesis de Little Rock, AR (Hamburg y Crosset) y mi familia tuvimos la oportunidad de conocer al Hno. David en su proceso de formación del noviciado. Al pasar el tiempo, noté en él, el espíritu de servicio en la caridad hacia los más necesitados de esa área. Estaba seguro que seguiría explorando la llamada de Dios en su corazón y llegar a ser un buen misionero por vocación. En ese año terminó su noviciado y profesó sus primeros votos temporales con su comunidad, después de un tiempo fue enviado por sus superiores a terminar sus estudios en Owensboro KY. Al mismo tiempo inició su tarea de hacer misión en la comunidad del Santo Redentor aquí en KY por 6 años. Felizmente terminó su tiempo en esta área y fue nombrado a seguir sirviendo en la Comunidad Católica de Denville, AR.

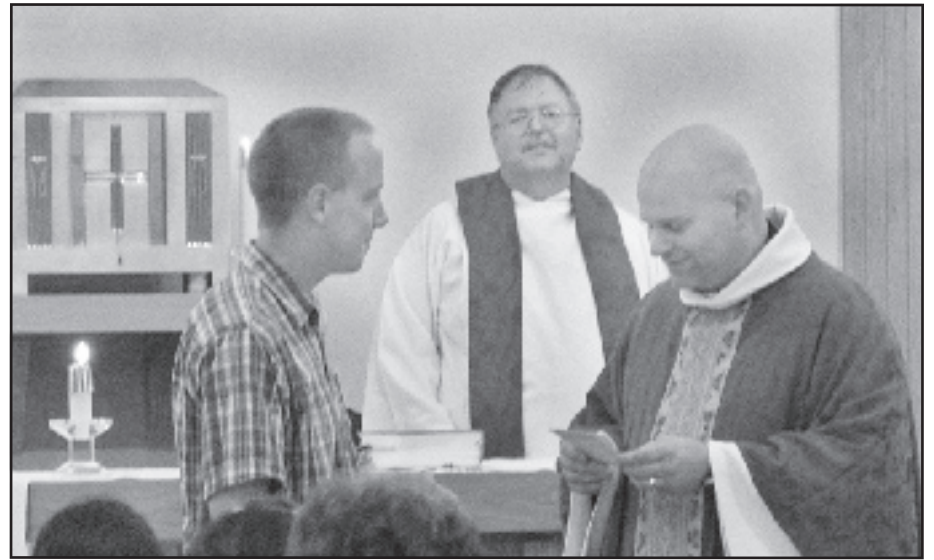
Estamos seguros de que la experiencia del Hermano David como misionero ha sido fortalecida con la gracia de Dios y la oración de esta comunidad. Por lo tanto, su trabajo en su nueva misión brillara, para inspirar a otros jóvenes a seguir sus pasos como buen hermano.

Por eso, la comunidad que deja, se queda triste pero también feliz porque participó en su aprendizaje a servir al hermano pobre y necesitado.

Parte de su despedida fue la gran alegría de las Confirmaciones de la parroquia. Felicitamos a los padres y padrinos y al Hno. David por su enseñanza a este grupo. Por eso la comunidad le brindó la comida de despedida con los tamales, arroz, frijoles, tortillas y chile, así que, se va lleno y con música para iniciar la otra página de su vida.



El Hermano David fue padrino de un candidato de confirmación. Los que recibieron el sacramento fueron: Diego Lopez Gregorio, Isabela Jose Perez, Gaspar Martin Alonzo, Ana Ramos Garcia, Victor Alonzo Perez, Domingo Alonzo Pablo, Juana Casteneda Pablo, Foto por Tami Schneider.



El Padre Eric Riley lee una oración para bendecir al Hermano David. Esa bendición fue parte de una misa de despedida para el Hermano, que fue transferido a Arkansas después de servir por seis años en la Comunidad Católica de Beaver Dam. La pequeña iglesia estuvo llenísima para la misa. Incluso, varias familias se quedaron paradas atrás. Después de la misa, todos disfrutaron una cena muy rica y escucharon música. Foto por Tami Schneider

La Comunidad Hispana de la Iglesia Católica del Santo Redentor de la Diócesis de Owensboro KY, con diferentes expresiones cada familia dio al Hermano David un profundo agradecimiento con palabras, lágrimas, y alegría, por haberlo conocido y haber llegado a ser parte de las familias con quienes sirvió como misionero. Con lágrimas porque nos deja y se va a su nueva misión. Físicamente nos dejará, pero estará con nosotros en nuestras oraciones.

