

THE WESTERN
KENTUCKY



Catholic

CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

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Christ remains

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St. Lucy reunion

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Benediction in the air

On Dec. 21, 2021, Bishop William F. Medley blesses the communities impacted by the tornadoes that hit western Kentucky the night of Dec. 10. [Page 6](#)

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Front page photo by Elizabeth Wong Barnstead | WKC

Submissions

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

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

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

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A Word From Bishop Medley

Editor's note: On Dec. 3, 2021, this letter from Bishop William F. Medley was sent out to all parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro regarding the Synod on Synodality.

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On October 10, Pope Francis inaugurated a two-year synodal process which will culminate in a universal Synod scheduled to take place in Rome in October 2023. The following Sunday, October 17, the synodal process was inaugurated in every diocese of the world by every bishop with a celebration at their cathedral church.

"Synod" comes from two Greek words that mean "journeying together." Admittedly, the words "synod", "synodal", and "synodality" are not terribly familiar to us. Yet, they find their foundations in the ancient Church itself. Synods have been held throughout the history of the Church and have traditionally consisted of a coming together of a group of bishops from various regions of the world, representing the people of God of their dioceses, in order to address some particular issue facing the Church.

This current experience of synod is unique in that Pope Francis is intending this process of "journeying together" be expanded to include all the baptized members of the Church. The level of listening to which our Holy Father is calling us is unprecedented. Millions of voices will be heard!

Pope Francis explains that this synodal path is not about gathering opinions but listening to the Holy Spirit. It is not about administering a survey designed to change the Church's doctrines or disciplines according to popular opinions, but to call the Church to ongoing conversion and deeper communion with each other and with God. At its core, this

synodal process is about listening to one another so that we might better listen to the Holy Spirit.

It is with this in mind that we begin the synodal process in the Diocese of Owensboro. During the months of January and February, 2022, each parish is encouraged to host listening sessions to which you will be invited. You will be asked to reflect on questions about your personal experience of the church and how the Church lives its mission to proclaim Christ. You will reflect upon the things you treasure most about our Church as well as the things that distress or pain you. A key component of the listening will include ways to bring to the table the voices of those who are easily ignored or marginalized. The Holy Spirit lives and works through all the Baptized, so we cannot afford to exclude anyone from the process.

In March, I will be traveling the Diocese hosting regional listening sessions. Please make plans to attend. I want to hear the fruits of your parish listening so that I can communicate that to the United States Conference of Bishops for the next phase of listening to happen on a continental level.

While it will be possible to electronically submit your individual reflections and contributions, I strongly encourage you to take part in your parish listening session in person and then to join me in March at a regional listening session. I am certain that participation in this synodal path to which the Holy Father has called us will bear much fruit in the life of our diocese.

To learn more about the synod in the Diocese of

BISHOP MEDLEY'S CALENDAR JANUARY 2022

Please note: The following program dates are subject to change or cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

JAN 1	9 a.m. Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral Cathedral – Owensboro
JAN 7	5 p.m. Grace Marriage Dinner – Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum, Owensboro
JAN 9-13	Region V Bishops' Retreat – New Orleans, La.
JAN 17-20	Diocese of Owensboro Priests' Convocation – St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, St. Meinrad, Ind.
JAN 20	6 p.m. Review Board Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
JAN 22	9 a.m. Pro-life Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral – Owensboro 4 p.m. Confirmation – Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson
JAN 24	5 p.m. Diocesan Finance Council Meeting – McRaith Catholic Center, Owensboro
JAN 25	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Paducah Office – Mercy Health-Lourdes Hospital, Paducah
JAN 26	Catholics at the Capitol – Frankfort
JAN 31	8 a.m. Mass – Holy Name of Jesus School, Henderson 1 p.m. Mass – John Paul II Catholic School, Morganfield

Owensboro, visit the diocese's website at www.owensborodiocese.org/synod. Please make plans now to participate, and join me in keeping our diocesan journey in your prayers by praying the Prayer for the Synod on Synodality:

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do

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3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

December 12th, 2021

Most Reverend
José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President of the U.S.C.C.B.
3211 Fourth Street NE
WASHINGTON, DC – 200017-1194

Your Excellency:

I forward you the following message of condolences for the victims caused by the tornadoes that have hit Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Illinois last Friday, transmitted by His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin on behalf of the His Holiness Pope Francis.

THE MOST REVEREND JOSÉ H. GOMEZ
ARCHBISHOP OF LOS ANGELES
PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.C.C.B.

THE HOLY FATHER WAS SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF THE TORNADOES THAT STRUCK THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN UNITED STATES IN THESE DAYS. HE OFFERS HEARTFELT PRAYERS THAT ALMIGHTY GOD WILL GRANT ETERNAL PEACE TO THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, COMFORT TO THOSE WHO MOURN THEIR LOSS, AND STRENGTH TO ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THIS IMMENSE TRAGEDY. WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF THE RESCUE WORKERS AND ALL ENGAGED IN CARING FOR THE INJURED, THE GRIEVING FAMILIES AND THOSE LEFT HOMELESS, POPE FRANCIS INVOKES UPON ALL ENGAGED IN THE MASSIVE WORK OF RELIEF AND REBUILDING THE LORD'S GIFTS OF STRENGTH AND GENEROUS PERSEVERANCE IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN
SECRETARY OF STATE

Offering my personal prayers and heartfelt condolences, with warm regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


✠ Christophe PIERRE
Apostolic Nuncio

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not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Praying for God's richest blessings for each of you. ■

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Diocese of Owensboro



If you have not made your gift to the Disciples Response Fund, you can do so by simply scanning this code with your phone. Thank you for your generosity!



Flying over western Ky., Bishop Medley provides unique blessing to his people impacted by tornado outbreak

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Bishop William F. Medley wanted to bless his people who had been in the path of the tornadoes that struck western Kentucky during the night of Dec. 10, 2021, and with the help of a local pastor, some Knights of Columbus, and an airplane, he did just that.

On Dec. 21, the bishop flew over the southern regions of the Diocese of Owensboro with a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament, blessing all below who had been impacted by the tornadoes.

A week before, the bishop had driven 400 miles to visit the affected locations, including Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield, the Princeton area and the Bowling Green area.

But seeing the damage from above, “it is a different perspective. A God’s-eye view if you will,” he said. “It was staggering to see what happened to people’s lives and knowing all that would have to be rebuilt.”

The Eucharistic fly-over idea was initiated by Daniel Schachle, the general agent for the Knights of Columbus insurance program for Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and small part of Virginia. He has his pilot’s license and Piper Archer plane, and did a similar fly-over blessing for the Diocese of Nashville after tornadoes struck the region in early 2020.

One of his field agents, Leonard Walther, belongs to St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green.

“Daniel called me and said hey, do you want to see if we could do this for the Owensboro diocese with the bishop?” said Walther in a Dec. 22 phone call with *The Western Kentucky Catholic*.

He talked with his pastor, Fr. Ryan Harpole, who contacted Martha Hagan, the diocesan vice-chancellor and assistant to Bishop Medley.

The bishop agreed to the idea immediately, and the flight was scheduled for the following week.

The plane took off around 11:15 a.m. from Mid America Jet in Owensboro as Bishop Medley led a prayer for a safe flight, asking for the intercession of Our Lady of Loreto, one of the patrons of airplane pilots and aviation.

(Coincidentally, the feast of Our Lady of Loreto is Dec. 10 – the date of the tornado outbreak.)

They flew over Madisonville first, where parishioners and volunteers at Christ the King Parish and School had set up a community resource center in the gym to help the displaced and suffering.

Lifting the monstrance to his window, the bishop prayed aloud that “our Holy Mother would watch over them and guide them in the ways of goodness and truth.”

Fr. Harpole said the monstrance was borrowed from Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center just outside of Bowling Green, since the



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC
(Left to right) Daniel Schachle, Bishop William F. Medley and Fr. Ryan Harpole of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green. Schachle piloted the plane that took Bishop Medley across the Diocese of Owensboro on Dec. 21, 2021 to bless the communities impacted by the historic tornadoes.

small size was better for traveling in the small private plane.

The harsh paths of destruction were evident from the air. Often the first sign of a tornado touchdown was a thick column of smoke from debris being burned. After the smoke, either lines of flattened trees and buildings, or rows of roofs covered with bright blue tarps, indicated that a tornado had come through the area.

The bishop gave a Eucharistic blessing while flying over Dawson Springs, Princeton and Mayfield. He also led a benediction for the inmates while flying over Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville,

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ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

(Left image) On Dec. 21, 2021, Bishop William F. Medley blesses the communities impacted by the tornadoes that hit western Kentucky the night of Dec. 10. (Right image) Pilot Daniel Schachle assists Bishop William F. Medley in boarding Schachle's Piper Archer plane on Dec. 21, 2021, prior to the flight during which Bishop Medley would bless the communities impacted by the historic tornadoes.

because “those men deserve a blessing too.”

Bishop Medley held the monstrance against his window and prayed “may God bless them and give them grace.”

The plane returned to Owensboro around 2:30 p.m.

Schachle, who resides in Dickson, Tenn., said a tornado had passed near his family's home but the house was fine. (Besides hitting Kentucky, the tornadoes also dragged across Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and Illinois.)

“There are no words that can cover” helping Bishop Medley bless the diocese in this unique way, said Schachle.

Schachle himself is no stranger to powerful spiritual experiences. His youngest son, Michael, was miraculously healed in utero from the fatal condition of fetal hydrops through the intercession of Knights of Columbus founder, Fr. Michael McGivney. That approved miracle paved the way to Fr. McGivney being beatified in October 2020.

“It is surreal every time I do this,” said Schachle of the Eucharistic fly-over. “I think bringing Christ to the people is the best way I can help.”

Walther said this was a “great opportunity,” not only for Bishop Medley to “see” his people from above, but to also “bless his people that way.”

He added that he is thankful for all the people who have reached out from across the country to help Kentuckians, but “I hope that it continues when all the media has gone.”

