

A quarterly publication of the
St. Stephen Cathedral parish



Lenten Journey
in Action
Page 6



Hats Off to
Our Graduates
Page 8



the Parishioner

Pentecost Potluck



Year One & The Caterpillar

By Fr. Jerry Riney



Several years ago, I saw a cartoon featuring two caterpillars. One says to the other, "True, you're a butterfly now, but you still **THINK** like a caterpillar." How easy for us to experience the liturgical season, to be fed by God's Word, and the Body and Blood of Jesus week after week, and still not allow ourselves to be transformed. There is something in us that naturally clings to the past, to that with which we are familiar.

It is hard to believe that I have been here one year! It was Tuesday, June 18, that I rolled into St. Stephen Cathedral parking lot with tears in my eyes and anxiety in my heart. I remember meeting my new parochial vicar with whom I would be ministering, Father Suneesh Mathew--he looked so young! Could he be a priest?! I asked to see his driver's license! Those first months were tough. I was bodily here, but still "thinking like a caterpillar." In my opinion the most difficult thing a priest is asked to do is to move. Deep in my heart I knew that it was time, and I did make a promise of obedience to the bishop. After 16 years of ministry at Holy Spirit Church in Bowling Green, it was time to move on.

The good news is that after experiencing the season of Advent/Christmas, then Lent/Easter, crowned with the empowering Feast of Pentecost, I am here. My heart has finally caught up with my body! I am glad and excited to be your shepherd! There are many people who have assisted in making that transition smoother. I'm grateful to Father Suneesh who is full of goodness, vitality, and joy! I'm grateful to the pastoral staff and the parish pastoral council, and especially to the council chairs, Garry Pierce (first six months) and John Calhoun (last six months), who have been most helpful. I'm grateful to Sue Gough, Gene Lyon, Dirck and Chona Curry, and Marianna Robinson for painting and decorating my office. I'm grateful to Janice Scherm

(Continued on next page)

*"True, you're a
butterfly now, but
you still **THINK** like
a caterpillar!"*



Year One & The Caterpillar

(Continued from page 1)

and Margaret Windle for coordinating the 23 Listening Sessions which were a wonderful way to meet parishioners and to become acquainted with the parish through your eyes and hearts.

During the Christmas and Easter seasons, many of you reached out to me (I hope and pray I have sent a thank you note to each of you for your thoughtful gifts, food, kindnesses, etc.) I am grateful for committee chairs and members of all committees who give of their time and skill to serve the common good of this parish. I'm grateful for those who labored at our Spring Work Day to spruce up our campus. I'm grateful for those who participate in daily Mass--even at 7:00 in the morning when I am not fully alert.

I'm grateful for our Dedication Day (September 6) Mass and potluck, as well as the Epiphany Concert and International Potluck (January 5) and all those who made that happen. I'm grateful to those of you who serve conscientiously in liturgical ministries (music ministers, servers, sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers, ushers/ministers of hospitality, lectors) and do that ministry with dignity and reverence for the "living body of Christ" but ultimately for the glory and honor of God.

The seasons of Lent and Easter recently culminated into the solemn Feast of Pentecost when we remember the promise that Jesus gave us that He would send us His Spirit and shower us plentifully with "gifts beyond measure." That promise has been kept. The Spirit has been given. It is up to us to open our hearts and minds to RECEIVE those gifts in order to put them at the service of our community. It's more difficult to receive when we are "thinking like a caterpillar", holding on to the past. During any process of grieving, time can often be a wonderful healer. I believe the liturgical seasons have been that for me, and I am most grateful.

With this first year behind us, I enthusiastically look forward to what our future holds. United with Christ and open to God's healing, guiding, and sustaining Spirit, join with me in leaving "caterpillar thinking" behind as we move forward together with hope and joy.

First Communion



Congratulations to the following children who received the Sacrament of Holy Communion on April 27, 2014.

Briley Emma Breeden
John "Jack" Calhoun, III
William Tuttle Carrico
Spencer Price Harris
Lauren Ashton Leigh
Carson Phillip Lewis
Henry Marshall Moore

Alivia-Chantale Marie Norris
Leonard Gregory Padgett
Abigail Rae Payne
John Andrew Steele
Lindsey Kathryn Warren
Tristan Dakota Walker
Claire Elizabeth Wheatley



The Parishioner Spotlight Shines on the Murphys

By Marianna Robinson



The names and faces of Richard (Dick) and Donna Murphy are well-known around St. Stephen Cathedral. Married at the Cathedral 37 years ago, they were parishioners until 1979 and returned in 1987. Both are zealous in their ministerial efforts to serve the Church.