La misión del Glenmary en esta comunidad se terminó, porque la filosofía de la orden es hacer e iniciar la presencia Católica en el área rural donde no existe. En este caso particular, la presencia, el acompañamiento y el amor a los necesitados se ha dado y ellos tomarán una responsabilidad en continuar con esta noble labor. De parte de la Diócesis de Owensboro y de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano, le decimos al Hno. David mil gracias por su trabajo único, que tuvimos el honor de ser parte de ese servicio. Adelante Hermano David, y que Dios lo Bendiga hoy y siempre.

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: Larry Abel, Chair, Ms. June Bell, Vice-Chair, Dr. Charles Bohle, Sr. Vivian Bowles, OSU, Ms. Susan Clark, Rev. Pat Connell, Mr. William Craig, Jr., Dr. Carroll Howard, Sr. Eula Johnson, SCN, Sr. Jacinta Powers, OSU, y Rev. Pat Reynolds. Ms. Louanne Gelarden sirve como enlace entre el Obispo y el Comité de Revisión.

A cualquier persona que quiera comunicar con el Comité de Revisión Diocesano se le pide que llame al Centro Pastoral Católico al 1-270-683-1545 y pregunte por un miembro del Comité de Revisión. Si quiere hablar con un miembro particular del Comité, lo puede mencionar a la recepcionista. En cualquier caso, la recepcionista en el Centro Pastoral Católico entregará la información de la persona que llamó al Comité de Revisión para seguimiento. Los que llaman pueden escoger mantenerse anónimos para la primera llamada a la recepcionista del Centro Pastoral Católico. No se harán públicos los números telefónicos de los miembros del Comité.

También pueden comunicarse con el Comité por email al: reviewboard@pastoral.org. 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.

¡Fiesta!

Por: Diane Beeckler
Traducido por: Tami Schneider
Photos by: Catherine Grapes

El primero de Septiembre trajo vistas y sonidos de la Segunda Fiesta Mexicana Anual al vecindario alrededor de la iglesia de Cristo Rey en Scottsville, KY. Dios nos bendijo con tiempo excelente y muchos clientes muy hambrientos. Comieron cada gota de carne asada tan sabrosa, mole de pollo, tacos de carne, frijoles, tortillas y arroz. Los que llegaron a comer disfrutaron con mucho entusiasmo los postres y las bebidas auténticos.

Los niños tomaron turnos pegando la piñata y compartieron los resultados, los dulces, con muchos de los presentes.

Después de la cena, nos divertimos con música autentica por Juan Manuel Martínez de Clarksville, KY, el cuñado de la



Juan Manuel Martínez canta a toda voz durante la Fiesta Mexicana en Clarksville, KY. Foto por Catherine Grapes.

familia López. Sus canciones bonitas se oyeron por todo el área hasta el anochecer.

Todos nosotros de la parroquia de Cristo Rey debemos mucho agradecimiento a Tina Moser, Verónica López y Maria González por todo su trabajo duro en preparar y llevar acabo este evento muy exitoso. Gracias también a varios miembros de la parroquia quienes echaron una mano para ayudar con los trabajos necesarios. Todos los procedimientos de este evento van hacia nuestro Fondo de Construcción. Estamos acercándonos más y más al pago inicial requerido para empezar la construcción de nuestra nueva iglesia. Quizá la tercera y definitivamente la cuarta Fiesta Mexicana Anual celebraremos en el nuevo edificio.

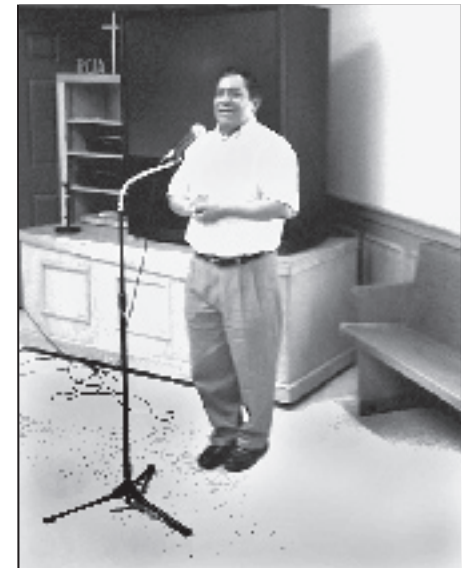


Tina Moser trabaja en la cocina para que todos disfrutaran la comida Mexicana auténtica. Foto por Catherine Grapes.



Luis Ajú, el nuevo Director Diocesano del Ministerio Hispano, ha estado viajando por toda la diócesis visitando las parroquias con comunidades hispanas. Arriba, se encuentra con el Comité Hispano de San José en Bowling Green, KY. A la derecha, dirige unas palabras a la comunidad de Holy Name in Henderson, KY.

Abajo, una familia de San Miguel en Sebree se sienta en una banca para descansar durante el picnic anual de las Ursulinas en Mount St. Joseph. De izquierda a derecha son: Angel Gabriel Martínez, Maria Martínez, Beverly Martínez, Rosa Rosales, Elidad Rosales, Ursina Martínez, Jasmine Rosales y Noe Rosales. Fotos sometidos.