“We've got a lot of immediate needs met, but people are still going to be hurting in one month, two months, six months and beyond,” said Walther.

He pointed out that the steeple and cross – destroyed by the 2020 Tennessee tornadoes – were only just reattached to the top of the Church of the Assumption in downtown Nashville on Dec. 16.

“This is not a short term thing,” he said.

A tornado came through just a mile from Walther's home, which was unscathed, but he said some friends were not so fortunate and lost their houses.

“We don't know what's going to come of this all,” he said, but “as Catholics, we need people to see that this is what we believe – that we can take from the tragedy and turn it into a blessing.” ■

‘Pray for us – and don’t forget about us in a month’ plead communities hit with historic Kentucky tornadoes



RILEY GREIF | WKC

The intact statue of the risen Christ on the outside of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs is seen Dec. 15, 2021.



COURTESY OF DAVE KAMINSKI

Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs is seen in 2016.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The creaking sound of the swaying chains was eerie.

What usually held the red candle above the tabernacle at Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs was now an empty metal structure suspended by chains, spinning in the cold December wind but not quite hitting the damaged walls on either side of it.

Hank and Lesley Mills, driving to check on the

church around 6:30 a.m. on Dec. 11, had discovered Resurrection was among the devastation – and that the Blessed Sacrament had made it through the storm in the sturdy tabernacle.

“I’ve never seen anything like this in my life,” Lelsey Mills told *The Western Kentucky Catholic* on Dec. 15.

Resurrection’s Dcn. Mike Marsili and his wife, Ashley, had come by not long after. Dcn. Marsili carefully removed the Eucharist from the tabernacle

standing intact where walls had been ripped away, exposing the tabernacle to the elements. He later placed the Eucharist in the parish’s secondary tabernacle used for the Altar of Repose during the Triduum.

Right now the tabernacle, along with lots of other church furniture, is being kept at the Marsilis’ house, which survived the storms without any damage.

Resurrection is just one of the many buildings destroyed by the tornadoes that hit western Kentucky

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RILEY GREIF | WKC

(Left to right) Beri Zaparanick, Michelle Zaparanick-Brown and Ashley Marsili clean up debris, including pieces of stained-glass windows, at Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs on Dec. 15, 2021.

during the night of Dec. 10, setting records as the worst tornado outbreak in both state and U.S. history.

But for Dcn. Marsili, it is like losing another home.

As a child growing up in a non-practicing family that had just moved to the Dawson Springs area, he had been invited to attend Mass by some parishioners at Resurrection. The rest was history – and Dcn. Marsili credits that invitation to ultimately leading him to enter the permanent diaconate.

Dcn. Marsili said he is grateful for everyone who is helping their hurting community.

“The state police, the National Guard, the military have all been unfailingly polite and helpful,” said Dcn. Marsili. “The Amish and Mennonite com-

munities have been amazing, coming in day after day (to clean up). Everything they can do, they’re doing.”

He said one of their sister parishes, Immaculate Conception in Earlington, (who shares pastor Fr. David Kennedy with them and Holy Cross Parish in Providence), told Resurrection that they would take care of their bills for the time being.

Parishioners Jeff and Laura Smith, who live just outside Dawson Springs and did not experience any damages, have opened their doors for neighbors to shower, and even have some people staying at their home for now.

“No one at our parish was seriously injured, though one parishioner lost her house as she stood in her hallway,” said Jeff Smith.

Michelle Zaparanick-Brown, who today lives in



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Fr. Carl McCarthy, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Madisonville, works with parishioner Camryn LaGrange at the parish’s gym-turned community resource center, on Dec. 15, 2021.

Versailles, Ky., had traveled to Dawson Springs on Friday with her sister and daughter to visit with her parents, Resurrection parishioners Beri and David Zaparanick, and do some Christmas baking.

They rode out the tornado together that night.

“It was so windy,” said Zaparanick-Brown, “and such a loud, loud noise.”

The Zaparanicks, like most in Dawson Springs, lost power, but have since received a generator.

Not far from Dawson Springs, Christ the King Parish in Madisonville has been a hub of activity as volunteers – most of them teenagers – operate a gym transformed into a community resource center.

The leader of the initiative is Madisonville North Hopkins High School senior Camryn LaGrange.

LaGrange told the WKC that she asked for vol-

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RILEY GREIF | WKC

Following the tornadoes that struck during the night of Dec. 10, 2021, the destroyed bell tower at St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield is seen on Dec. 15, 2021. The former school building behind the church took the brunt of the storms.

unteers at the Dec. 11 Saturday night vigil Mass at Christ the King, and the efforts exploded into a massive community-service production.

Besides offering clothing, toiletries and other essentials, the Madisonville volunteers have been giving out lots of generators and also mattresses – for people staying safely with loved ones but who lack something to actually sleep on.

“It’s the people who have made this amazing,” said LaGrange, who has organized several other teen community-service projects in the past.

Fr. Carl McCarthy, Christ the King’s pastor, said the volunteers and donations have him “overwhelmed.”

“We couldn’t do it without Camryn,” he said, adding that “we are here for the long haul.”

Lesley Mills – who happens to be Christ the King School’s principal – has stayed busy by volunteering with Christ the King’s community service. She and her husband, who live just outside Dawson Springs, did lose power, but her focus is on those who were hit harder.

She said they have been inundated with donations, so right now what the community needs the most is “lots of prayers – and don’t forget about us in two weeks, or a month... and not just us, but also Princeton, Bremen, Mayfield, Bowling Green...”

St. Paul Parish in Princeton, and its sister parish, St. Mark in Eddyville, escaped the storms without any issues. But pastor Fr. Jojoy Joseph, HGN, spent the night in the parish hall basement at St. Paul, after receiving multiple texts from parishioners warn-



COURTESY OF DAVE KAMINSKI

St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield, complete with its bell tower, is seen in 2017.

ing him to get to a safe place.

He heard a tornado pass not far from the parish hall.

“After 10-15 minutes, I stopped getting messages,” said Fr. Joseph of the power and cell outage that happened. “Everyone except Fr. Greg Trawick,” who was able to keep texting him.

Later, he would learn that the parish’s Dcn. Paul Bachi had survived the storms but lost his home, and five parishioners lost their homes, too.

About an hour down the road, the people of St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield have started operating a resource center out of their parish hall to provide supplies to those who were impacted.

Even though the parish property lost power – and the church itself was badly damaged – the St. Joseph

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RILEY GREIF | WKC

Women of St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield prepare food on Dec. 15, 2021 to share with those who were impacted by the tornadoes that struck the area during the night of Dec. 10, 2022.



RILEY GREIF | WKC

The parish hall at St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield is filled with donations for people impacted by the tornadoes.

community could not ignore the need surrounding them.

Alfredo “Freddy” Gonzalez has been coordinating the parish’s efforts with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro to help the people of Mayfield, which was one of the worst-hit areas in the path of the tornadoes.

Gonzalez himself is Hispanic, and many of the parish volunteers are Hispanic, but he said they help anyone who comes for aid.

“Every race is involved in this,” he said. “We have to help each other.”

Fortunately, they have plenty of supplies thanks to generous donations.

“If people want to help, the best thing is to pray,” he said. “Pray for the people who have lost their families and houses.”

Gonzalez said people keep talking about how he is the “leader” of this effort, but he picked up a small pebble off the ground and said that was all he was. He credited God and his pastor, Fr. Eric Riley, for inspiring and encouraging him in these challenging times.

“I love Fr. Riley,” he said. “He has helped me a lot spiritually.”

Back at Dawson Springs, the cleanup will be a long process. The now-empty tabernacle alcove has debris scattered about from the storms, some of it not even belonging to the church.

But on an exterior wall just several feet away is a large depiction of the risen Christ, arms outstretched, reminding passersby that this is not the end of the story. ■

How to help

Monetary donations may be given digitally via

<https://owensborodiocese.org/give/>. Checks may be mailed, with “Tornado Disaster Relief” written in the memo, to Catholic Charities, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY, 42301. To learn more about ways to help, call the McRaith Catholic Center at (270) 683-1545.

Bishop Medley ‘profoundly moved’ after 400-mile trek across tornado-shattered diocese



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley speaks with Alfredo “Freddy” Gonzalez during the bishop’s Dec. 15, 2021 pastoral visit to the areas affected by the tornadoes.

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Following a 400-mile road trip on Dec. 15, 2021 across his tornado-ravaged Diocese of Owensboro in western Kentucky, Bishop William F. Medley said he will not forget the destruction, “but what will stay with me are the people I saw.”

The tornadoes that also hit Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and Illinois during the night of Dec. 10 broke records as the worst tornado event in both Kentucky history and in U.S. history.

The Diocese of Owensboro’s 78-parish region bore the majority of the disaster out of any other U.S. diocese. The effects include the destroyed Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs, severely-damaged St. Joseph Parish in Mayfield and multiple parishes without power.

The number is still unknown in terms of just how many parishioners lost their homes in the nighttime devastation.

Bishop Medley considered it essential to drive out as soon as possible to his suffering diocese. Not only to see the impact firsthand, but also because practically speaking, the widespread power and internet outages at the time prevented digital communication with many areas.

The bishop left Owensboro at 7:30 a.m. that day, stopping first at Madisonville where Christ the King Parish and School was operating a community resource center out of its gym. After that, he visited Dawson Springs to see the damage at Resurrection and speak with several parishioners and Dcn. Mike Marsili.

He then traveled to Princeton, where Fr. Jojy Joseph, HGN, narrowly avoided the tornadoes while staying in St. Paul’s parish hall basement. The parish campus was damage-free, as was Fr. Joseph’s other parish of St. Mark in Eddyville, but he reported that multiple parishioners, including Dcn. Paul Bachi, had lost their homes in the storms.

The next stop was Mayfield, where the people of St. Joseph Parish were operating a similar community resource center – despite the damage to their church. St. Joseph’s church bell tower had been knocked down by the tornado, but a worse impact was prevented by the buffer of the former school building beside it.

After meeting with the people of St. Joseph Parish, Bishop Medley traveled more than two hours to meet with the priests of Bowling Green, who serve St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, and the Catholic campus center at Western Kentucky University.

There, he heard from the priests – and several parishioners and seminarians – about the serious impact to Bowling Green and the surrounding areas.

Chris Durbin, a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish, said a tornado took the roof off his house, but he has been moved by everyone who has shown up to help him and others who experienced loss.

“People have their physical needs met,” he said, but added that in light of the devastation experienced and witnessed by many local people, “what they will need is counseling, or some spiritual type of help.”

Fr. Randy Howard, pastor of Holy Spirit, echoed that “immediate needs seem to be satisfied,” but that as a parish community they are starting to look into

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Fr. Jamie Dennis reunites with blind Catholic community to celebrate 2021 St. Lucy Mass

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

The blind Catholic community is “very small,” according to Fr. Jamie Dennis of Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro – so he enjoys being around “other like-minded people,” such as his recent opportunity to once again celebrate the annual St. Lucy Mass for clients and friends of Xavier Society for the Blind.

Xavier Society for the Blind has provided free braille and audio books to blind and visually impaired people worldwide for them to understand and practice their Catholic faith for more than 120 years. St. Lucy is a patron saint of blind people, and her feast day is Dec. 13.

Last year, the in-person celebration was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so Fr. Dennis livestreamed the St. Lucy Mass from his parish.

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COURTESY OF THE XAVIER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
Fr. Jamie Dennis, parochial vicar of Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro, lifts the chalice during the St. Lucy Mass at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City on Dec. 13, 2021 – Xavier Society for the Blind’s first in-person celebration since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

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long-term needs for people, such as cleanup and insurance concerns.

His parochial vicar, Fr. Stephen Van Lal Than, said a leader in the local Burmese community had their home destroyed, and other local Burmese families are overwhelmed with the shock of what they have experienced.

And yet, “you see the best of people come out when something like this happens,” said Fr. How-

ard, affirming the community-oriented spirit of Bowling Green.

Fr. Ryan Harpole, pastor of St. Joseph, agreed.

“It seems because of Covid that people have been locked up and wanting to do something meaningful,” he said.

After his visit to Bowling Green, Bishop Medley told the WKC that the significance was not lost on him that Dec. 15 was also the 12th anniversary of his appointment as bishop of the Diocese of Ow-

ensboro. He said he could not imagine what he would have thought if someone had told him that over a decade later, he would be driving around western Kentucky to visit his diocese shattered by historic tornadoes.

That being said, the bishop was “profoundly moved” by his conversations with the clergy and people of the parishes he visited that day, “people who instinctively know what the Gospel message means. What it means to be a shepherd in this moment.” ■

St. Lucy Mass continued from page 12



COURTESY OF THE XAVIER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

Fr. Jamie Dennis, parochial vicar of Blessed Mother Parish in Owensboro, distributes Holy Communion during the St. Lucy Mass at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City on Dec. 13, 2021 – Xavier Society for the Blind's first in-person celebration since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

“It was so good to actually go in-person,” said Fr. Dennis, who reunited with many of his blind Catholic friends when celebrating the Mass on Dec. 13, 2021 at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City.

Fr. Dennis told The Western Kentucky Catholic in a Dec. 17 phone conversation that he had expected 10 people to attend – and was thrilled to have “about 30 people.”

Attendees included a woman from Arizona; a couple men from Philadelphia; one of his friends from Washington, D.C.; and others from the New York and New Jersey areas. Several Xavier clients par-

ticipated as lectors.

“A friend I met at the first St. Lucy Mass (which Fr. Dennis celebrated with Xavier Society in 2016) brought his new Seeing Eye Dog and I got to bless his dog,” said Fr. Dennis.

He said he appreciated the community-building aspect of the gathering – “there were a lot of exchanges of email addresses and phone numbers” – as well as the catered Italian meal after the Mass.

Fr. Dennis said the individuals who attended the liturgy tend to be people who “like to go out and do stuff,” including a blind friend who hikes with her dog, and her boyfriend who is a sailor and also

blind.

“My friend hopes to be the first blind woman to hike the whole Appalachian trail,” said Fr. Dennis, affirming the community’s encouragement of each other to push beyond stereotypes.

Fr. Dennis said that his homily focused on challenging the congregation to continue doing things and being bold.

Back home in Owensboro, he appreciates how he has grown since his ordination in 2016. He is the Diocese of Owensboro’s first and only blind priest, and remains one of the few blind priests in the United States.

“I love Blessed Mother Parish,” said Fr. Dennis. “Fr. Mike Clark (the parish’s pastor) allows me to grow and learn at my pace. But if I need anything he’ll be there for me – and my parishioners are, too.”

He said Fr. Clark tells him “the only way you’re going to learn things is by doing them.”

Fr. Dennis traveled to New York City via train with one of his sighted Owensboro friends, Alex Reid, whose wedding Mass Fr. Dennis celebrated several years ago.

“It means a lot to us, our friends who help us,” said Fr. Dennis of the sighted community.

Plus, the two had the chance to visit New York City during Christmastime, which was “really nice” according to Fr. Dennis: “As we were talking through Times Square, I could hear all these different languages and accents being spoken.”

He was also grateful for the concerns of those attending the St. Lucy Mass who had heard about the tornadoes that devastated a significant portion of western Kentucky during the night of Dec. 10.

“They were praying for that with me,” said Fr. Dennis. ■

‘You are worth it’ – Rachel’s Vineyard retreats offered for post-abortion healing

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Megan was “at first super excited” when she learned about the concept of a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, “but as the date got closer I got nervous.”

Rachel’s Vineyard is an international program which, since its first retreat in 1995, has spread around the world with its weekend retreats that offer healing for women and men who are suffering from the effects of abortion.

Megan, who asked that her last name not be used, said she almost turned around on her way to the retreat.

But she decided to continue, and discovered that by the end of the retreat, “it was such a positive experience for me – it helped me deal with repressed emotions,” said Megan, explaining that her experience with abortion was 30 years prior.

“Coming through the retreat, I found that God forgives,” she said.

Today, Megan is part of the team with Rachel’s Vineyard of Kentucky and encourages others to consider Rachel’s Vineyard.

“I’ve always wanted to help people who were in my situation, but I didn’t know how,” said Megan, who described herself as “usually a very outgoing person.”

She said she realized “I could do this; I could make a difference in other peoples’ lives.”

Fr. Ben Cameron, CPM, a priest of the Fathers of Mercy religious community based in Auburn, Ky.,



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

A statue of Our Lady of Sorrows is seen at St. Joseph Monastery in Whitesville, where the western Kentucky Rachel’s Vineyard retreats often take place.

helped start Rachel’s Vineyard of Kentucky and is the site leader of the Western Kentucky team.

Fr. Cameron said Rachel’s Vineyard team leaders are usually lay women, but he has remained in this role since the team’s beginning in 2005. However, he knows a number of fellow priests who also serve in Rachel’s Vineyard’s healing ministry.

He explained that everyone on a Rachel’s Vineyard team must go through the multi-sensory retreat experience, even if they are not post-abortive, so that

they know what it will be like for participants.

Fr. Cameron said the retreat design can help people process other types of grief, such as miscarriages or even knowing someone else who experienced an abortion.

Everyone on the team “has had the experience of bringing grief to Christ within the context of the retreat,” he said.

Ultimately, the purpose of the retreat is “helping men and women open their hearts to Jesus Christ as

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Rachel's Vineyard continued from page 14



COURTESY OF FATHERS OF MERCY
Fr. Ben Cameron, CPM, is the site leader for Rachel's Vineyard of Western Kentucky.

the healer," he said. "It is not just emotional, but a spiritual journey of the heart."

"I've seen people come in very hardened, perhaps hateful of men, and walk out completely different," he said.

Fr. Cameron said a typical retreat has a team of six or seven people, including a facilitator, a priest, a professional therapist, a person who does the audio/visual, and one or two people who lead the readings, meditations and prayers.

A big aspect of the retreat is the "living scriptures" part, where different scriptures are read so that they can "come alive" for participants in individual ways.

He said the woman who founded Rachel's Vineyard, Dr. Theresa Karminski Burke, is Catholic, but the program actually offers two versions: a Catholic version and an interdenominational version.

In the local area, Catholic versions are offered in western Kentucky, the Lexington area, and northern Alabama/east-central Mississippi. An interdenomi-

national version is offered in the Louisville area.

Fr. Cameron said that generally, more women come than men, but it is always open to both.

"For women, the pain, the trauma, happened in their own bodies," he said. "For men, the fact that it happened outside their own body has them come less often..." but they have men and women make the retreat together.

"Hearing the men express their grief, their sorrow, helps the women," said Fr. Cameron.

They accept any retreatant 18 and older - but "there are very few on the younger end," he said. "The pain and trauma of abortion is so painful and traumatic that they bury it as part of that protection. Some women don't even remember how many abortions they had or who the father was."

Yet, "it's there and it's causing problems," which draws people to Rachel's Vineyard, said Fr. Cameron. "You're never too old to make the retreat."

He said that if someone has a person in their life with an abortion experience, "that person may be hurting deeply. They don't feel they have permission to grieve."

"Offering to go and make the retreat with them may open the door for someone - saying 'I would love to walk this with you,'" he said.

In fact, hopeafterabortionky.com, the website for Rachel's Vineyard of Kentucky, encourages people to consider inviting their spouse or support person to accompany them on the retreat.

Fr. Cameron said Rachel's Vineyard has found that many people who had abortions had also been sexually abused. Due to this high coincidence, Dr. Burke developed a sister retreat in 2005 called Grief to Grace, for individuals to find healing who have endured physical, emotional, sexual and/or spiritual abuse.