¡Celebremos!

DÍA DEL SACERDOCIO

Domingo, 28 de Octubre, 2007



LA EXPERIENCIA DE
VIVIR LA FELICIDAD EN
TU MATRIMONIO CON
JESUS, FUENTE DEL
AMOR

MATRIMONIOS EN VICTORIA

La Parroquia de St. Joseph
te invita a participar
en un retiro para parejas.*

Fecha: 3 y 4 de Noviembre del 2007

Lugar: Gasper River, Bowling Green, KY

Retiro impartido por predicadores
internacionales del movimiento católico de
Matrimonios en Victoria.

Más información en las oficinas Parroquiales
todos los Martes y Jueves de 8 a.m. a 11 a.m.

Teléfono: (270) 746-9696

*Matrimonios o parejas que no tengan impedimento para casarse.



Horario de Octubre 2007 del Obispo McRaith

- 1 USCCB 2007 *Estatutos* Auditoria de Conformidad de la diócesis
- 2 USCCB 2007 *Estatutos* Auditoria de Conformidad de la diócesis
- 3 USCCB 2007 *Estatutos* Auditoria de Conformidad de la diócesis
- 4 USCCB 2007 *Estatutos* Auditoria de Conformidad de la diócesis
- 4 Reunión del Personal, CPC, 9am
- 5 USCCB 2007 *Estatutos* Auditoria de Conformidad de la diócesis
- 7 Misa en celebración del 60 aniversario de Rosary Chapel, Paducah, 2pm
- 14 Congreso Mariano, Santuario Mariano, Iglesia de San José, Bowling Green, 2-5pm
- 15 Reunión del Personal de Sacerdotes, CPC, 9:30am
- 15 Reunión del Concilio Sacerdotal, CPC, 1:30pm
- 16 Reunión del Comité del Asilo de Daniel Pitino, Owensboro, 9am
- 16 Serra Cena de Apreciación de las Sacerdotes, KC Hall, Sorgho, 6pm
- 17 Reunión del Comité de Administración Diocesana, CPC, 8:30am
- 18 Reunión del Personal, CPC, 9am
- 18 KCC Servicio de Oración Ecuménico, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, 7pm
- 18 KCC 60th Asamblea Anual General, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, 9:30am-?
- 19 KCC 60th Asamblea Anual General, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, hasta mediodía
- 20 Una Vez Más Con Amor, CPC, Owensboro
- 20 Primeras Profesiones, Hermana Mary Andrew, Passionist Monastery, 1:30pm
- 21 Candidatura de Daniel Dillard, Parroquia de Holy Name, Henderson, 11:30am
- 21 Picnic para Familias Adoptivas, San Rafael, 2pm
- 22 Retiro de Sacerdotes, Lake Barkley State Resort Park, 3pm
- 23 Retiro de Sacerdotes, Lake Barkley State Resort Park
- 24 Retiro de Sacerdotes, Lake Barkley State Resort Park
- 25 Retiro de Sacerdotes, Lake Barkley State Resort Park
- 26 Retiro de Sacerdotes, Lake Barkley State Resort Park
- 27 Misa de Celebración para la Instalación del nuevo Presidente de Brescia,
el Padre Larry Hostetter, S.T.D., Catedral, 10:30am
- 27 Instalación del nuevo Presidente, el Padre Larry Hostetter, S.T.D., Brescia, 2pm
- 28 Cena de Serra de Vocaciones Religiosas, KC Hall, Paducah, 4pm

Arriba, el Padre José Carmelo Jimenez Salinas lleva en brazos un bebé. Este foto se tomó durante la celebración diocesana de los inmigrantes. Allí pudimos ver a varios sacerdotes dando buen ejemplo de su vocación. Foto por Susan Warrell.

**LES INVITAMOS CORDIALMENTE A
EXPERIMENTAR**

LA HOSPITALIDAD HISPANA

EL DOMINGO, 21 DE OCTUBRE

Se servirá un banquete a las 5:00 y a las 6:30 p.m.

La diversión incluirá **BAILES FOLKLORICOS**
Y una **BANDA FAMILIAR MEXICANA de SEBREE.**
ADULTOS y ADOLESCENTES- \$8, NIÑOS 6-12, \$4
NIÑOS MENORES DE 5 AÑOS, GRATIS.

**VENGAN a DISFRUTAR con la
COMUNIDAD!**

**VAN a ENCONTRAR LAS MANOS y
LOS CORAZONES ABIERTOS de la
COMUNIDAD HISPANA!**

Los procedimientos ayudarán a cubrir los gastos operativos del Centro Latino y el Ministerio Hispano en la Parroquia de Santos José y Pablo.