Healing and retreats

- The next Rachel's Vineyard retreats in the western Kentucky area will take place May 20-22, 2022 and Nov. 11-13, 2022. If you have questions about Rachel's Vineyard of Kentucky or post-abortion counseling, or would like to sign up for a retreat, visit <http://hopeafterabortionky.com>, call Rita at (270) 474-4707 or email retreats@hopeafterabortionky.com.
- For more information about the national Rachel's Vineyard healing ministry, post-abortion trauma and grief, visit the official Rachel's Vineyard website <http://rachelsvineyard.org>, or call 1-877-HOPE-4-ME (1-877-467-3463).
- Learn about the sister retreat program of Rachel's Vineyard, called Grief to Grace, at www.griefftograce.org.

Sometimes people bring their stories of abuse to Rachel's Vineyard and it can help them heal, "but for some, the trauma is so deep that they need something more," said Fr. Cameron.

Overall, ministering with Rachel's Vineyard has shown Fr. Cameron "some of the most powerful experiences of being a spiritual father and shepherd. It's made me so much more cognizant of the pain and trauma that people experience."

"But King Jesus can put anybody back together," he said.

Megan encouraged anyone who might need to attend a Rachel's Vineyard retreat to consider signing up.

"Don't be afraid," she said. "Because God is forgiving and he will accept you in his open arms. You are worth it. You don't need to carry around this burden anymore." ■

Pew: Catholic numbers hold steady, 'nones' rise, Protestants decrease

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The percentage of Catholics in the U.S. population in 2021 held steady at 21% in the latest Pew Research Center survey, issued Dec. 14. The percentage of Protestants, however, dropped, while the percentage of "nones" -- those who profess no particular denominational attachment -- continued to rise, said the report, "About Three-in-Ten U.S. Adults Are Now Religiously Unaffiliated." The survey results also indicate the proportion of Christians in the U.S. population continues to slide. A decade ago, they constituted 75%, or three out of every four Americans. In the new survey, that percentage is down to 63%, or five out of every eight Americans. "Christians now outnumber religious 'nones' by a ratio of a little more than 2-to-1," the report said. In 2007, when Pew began asking its current question about religious identity, the ratio was almost 5-to-1, or 78% vs. 16%. Since 2007, Protestantism has dwindled from 52% of all Americans to 40%, not quite twice the percentage of Catholics today. Within Protestantism, the percentage of those adults who profess evangelical or "born again" Christianity has shrunk by 6%; the number of those who are not evangelical or "born again" also has shrunk by 6%. ■

IN BRIEF

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Lori: FDA decision on medical abortion puts women's lives, health at risk

WASHINGTON (CNS) – By no longer requiring the abortion drug mifepristone to be picked up in person, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is "merely succumbing to the abortion industry's pressure to loosen safety standards," instead of protecting the lives and health of mothers and children as it should do, said the U.S. bishops' pro-life chairman. "Every life is sacred: the lives of mothers and the lives of the unborn," said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "Not only does this decision further the tragic taking of unborn lives but it does little to care for the well-being of women in need. Far from the accompaniment that women in crisis pregnancies deserve, this decision would leave women alone in the midst of trauma, often without any medical attention or follow-up care," he said in a statement issued late Dec. 16. Earlier in the day, the FDA announced it would permanently lift its requirement that a prescription for the abortion drug be picked up in person, which now allows clinics, medical offices and hospitals

to prescribe the drug via telemedicine and send it directly to the patient by mail or through a mail-order pharmacy. The agency said "the benefits of the drug outweigh the risks," but it added a requirement that pharmacies that dispense the drug be "specially certified." ■

Cross, steeple are reattached to Nashville church damaged in 2020 tornado

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) – As a crowd of about 150 people stood in front of the historic Church of the Assumption in Nashville waiting for the steeple and cross to be reattached to the top of the church, Bishop J. Mark Spalding recalled the lyrics of the hymn "Lift High the Cross." "'Lift high the cross. The love of Christ proclaim.' These two lines are part of a hymn we've sung at Assumption and every parish in our diocese," he said. The steeple and cross are "great symbols of our faith" which give hope, Bishop Spalding added. "There is good news to proclaim." On Dec. 15, a crane lifted the steeple back into place atop Assumption Church, built in 1859. The steeple was removed after the tornado of March 3, 2020, caused extensive damage to the church, which has been closed ever since while construction crews repair the building. "It's been a journey," said Jack Goodrum, the owner of Goodrum Construction, the general contractor for the project. Much of the work to this point has been structural repairs, Goodrum said. "A lot of things you don't see were replaced." ■

Mount Saint Joseph honors Our Lady with Guadalupe Mass



COURTESY OF SR. RUTH GEHRES, OSU

The small choir of Ursuline Sisters sings songs in Spanish during Mount Saint Joseph's Dec. 11, 2021 Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sr. Nancy Liddy, OSU, accompanies on guitar and Sr. Mary Henning, OSU, plays the piano. Each of the sisters in the choir has experience ministering to Hispanic people. From left are Sr. Luisa Bickett, OSU, who served 59 years in New Mexico, Chile and to Hispanics in Ohio County; Sr. Sheila Anne Smith, OSU, a New Mexico native who served 35 years in New Mexico and Arizona; Sr. Susan Mary Mudd, OSU, who along with Sr. Luisa was one of the original Ursuline Sisters to serve in South America; Sr. Elaine Burke, OSU, who spent eight years serving in New Mexico; Sr. Michael Ann Monaghan, OSU, (seated right), who served 28 years in New Mexico; and Sr. Sara Marie Gomez, OSU, a New Mexico native who served 29 years in her New Mexico.



COURTESY OF SR. RUTH GEHRES, OSU

Celebrant of the Dec. 11, 2021 Guadalupe Mass at Mount Saint Joseph, Fr. Tony Shonis, alternated in Spanish and English. In his homily he called to mind the importance of Mary coming to Guadalupe. In the background is a throw featuring Our Lady of Guadalupe which belonged to the late Ursuline Sr. Fran Wilhelm, OSU, who served in New Mexico and South America and then for 25 years to Hispanics in the Owensboro area through Centro Latino.

Saint Meinrad receives grant to create Office for Hispanic and Latino Ministry

ST. MEINRAD, IN – Saint Meinrad Archabbey has received a grant of nearly \$1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to improve the way priests, deacons and lay ministers serve Hispanic and Latino youth and young adults.

Saint Meinrad will use the \$999,620 grant to establish an Office for Hispanic and Latino Ministry within Saint Meinrad's new Center for Youth and Young Adult Evangelization. The grant is being funded through Lilly Endowment's

Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative.

It is a three-phase initiative designed to help theological schools across the United States and Canada as they prioritize and respond to the most pressing challenges they face as they prepare pastoral leaders for Christian congregations both now and into the future.

Saint Meinrad is one of 84 theological schools that are receiving a total of

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Parish and school leaders discuss how to spread Christ's light

BY ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

On Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, parish leaders and school personnel of the Diocese of Owensboro gathered at the Owensboro Convention Center in downtown Owensboro to discuss the theme of "Receive and Be the Light of Christ."

Led by Dr. Jeff Andrini, director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, participants prayed and sang together, engaged in small groups and spent time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during a period of Adoration. Bishop William F. Medley also gave a presentation about Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality.

Keeping in mind the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, participants were invited to reflect on their experiences with the pandemic and, using small pieces of dissolvable paper, write one word that represented lingering pain in their hearts. They then took turns going forward and dropping the piece of paper to dissolve in urns of water at the front of the room.

For resources or to learn more about the work of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship, visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/evangelization/> or email Dr. Andrini at jeff.andrini@pastoral.org. ■



ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD | WKC

Bishop William F. Medley speaks on the Synod on Synodality during the Dec. 2, 2021 Advent Convocation for the Diocese of Owensboro, held at the Owensboro Convention Center.

Saint Meinrad continued from page 17

more than \$82 million in grants through the second phase of the Pathways initiative.

Earlier this year, Saint Meinrad worked with a research firm to learn how Hispanic and Latino youth and young adults relate to their Catholic faith. The new grant-funded office will focus on the needs, challenges, and potentials of outreach through Hispanic and Latino ministry. It will develop materials, methodology and tools for pastors/priests, deacons, and lay ministers who are ministering to Hispanic and Latino youth and young adults.

Using the research findings, Saint Meinrad will develop programs to form pastors, deacons, and laity to minister more effectively to these young people, relating to them in culturally appropriate and meaningful ways. With better understanding of the unique needs of Hispanic and Latino young people, and how to address those needs, ministers will be more successful in strengthening the faith lives of Hispanic/Latino young people and reinforcing their cultural ties to the Catholic faith.

"While Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology already has some offerings geared toward

preparing seminarians for Hispanic/Latino ministry, the creation of a staffed office will allow for improved formation for seminarians and the ability to expand the opportunities for formation to ordained priests, deacons, and lay ministers," said Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, dean of School of Theology programs at Saint Meinrad.

"If Hispanic/Latino young people can be better served, we improve our chances of helping them to strengthen their affiliation with the Catholic Church and, indeed, to strengthen their own sense of their ethnic heritage." ■

Women of St. Joseph in Bowling Green complete Marian consecration



COURTESY OF FR. COREY D. BRUNS
Roses were placed at the feet of a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green for the Dec. 8, 2021 Marian consecration.



COURTESY OF FR. COREY D. BRUNS
Women of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green, along with parochial vicar Fr. Corey D. Bruns, following a special consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 8, 2021.

BY WKC STAFF

On Dec. 8, 2021, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 20 women of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green completed their 33-day consecration to Our Lady. What started as a Bible study for the Hispanic women of the parish grew into a consecration journey as the members together decided to do this Marian devotion, which has been a tradition in the Catholic Church for centuries.

At a special Mass at the parish on Dec. 8, celebrated by parochial vicar Fr. Corey D. Bruns, the women processed up the aisle and placed roses by a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Fr. Bruns blessed miraculous medals for the women and helped them complete their consecration.

Fr. Bruns told the WKC that the women are interested in inviting other women to do the Marian consecration.

"These are faith-filled women and they inspire me!" said Fr. Bruns. ■

Knights of Columbus councils unite to raise \$33,495 for pro-life pregnancy care centers at 'Bluegrass on Beshear - Pickin' Life'



COURTESY OF JEFF SMITH

The "Bluegrass on Beshear" organizers present a check to Alpha PCC in Hopkinsville in November 2021.

BY JEFF SMITH, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

Six western Kentucky Knights of Columbus councils joined forces on Oct. 9, 2021 to host the eighth annual one-day music fest/fundraiser on Lake Beshear, near Dawson Springs. The result was a huge success that smashed previous fundraising records for "Bluegrass on Beshear - Pickin' Life."



COURTESY OF JEFF SMITH

The "Bluegrass on Beshear" organizers present a check to Door of Hope in Madisonville in November 2021.

Knights of Columbus councils representing Madisonville, Hopkinsville, and Dawson Springs/Princeton/Eddyville donated food and volunteers that prepared and served it to the concertgoers. In addition, they helped guests park and get to and from the venue. Also, councils from Murray, Calvert City and the state Knights of Columbus, through its Culture of Life Fund for the Diocese of

Owensboro, made large donations to sponsor the music fest.

Life-affirming pregnancy care centers Door of Hope (Madisonville), Alpha PCC (Hopkinsville) and H.O.P.E. Clinic (Benton and Eddyville) were the event's beneficiaries. Each pregnancy care center received a check for \$11,165 - one third of the \$33,495 raised at the music fest - an event-record.

"Bluegrass on (Lake) Beshear - Pickin' Life" raised money through sponsorships, donations, food, drink and merchandise sales, and a multiple-item raffle. In 2021, a benefactor matched the first \$12,000 of donations. The Knights of Columbus defrayed all event costs up front so that 100% of donations went directly to the pregnancy care centers.

Planning has already started for next year's "Bluegrass on Beshear - Pickin' Life" music fest. It will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022. Your western Kentucky Knights of Columbus hopes many members of the Owensboro Diocese will be able to attend net year. ■

Historic St. Stephen's in LBL survives tornado without damages

BY WKC STAFF

The tornadoes that struck western Kentucky during the night of Dec. 10, 2021 got close to old St. Stephen's Church in Land Between the Lakes, but the little wooden church escaped the storms without

any damage.

As a U.S. Forest Service archeologist told David Nickell, "it was like the church had a bubble over it."

"It most certainly did!" said Nickell, a member of an organization called Between the Rivers, Inc. "The

tornado went within half a mile of the church, and there were trees uprooted just outside the fence surrounding the church and graveyard, but no damage within the fence at all."

He and fellow member Leon Forsythe took a

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UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Stephen's continued from page 20

trip by boat to check on the church to see if it had survived the tornadoes, and were relieved to see it standing intact.

Nickell said the Christmas greenery that had been placed on one of the windows, and the wreath over the door “were all still in place.”

Nickell explained that little St. Stephen's is the only church left in place what is now Land Between the Lakes – the others being bulldozed and burned or moved out of the area when the federal government took over the area, formerly



COURTESY OF DAVID NICKELL
Leon Forsythe stands outside St. Stephen's church in Land Between the Lakes, which was fully intact after the tornado outbreak during the night of Dec. 10, 2021.

called Between the River, in the 1950s and 1960s, in order to create a dam. (Local Lake Barkley was the result.)

He said a group of former residents had formed an organization called Between the Rivers, Inc., to restore the church and that the organization has maintained it to this day.

Nickell said Between the Rivers maintains the more than 250 cemeteries in the area, which had belonged to the communities required to move for the dam's creation. ■

Women Shaped by Faith: Shaping Bodies & Hearts for God's Purposes

Join us for an inspiring day of whole-person wellness to develop and nurture our spirit, mind and body. Theresa Rowe will teach on the health benefits of combining our faith, mindset and fitness, using biblical principles for daily application.

Also included is a Pilates for the Soul Mat Workout, specifically designed for every level of fitness. (Bring your own exercise mat.) We will follow Covid-safe protocols.

Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium

Fee: \$30 - includes lunch

Note: The fee is \$40 at the door.



To register, call 270-229-0206
Email retreatcenter@maplemount.org
Or sign up online:
<https://ursulinesmsj.org/shaped-by-faith/>



Theresa Rowe is an author, radio and TV host, fitness expert, and motivational health and wellness speaker. She is a nationally certified fitness professional and founder of *Shaped by Faith*. She has taught thousands of people how to use their faith to inspire fitness, and their fitness to strengthen their faith. She has produced eight fitness DVDs and is the author of *Guideposts' Shaped by Faith: 10 Secrets to Strengthening Your Body and Soul*.

Saturday, February 5

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Workshop led by **Theresa Rowe**



**Mount Saint Joseph
Retreat Ministry**
8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

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OWENSBORO

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2022 BULLETIN BOARD



Spinning Days

Do you enjoy yarn spinning, crocheting, knitting, weaving, and/or rug hooking? Spinners of all skill levels are welcome! Attendees will enjoy food and fellowship as you gather with others to work on your own projects. Mount Saint Joseph offers a spacious building in a peaceful setting.

Reserve these Saturdays in 2022 and join us!

Feb. 19 • May 21 • Aug. 6 • Nov. 5

Mount Saint Joseph Auditorium

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

\$20 fee includes lunch

To register, call 270-229-0206, email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or online: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/yarn-spinners-registration/>



**Mount Saint Joseph
Retreat Ministry**

8001 Cummings Road
Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356-9998

Please note: The following program dates are subject to change or cancellation due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Join Immaculate Parish for Oremus!

Oremus is Latin for "Let us Pray." Join us at Immaculate Parish in Owensboro for this Ascension Press scriptural prayer experience. Fr. Mark Toups will walk with us through Catholic prayer. Do you find it easy to pray? Do you hear God's voice in your daily life and know how to respond? For most of us the answer is no, and we struggle to find even a few minutes every day to pray. The good news is that you can overcome these difficulties. Oremus gives you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. Over eight weeks you will learn the simple yet profound steps of Catholic prayer. Following Church Tradition and the wisdom of the saints, you will learn to talk to God and hear his voice in Scripture, in your heart, and in ordinary moments. You will become more aware of his close presence, will learn to overcome distractions and dryness, and will recognize desolation and consolation as normal prayer experiences. As you grow closer to God, you will also grow in your relationship with those around you.

Sessions begin Jan. 24, and are offered at two convenient times in Immaculate's parish hall: 10-11:30 a.m. on Monday morning or 6:30-8 p.m. on Monday evening. Contact Heather for more information or to reserve your book: (270) 683-0689 or (540) 849-0479.

A Scout is Reverent

The upcoming Religious Emblems Mass with Bishop Medley will take place March 13, 2022 at a location to be determined soon. At this Mass, Bishop Medley confers the religious emblems that the youth have earned through the programs offered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers. Now is the time to begin working toward earning these emblems. They include for Cub Scouts: Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei and for Boy Scouts: Ad altare Dei and Pope Pius XII and Light is Life (Eastern Catholic) and for Girl Scouts and others: God is Love, Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary the First Disciple, The Spirit Alive, and Missio. The Board of Review will take place at two lo-

cations on Jan. 29, 2022, both at 9 a.m.: one location will be Daviess County Public Library and the other location will be St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green. For an introduction to these emblems and a presentation by the Catholic Committee on Scouting at your next meeting, please see the diocesan website's scouting page under Youth Ministry: <https://owensborodiocese.org/scouting/>.

Stress in your marriage?

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even how to communicate this with their spouse. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery'. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouvaille is a not spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, or a social gathering. The Retrouvaille January retreat will take place Jan. 14-16, 2022. For questions, or to register for the January program, call Felicia at (270) 929-1524, the Marriage & Family Life Office at (270) 683-1545 or visit the website at HelpOurMarriage.org

Spiritual Direction available

Do you desire a kind of friendship that welcomes you to share and discern how God is present and working in your life? Would you benefit from deep listening surrounded by compassion instead of judgement? If so, a spiritual mentor/companion may be right for you at this time. The Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Ministry, Maple Mount, Ky., offers spiritual direction with Ursuline Sisters or staff. Spiritual direction is being offered online via Zoom or in person. The cost is \$40 per session. Please feel free to reach out and contact Sister Cheryl Clemons at 270-229-0200 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org. You can also find out more online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/spiritual-direction/>

What do I say to share my faith with others?

BY DR. JEFF ANDRINI, OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

In a world where people are all too quick to share their perspective and real listening rarely happens, we should not be ashamed that at times we choose to be quiet. In fact, we can be proud of our Catholic way of life that proclaims the Good News of God's love and care, through the way we serve those in need. It is our actions that speak louder than our words. However, our world needs authentic witnesses in both words and deeds. We must be ready to give witness to the source of our lives.

As disciples of Jesus, we are reminded by St. Peter to "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3:15). Two important points; first, others must see in our lives something that is authentic, and attractive. How are we different than humans that have no faith in God?

Our dependence on God is essential to us living a fully human life. Jesus tells us in John's Gospel that, "I am the Vine and you are the branches... apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Jesus wants our connection with him to be free flowing, life giving and fruitful. It is through our daily prayer and relationship with God, that we are transformed into people of hope and joy. Even in times of disaster, we receive the grace of God's presence in a variety of ways that allow us

to be rooted in joy. This is a joy that is even more attractive today because of the difficult realities in our world, so let us receive it daily from our God and reflect it to the world.

The second key concept in this scripture is to share our hope with "gentleness and respect." This involves reflection on our part and openness to the Holy Spirit. We can ask ourselves, what is the disposition of this other person and what do they need in their life right now? We cannot always know exactly, but the Spirit can give us great insight that we can trust. You might consider memorizing the following words of Pope Francis and allowing them to become your own as you seek to share the Gospel with others.

In talking about the basic proclamation of the Good News, Pope Francis proposed the following to share as a non-threatening, open ended way to invite others to come into a relationship with God. He said, "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life for you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you" (Evangeli Gaudium, 164).

Let us invite Jesus to be Lord of our lives and learn to effectively share our faith with our desperate world. Happy New Year!

Peace in Christ,
Jeff ■

Dr. Jeff Andrini is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. Send comments to jeff.andrini@pastoral.org.



Walk the Way of St. James: El Camino de Santiago

Join Fr. Gary Clark on this sacred walking/bus healing pilgrimage. For more than 1,000 years, saints and laypeople alike have traveled on foot to St. James's ancient burial site — experiencing the breathtaking countryside of Spain and awakening the soul. This magnificent pilgrimage was featured in the 2010 movie directed by Emilio Estevez and starring his father, Martin Sheen, called "The Way."

Fr. Gary has made this journey several times and you will have the availability to choose daily if you want to walk or ride the motor coach! This is a great opportunity to heal the mind and soul.

When you sign up, you will receive more information about how to prepare spiritually and physically. Spots are limited and will sell out quickly!

For more information:

Contact Faith in Travel's Kenny Trowbridge at kenny@faithintravel/270.952.2913 or Contact Fr. Gary at gary.clark@pastoral.



Your trip includes:

- 1 Overnight in Ponferrada
- 1 Overnight in Sarria
- 1 Overnight in Portomarin
- 1 Overnight in Palas de Rei
- 1 Overnight in Arzua
- 2 Overnights in Santiago
- 2 Overnights in La Coruna
- Breakfast daily
- Dinner Daily, except for Day 8
- Motorcoach airport to airport
- 2nd class train tickets from Madrid to Ponferrada
- Eng speaking Tour Manager
- Service of a local guide in La Coruna for city sightseeing
- \$1,899 per person Land Package
- (Air pricing and trip insurance available Jan, 2022)
- \$349 per person single room supplement

Trip Dates

September 20-30th, 2022

BUEN CAMINO!

Coming to your parish or a parish near you!

ENCOUNTER LOVE

Encounter Jesus

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

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

To learn more, email jeff.andrini@pastoral.org

Ordinary Time – A time for epiphanies!

BY DEACON JAY W. VANHOOSIER, SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY CATHOLIC

January is the month in which the liturgical year moves from Christmas into Ordinary Time. Many of our brothers and sisters in other Christian traditions do not use the term “Ordinary Time.” Instead, they call it “The Time After Epiphany.” In many ways, I personally like the term that the other traditions use. In the beginning of January we first celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany. On the surface, this solemnity is the celebration of the Wise Men who came to view the Christ-child and bearing gifts. But on a more important and deeper level, it is the revelation that Christ came to all nations – not just to the Jewish people – as both human and divine. This is one of the most profound beliefs of Christianity: the Incarnation – God becoming a human who walked the earth and experienced humanity just as we do. Over the next months we will continue to celebrate the many epiphanies – the “ah ha’s” of Christ; the many ways that he showed forth both his humanity and his divinity. We will hear about what he came to do and – just as important – what we are called to do.

Following the Solemnity of the Epiphany is another epiphany. Christ is baptized, marking the beginning of his public ministry. And in fact, this feast day is celebrated as the Solemnity of the Epiphany by our Eastern Rite Catholic brothers and sisters as well as our Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters. At the time, many

people believed that John the Baptist was the Messiah. But John himself pointed to the Messiah. The voice of God is heard to say, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” This voice from God is an inaugural statement and it affirms what Christ came to do: to be born, to live, to die and to rise – the Paschal Mystery. In our own waters of Baptism we died to our old self and entered into new life in the Paschal Mystery.

As baptized followers of Jesus Christ, how do we follow the many epiphanies that happen between Christmas to Pentecost and beyond – during the “ordinary time” of our lives? How are we to model John the Baptist and point the way to the Messiah? All of this can be overwhelming, to say the least. Heal the sick, help the poor, be humble of heart, the last shall go first, turn the other cheek, forgive, forgive, forgive ... on and on and on. This is where we live. We live in the events that do not yet make us holy people, but we also live in the events that do make us holy people. How? It is because we live in the image of the resurrection, but our struggles are the many epiphanies of Christ. And we are to model what took place over his 33 years when he was physically among us.

We live in a time of already, but not yet. Our Christian life is about the epiphanies contained in the historical account of Christ and that is the “already.” It happened, and it continues to happen in our own epiphanies. But it is important to remember that our life is also about

the “not yet.” It is about what is yet to come in Christ’s kingdom. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we live between these two moments—already and not yet. We need to strive to keep the many epiphanies of Christ’s life alive. We need to keep his baptism alive, and keep our own baptisms alive. We should live it in our memories, live it in our present, and live it as hope for what is to come. ■

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

QUILT SALE

Goes on until they're gone!

Don't miss the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph Quilt Sale!

Online at ursulinesmsj.org/get-involved/2021-online-quilt-sale/

Several quilts are still available!

All are one-of-a-kind!

Proceeds provide funding for the Ursuline Sisters' ministries of education and Christian formation.

To purchase a quilt, contact Carol Braden-Clarke 270-229-2008 • carol.braden-clarke@maplemount.org



Ursuline Sisters
of Mount Saint Joseph

8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY

January Wedding Anniversaries

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

Please send any anniversary updates or corrections to Charlotte Hedges, Office of Marriage & Family Life, at charlotte.hedges@pastoral.org.

Blessed Mother, Owensboro

Grant & Megan Smith, 10
John & Cindy Rightmyer, 40
Kenneth & Dianne Murphy, 50
Robert & Debbie Newman, 53
Terry & Jan Storm, 54

Christ the King, Madisonville

Billy & Patty Folk, 53

Holy Guardian Angels, Irvington

Ted & Barbara Brown, 64

Holy Name of Jesus, Henderson

Estil & Tammy Sagez, 40
Fred & Sue Hagan, 55
Guy & Frances Hogan, 60
Ira & Ellese Hay, 50
Jack & Jo Ann Jacobs, 50
James & Sharon Drury, 60
Joey & Amy Jameson, 10
John & Kathy Jenkins, 50
John & Phyllis Brown, 51
John & Sue Allen, 52
Steve & Pattye Tweddell, 51
Steve & Susan Book, 52

Holy Spirit, Bowling Green

Basil & Joann Jones, 61
Chris & Patricia Janes, 40
David & Anna Jo Fenwick, 51
Dorian Almendarez & Lena Gokey, 5
George & Barbara Powers, 62
Harry & Constance Largen, 62

Jerry & Joanne Wallace, 50
Tom & Rita Parrott, 54

Immaculate, Owensboro

Corky & Elaine Norcia, 5
Gary & Carol Jackson, 58
Hal & Eleanor Renshaw, 65
Melvin & Lois Connor, 65

Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

Anthony & Mae Kamalich, 68
Billy & Joanna Hatcher, 5
James & Connie Hayden, 63
Ken & Charlene Ackerman, 63
Larry & Charlotte Moore, 52
William & Suzanne Blandford, 59
William Scott & Kim Horn, 5

Precious Blood, Owensboro

James & Evelyn Mattingly, 69
Mike & Cloa Thompson, 62

Sacred Heart, Waverly

Richard & Nancy Mayes, 64

St. Agnes, Uniontown

Kerry & Leslie Willett, 40
Marty & Marilyn Greenwell, 55
Tommy & Joycelyn Hagan, 54

St. Ann, Morganfield

Damian & Diane Alvey, 50
Jimmy & Carolyn Wedding, 50
Kenny & Teresa Lee Thomas, 56

St. Benedict, Wax

Michael & Patsy Campiglia, 51

St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

Don Ed & Miki Wright, 54
Jerry & Brenda Stevens, 56

St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

Francis & Judith Taylor, 58
Patrick & Lori Hatton, 25

St. Henry, Aurora

Paul & Roberta Herman, 59

St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

Charles & Shirley Rowe, 64

St. John the Evangelist, Paducah

Albert & Joyce Wurth, 62

St. John the Evangelist, Sunfish

Estil & Paula Wilson, 50

St. Joseph, Bowling Green

Frank & Patricia Royal, 54
Robert & Sandra Gasperetti, 56

St. Joseph, Leitchfield

Johnnie & Nina Justis, 53

St. Joseph, Mayfield

James & Frankie Riley, 65

St. Lawrence, Philpot

Larry & Betty Johnson, 53
Michael & Patricia Wright, 52

St. Mark, Eddyville

Terry & Sandy Ruxer, 53

St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

John & Mary Ann Ebelhar, 54

St. Mary of the Woods, McQuady

Joe & Bonnie Miller, 52

St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

Charlie & Ina Mattingly, 53
Dan & Sue Howard, 63
Dustin & Brooklyn Hagan, 5
Virgil & Jackie Head, 65

St. Mary, Franklin

Larry & Michelle Anderson, 53

St. Mary, La Center

David & Gloria Henderson, 53

St. Michael the Archangel, Oak Grove

Carl & Mary Johnson, 25

St. Paul, Leitchfield

Bruce & Cathy Meredith, 40
Rodric & Earline Brady, 52

St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley

Eddie & Jeanette Smith, 54
James & Mary Keller, 65
James & Patty Settles, 62
Jerome & Bonnie Blair, 55

St. Pius X, Owensboro

Danny & Sue Castlen, 50
Deron & Sagan Storm, 5
Don & Sylvia Hamilton, 63
Leon & Cecilia Aud, 59

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg

Daniel & Jackie Taul, 40
Logan & Judy Tivitt, 57
Mack & Dolores Mattingly, 63
Sammy & Brenda Duggins, 51

St. Rose of Lima, Cloverport

Bill & Bonnie Hawkins, 58
Randy & Gerry Brown, 54

St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Audie & Sue Cooper, 57
Don & Carol Ralph, 56
Jim & Janet Murphy, 50

St. Thomas More, Paducah

Gary & Cecelia Reside, 40
Trent & Ann Bongiolatti, 51

St. William, Knottsville

David & Patricia Payne, 53
Donald & Martha Morris, 52
John & Pamela Scott, 51
Patrick & Rose Meserve, 56
Phillip & Debbie Castlen, 40
Vince & Irene Nealen, 50

Sts. Joseph & Paul, Owensboro

Pete & Patty Johnson, 53
Tony & Janet Johnson, 40

Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

Joe & Nell Ritzheimer, 25
Levi & Margaret Peterson, 63
Shane & Ana Ethridge, 25

‘Our last ounce of strength on behalf of life and in defense of life’

The Diocese of Owensboro’s response to Roe vs. Wade

BY EDWARD WILSON, ARCHIVES

The year is 1996. 13,859 postcards depart from the Diocese of Owensboro and make their way to the elected representatives of Kentucky. The message of the postcards is clear: the Catholics of western Kentucky choose life.

On Jan. 22, the Church calls for a day of prayer for the unborn. The day is the anniversary of the passage of Roe vs. Wade, the landmark decision that led to the legalization of abortion throughout the United States. The Church has been actively combatting the social injustice of this decision since its passage in 1973. Our archives reveal that the Diocese of Owensboro has done the very same.

The same year that Roe v. Wade was decided, Right to Life (RTL) gave a program for the Bowling Green chapter of the Knights of Columbus. Following this, correspondence tells us that “frequent Pro-life sermons and bulletin notices” began to flow into the community. Meetings were set at Holy Spirit for both Bowling Green parishes in hopes that new RTL chapters would be formed. Bishop Henry J. Soenneker wasted no time, pledging \$5,000 from the Diocese to RTL Kentucky and another \$1,000 to The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment. He also pooled resources with the other Kentucky dioceses to secure representation in Frankfort. This resulted in the signing of a bill placing restrictions and regulations on abortions. The bill also obtained protection for individuals and institutions refusing to have any part in the practice. In a 1976 letter to the Breckinridge County RTL, which had formed two years prior with the Meade County RTL, Bishop Soenneker praised them, stating, “We need such an organization in every county.”

In the years following, countless facilities and groups provided compassionate assistance, such as Birthright, Hope Unlimited, Marsha’s Place and the Respect Life Commission. Masses, marches, and prayer breakfasts were offered for the unborn and those suffering the effects of abortion.

The diocese under Bishop John J. McRaith showed no signs of wavering



COURTESY OF ARCHIVES

A woman prays during a life chain in the Diocese of Owensboro in 1996. The sign reads ‘Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation.’

Continues on page 26

Happy anniversary to our priests!

In January we celebrate the anniversaries of:

Fr. Suneesh Mathew, HGN | Ordained 1/2/2008
Pastor of Precious Blood Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Ken Mikulcik | Ordained 1/10/1998
Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Russellville; and sacramental minister at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Guthrie

Fr. Anthoni Ottagan, HGN | Ordained 1/8/2003
Pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish, St. Joseph; and St. Elizabeth Parish, Curdsville

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN | Ordained 1/6/2008
Parochial vicar of St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

Fr. Pat Reynolds | Ordained 1/12/1980
Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro

Fr. Tony Stevenson | Ordained 1/10/1981
Retired


Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara | Ordained 1/17/2004
Pastor of St. William Parish, Knottsville; and St. Lawrence Parish, Philpot

Fr. Augusty Valomchalil | Ordained 1/16/1996
Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Sorgho

Fr. Brad Whistle | Ordained 1/10/1981
Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Paducah

Contact the Office of Vocations

Fr. Daniel Dillard, Director of Vocations

 (270) 683-1545

 owensborovocations.com

 daniel.dillard@pastoral.org

 [instagram.com/owensborovocations](https://www.instagram.com/owensborovocations)

 [facebook.com/owensborovocations](https://www.facebook.com/owensborovocations)



Archives continued from page 25

from the commitment to life. Renowned for his belief in social justice, Bishop McRaith refused to succumb to the “great temptation” to make abortion “purely political” and isolate it from the great struggle of the oppressed. In his pastoral letter “Respect and Justice-Rooted in the First Church” Bishop McRaith relays that legalized abortion was alive because “Our society has assumed God-like authority in determining who should live or die.” Abortion was simply the magnum opus and unavoidable result of what he called the “hierarchy of domination.” This hierarchy resulted in all social injustices. United with Bishop McRaith the diocese continued the fight. In his time, the first of many billboards for life were erected and led several to choose motherhood over termination. Thousands of letters defending life also flooded government buildings.

Shortly after his installment, Bishop McRaith made this promise and

invited every person in the diocese to join him:

“I pledge that the Catholic Church of Owensboro Diocese will support every person experiencing an unwanted pregnancy—that there is never a need to have an abortion. There are other answers and we will work with anyone to find these. We promise our support for the handicapped, those born with mental and physical problems. We will spend our last dime—and drain our last ounce of strength on behalf of life and in defense of life.”

There is not currently a “Roe vs. Wade Repealed” folder in the archive, not yet. ■

Edward Wilson is the director of the Diocese of Owensboro’s Archives and the Archives of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Comments and questions may be sent to edward.wilson@pastoral.org.

Un Mensaje del Obispo Medley

Nota de la editora: El 3 de diciembre de 2021 se envió esta carta del Obispo William F. Medley sobre el Sínodo para una Iglesia Sinodal a todas las parroquias de la Diócesis de Owensboro.

Queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo,

El 10 de octubre, el Papa Francisco inauguró un proceso sinodal de dos años que culminará con un Sínodo universal programado para realizarse en Roma en octubre de 2023. El domingo siguiente, 17 de octubre, cada obispo inauguró el proceso sinodal en todas las diócesis del mundo con una celebración en su catedral.

“Sínodo” proviene de dos palabras griegas que significan “caminar juntos”. Es cierto que las palabras “sínodo”, “sinodal” y “sinodalidad” no nos resultan demasiado familiares. Sin embargo, encuentran sus fundamentos en la propia Iglesia antigua. Los sínodos se han celebrado a lo largo de la historia de la Iglesia y tradicionalmente se han realizado a través de una reunión de un grupo de obispos de diversas regiones del mundo, en representación del pueblo de Dios en sus diócesis, para abordar algún tema particular que enfrenta la Iglesia.

Esta experiencia actual del sínodo es única en el sentido de que el Papa Francisco tiene la intención de que este proceso de “caminar juntos” se amplíe para incluir a todos los miembros bautizados de la Iglesia. El nivel de escucha al que nos llama nuestro Santo Padre no tiene precedentes. ¡Se escucharán millones de voces!

El Papa Francisco explica que este camino sinodal no se trata de juntar opiniones, sino de escuchar al Espíritu Santo. No se trata de administrar una encuesta diseñada para cambiar las doctrinas o disciplinas de la Iglesia de acuerdo con las opiniones

populares, sino de llamar a la Iglesia a una conversión continua y una comunión más profunda unos con otros y con Dios. En esencia, este proceso sinodal se trata de escucharnos unos a otros para que podamos escuchar mejor al Espíritu Santo.

Iniciemos el proceso sinodal en la Diócesis de Owensboro teniendo esto presente en nuestras mentes. Durante los meses de enero y febrero de 2022, se anima a cada parroquia a organizar sesiones de escucha a las que se les invitarán a ustedes. Se les pedirá que reflexionen sobre preguntas de su experiencia personal de la Iglesia y cómo la Iglesia vive su misión de proclamar a Cristo. Reflexionarán sobre las cosas que más aprecian sobre nuestra Iglesia, así como las cosas que les angustian o les duelen. Un componente clave de la escucha incluirá formas de traer a la mesa las voces de quienes son fácilmente ignorados o marginados. El Espíritu Santo vive y obra a través de todos los bautizados, por lo que no podemos permitirnos excluir a nadie del proceso.

En marzo, viajaré por la diócesis organizando sesiones regionales de escucha. Por favor hagan planes para asistir. Quiero escuchar los frutos de la escucha parroquial para poder comunicar eso a la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos para que la próxima fase de escucha ocurra a nivel continental.

Aunque será posible enviar electrónicamente sus reflexiones y contribuciones individuales, les recomiendo encarecidamente que participen en las sesiones de escucha de sus parroquias en persona y luego se unan a mí en marzo en una sesión regional

CALENDARIO DEL OBISPO MEDLEY ENERO DE 2022:	
<i>Tengan en cuenta: Las siguientes fechas están sujetas a cambios o cancelaciones debido a la pandemia del COVID-19.</i>	
1 DE ENERO	9 a.m. Misa – Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro
7 DE ENERO	5 p.m. Cena del Programa Grace Marriage [Matrimonio de gracia] – Museo & Salón de la Fama de la Música Bluegrass, Owensboro
9-13 DE ENERO	Retiro de los Obispos de la Región V – New Orleans, LA
17-20 DE ENERO	Convocatoria de sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Owensboro – Seminario y Escuela de Teología de San Meinrad, St. Meinrad, Indiana.
20 DE ENERO	6 p.m. Reunión de la Junta de Revisión – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
22 DE ENERO	9 a.m. Misa provida Catedral de San Esteban, Owensboro 4 p.m. Confirmación – Parroquia Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson
24 DE ENERO	5 p.m. Reunión del Consejo Diocesano de Finanzas – Centro Católico McRaith, Owensboro
25 DE ENERO	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Horas de Oficina en Paducah – Hospital de Mercy Health-Lourdes, Paducah
26 DE ENERO	Católicos en el Capitolio – Frankfort
31 DE ENERO	8 a.m. Misa – Escuela del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson 1 p.m. Misa – Escuela Católica Juan Pablo II, Morganfield.

de escucha. Estoy seguro de que la participación en este camino sinodal al que nos ha llamado el Santo Padre dará muchos frutos en la vida de nuestra diócesis.

Para obtener más información sobre el sínodo

Continúa en la página 29

Continuado de la página 28

en la Diócesis de Owensboro, visiten el sitio web de la diócesis en www.owensborodiocese.org/synod. Por favor, hagan planes ahora para participar y por favor mantengan nuestro camino diocesano en sus oraciones rezando la Oración por el Sínodo sobre la sinodalidad:

Estamos ante ti, Espíritu Santo, reunidos en tu nombre. Tú que eres nuestro verdadero consejero: ven a nosotros, apóyanos, entra en nuestros corazones. Enséñanos el camino, muéstranos cómo alcanzar la meta. Impide que perdamos el rumbo como personas débiles y pecadoras. No permitas que la ignorancia nos lleve por falsos caminos. Concédenos el don del discernimiento, para que no dejemos que nuestras acciones se guíen por prejuicios y falsas

consideraciones. Condúcenos a la unidad en ti, para que no nos desviemos del camino de la verdad y la justicia, sino que en nuestro peregrinaje terrenal nos esforcemos por alcanzar la vida eterna. Esto te lo pedimos a ti, que obras en todo tiempo y lugar, en comunión con el Padre y el Hijo por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

Que Dios le conceda bendiciones abundantes a cada uno de ustedes.

Atentamente en Cristo, ■



Obispo William F. Medley
Diócesis de Owensboro

Todos están invitados a los Encuentros en enero

Un mensaje de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano/Latino de la Diócesis de Owensboro:

El P. Julio Cesar Palarino de Argentina visitará una vez más la diócesis este enero para guiarnos en experiencias de Encuentros. No tendremos un Encuentro grande en Hopkinsville como otros años, sino cuatro Encuentros más pequeños y por regiones. Dado aún el nerviosismo existente de algunos debido a la pandemia del COVID-19 y aprovechando el enfoque del nuevo plan pastoral para el Ministerio Hispano/Latino, hemos decidido seguir este modelo para este año. El propósito también será aprovechar la oportunidad para que el P. Julio nos anime a todos a participar en el próximo proceso del sínodo.

Las fechas son:

- 8 de enero en San Miguel, Sebree (Región Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe)
- 15 de enero en Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah (Región Nuestra Señora de Fátima)
- 22 de enero en San Pedro & San Pablo, Hopkinsville (Región Nuestra Señora del Carmen)
- 29 de enero en Santa María, Franklin (Región Nuestra Señora del Rosario)

Todos se llevarán a cabo de 8:30-9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

Cualquier pregunta puede enviarse al Dcn. Cristóbal Gutiérrez a chris.gutierrez@pastoral.org o (270) 880-8018.

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Diócesis de
OWENSBORO

La comunidad de Mayfield se une después de los tornados



RILEY GREIF | WKC

Las mujeres de la parroquia San José en Mayfield preparan comida para compartir con quienes fueron afectados por los tornados que azotaron el área durante la noche del 10 de diciembre de 2022.

POR ELIZABETH WONG BARNSTEAD, EL CATÓLICO DE KENTUCKY OCCIDENTAL

Después de que los tornados devastaran la parte sur del oeste de Kentucky durante la noche del 10 de diciembre, los católicos de la Diócesis de Owensboro se han unido para ayudar a sus vecinos afectados.

Por ejemplo, la gente de la parroquia San José en Mayfield comenzó a operar un centro de recursos

desde su salón parroquial para proporcionar suministros a quienes perdieron sus hogares. A pesar de que la propiedad de la parroquia no tenía luz y el templo mismo sufrió graves daños, la comunidad de San José quería servir a los menos afortunados.

Alfredo “Freddy” González ha estado coordinando los esfuerzos de la parroquia junto con Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro para ayudar



RILEY GREIF | WKC

El Obispo William F. Medley habla con Alfredo “Freddy” González durante la visita pastoral del obispo el 15 de diciembre de 2021 a las áreas afectadas por los tornados.

a la gente de Mayfield, que fue una de las áreas más afectadas en la trayectoria de los tornados.

González es hispano y muchos de los voluntarios de la parroquia son hispanos, pero dijo que ayudan a cualquiera que venga buscando ayuda.

“Personas de toda raza han sido afectadas”, dijo el 15 de diciembre. “Tenemos que ayudarnos unos a otros”.

Afortunadamente, tienen muchos suministros gracias a las generosas donaciones.

“Si la gente quiere ayudar, lo mejor que pueden hacer es rezar”, dijo. “Orar por las personas que han perdido a sus familiares y a sus casas”.

González dijo que la gente sigue diciendo que él es el “líder” de este esfuerzo, pero recogió una pequeña piedra del suelo y dijo que eso era todo lo que es. Le dio crédito a Dios y a su párroco, el P. Eric Riley, por inspirarlo y animarlo en estos tiempos desafiantes.

“Amo al P. Riley”, dijo. “Me ha ayudado mucho espiritualmente”. ■

Parroquias con ministerio hispano/latino

Parroquia del Santo Redentor, Beaver Dam

107 13th Street, Beaver Dam, KY 42320
Contacto: Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San José, Bowling Green

434 Church Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101
Contacto: Sra. Gina Holmes o Padre Corey
Bruns (270) 842-2525

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asis, Guthrie

7600 Russellville Road, P.O. Box 297, Guthrie,
KY 42234
Contacto: Diácono Heriberto Rodríguez (270)
265-5263 o (302) 438-7335

Parroquia de Santa María, Franklin

403 North Main Street, Franklin, KY 42134
Contacto: Padre Tom Buckman (270) 586-4515

Parroquia del Santo Nombre de Jesús, Henderson

511 2nd Street, Henderson, KY 42420
Contacto: Abraham Brown (270) 724-2172

Parroquia de Santos Pedro y Pablo, Hopkinsville

902 East 9th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
Contacto: Sra. Mayra Tirado (270) 498-6456

Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Madisonville

1600 Kingsway Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431
Contacto: Padre Carl McCarthy (270) 821-5494
o Padre Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-
7737

Parroquia de San José, Mayfield

702 West Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066
Contacto: Hermana Maria Luisa Morales Solano
(270) 247-2843

Parroquia de la Santísima Trinidad, Morgantown

766 Logansport Road, Morgantown, KY 42261
Contacto: Hermana Aida Badillo (706) 284-
0996, o Padre Julio Barrera (270) 274-3414

Parroquia de San Leo, Murray

401 North 12th Street, Murray, KY 42071
Contacto: Hermana Esperanza Rivera (270)
753-3876

Parroquia Santos José y Pablo, Owensboro

609 East 4th Street, Owensboro, KY 42303
Contacto: Padre Juan Rene Kalombo (270) 903-
8070

Parroquia de Santo Tomás Moro, Paducah

5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY 42001
Contacto: Padre Basilio Az Cuc (270) 316-1421
**Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús,
Russellville**

296 West 6th Street, Russellville, KY 42276
Contacto: Padre Ken Mikulcik (270) 726-6963 o
Diacono Edwin Pacheco (913) 542-8948

Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel, Sebree

57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455
Contacto: Alyssa Maty (815) 207-3208 o Padre
Carmelo Jiménez Salinas (270) 881-7737

Terapeutas de habla hispana

Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Owensboro ofrece un programa único de asistencia de consejería llamado CAP (por sus siglas en inglés). A través del programa CAP, Caridades Católicas colabora con varios consejeros en todo el oeste de Kentucky que ofrecen sus servicios a una tarifa reducida para los feligreses de la Diócesis de Owensboro. Aprendan más en owensborodiocese.org/servicios-de-consejeria/.

Joy Navan, M.A., LPA

Amend Psychological
Services, PSC

877-732-8683 o 859-269-6465

*Sólo disponible a través de teleterapia.

Iris Gutiérrez, MSW, LCSW

Especialista en Salud Mental
Disponibile a través de
teleterapia y terapia
presencial.

859-469-0133

gutierreztherapy@gmail.com

Para Hacer Informe de Alegatos de Abuso Sexual

Para denunciar una sospecha de abuso, llame a la Línea Directa de Protección Infantil de Kentucky: 1-877-KYSAFE1 o 1-877-597-2331 (llamada gratuita) o comuníquese con su Fiscal Local del Commonwealth. Para reportar abuso, actual o pasado, a la diócesis por parte de cualquier persona que actúe en nombre de la Iglesia, llame a Louanne Payne, Coordinadora de Asistencia Pastoral (inglés) al 270-852-8380, o Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Coordinadoras de Asistencia Pastoral (español) al 270-880-8360. También puede visitar la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro (owensborodiocese.org/safe) para obtener más información. Para hacer un informe de abuso sexual de un menor de edad o conducta inapropiada relacionada por parte de algún obispo, visite <https://reportbishopabuse.org/?lang=es> o llame al 1-800-276-1562.

Mujeres de San José en Bowling Green completan su consagración mariana



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. COREY D. BRUNS

Señoras de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green, junto con el vicario parroquial, el P. Corey D. Bruns, después de una consagración especial a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el 8 de diciembre de 2021.

POR EL PERSONAL DEL WKC

El 8 de diciembre de 2021, la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María, 20 mujeres de la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green completaron su consagración de 33 días a Nuestra Señora. Lo que comenzó como un estudio bíblico para las mujeres hispanas de la parroquia se convirtió en un camino de la consagración cuando los miembros decidieron hacer esta devoción mariana, que ha sido una tradición en la Iglesia Católica durante siglos.

En una Misa especial en la parroquia el 8 de diciembre, celebrada por el vicario parroquial, el P. Corey D. Bruns, las mujeres pasaron por el pasillo y colocaron rosas junto a una estatua de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. El P. Bruns bendijo medallas milagrosas para las mujeres y las ayudó a completar su consagración.

El P. Bruns le dijo al WKC que las mujeres están interesadas en invitar a otras mujeres a hacer la consagración mariana.

"¡Estas son mujeres llenas de fe y me inspiran!" dijo el P. Bruns. ■



FOTO POR CORTESÍA DEL P. COREY D. BRUNS

Se colocaron rosas a los pies de una estatua de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Parroquia San José en Bowling Green para la consagración mariana del 8 de diciembre de 2021.