After graduating from high school in Caldwell County, Donna attended UK and later transferred to Brescia College. While at Brescia, Donna sensed her desire to use her God-given talents to serve God and His Church. Fr. Tony Ziegler, her Brescia mentor, encouraged her to use her musical talent with the guitar as a parish musician. She graduated from Brescia with a B.S. in Ministry Formation and then traveled to St. Meinrad during the day while her children were in school to complete a Masters in Theology.

Donna has served the parish in many forms. She worked at Holy Name parish as the Director of Religious Education in the beginning. At St. Stephen, she has gained further experience in church ministry as a member of the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal for 7 years. Donna now serves the Cathedral as a Pastoral Associate. As such, she is Director of R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Another aspect of her ministry at the Cathedral is Director of Faith Formation which includes director of the R.C.I.A. and Religious Education (for children not in Catholic schools) programs, but also working with both adults and children with sacramental preparation.

Donna likes being a part of others' Faith journeys and seeing people become open to the spirit of God and experience an awakening of Faith. In talking with Donna, one notices her bright eyes, high energy, and enthusiasm for her job, deep Faith, and strong desire to serve the Church. Fr. Jerry Riney adds, "It's a blessing to work with Donna who is a member of the pastoral team at St. Stephen Cathedral. Donna has a good pastoral sense in dealing with parishioners, and her

degree in Theology from St. Meinrad serves her well. The parish is blessed to have Donna serving here."

Likewise, Donna's husband Dick is no stranger to a variety of ministerial services at St. Stephen. He and Donna are both Eucharistic ministers and lectors. After graduating from Owensboro Catholic High, Dick pursued a degree in Business and Economics before taking a job with the state; his job was to help people find employment, and eventually he served as a supervisor of a child protection unit. Later Bishop McRaith recruited him to take the job of Diocesan Director of the Office of Social Concerns, which includes program development for Catholic Charities, a position he holds today. He said the most satisfying part of his job is encouraging people to discover and use their gifts.

Presently, Dick is studying to become a permanent deacon and has 3 more years of training and discernment before ordination. He felt drawn to the Diaconate because he felt that the needs of the Church seemed to line up with his talents. Having completed a year of aspirancy, a year of candidacy, he has begun 3 years of training sessions. His wife Donna accompanies him with his diaconate studies. Concerning their ministries, Fr. Riney shared this comment, "It's inspiring to witness the commitment of the Murphys to the Church. They have made a decision to minister to the People of God through the Church. Richard and Donna take seriously the living out of their Baptismal promises and have chosen to simplify their lifestyle."

In 1976, Dick and Donna met at a prayer service. Thirty-seven years later, they have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Pastime activities include 'soft water' kayaking. While Dick enjoys fishing, Donna's interest is quilting.

Let's applaud Dick and Donna for the leadership skills they so generously share with St. Stephen Cathedral.

Spotlight on Katie Bouchard



Katie Bouchard graduated from Daviess County High School just this May and will be attending OCTC before she transfers to WKU for a bachelors in Social Work. A member of the school's cheerleading squad and girls' track and field team, Katie is also a member of Country Heights 20 and Under Softball Team. But sports aren't Katie's only achievements. Katie is the current Miss Daviess County, Miss Teen Kentucky American Dream, and Miss Teen American Dream. She has received many local, state, and national honors, including the prestigious KOHL's Care Scholarship, and many community service awards.

Katie's community service resume is extraordinary. Her current work is with the Eye Foundation Service Project. Working in conjunction with the Family Resource Coordinators in DCPS, she has had eyeglass collection containers

in every school in the DCPS, OPS, and OCS systems. As Miss Daviess County, she pledged to increase awareness and eyeglass donations for the Lions Club Eye Foundation. Starting the project in October 2013, Katie has collected 1,250, 250 over her original goal of 1,000. Many of the glasses will go to Third World countries where the people have no access to eyeglasses.

Katie has helped out St. Stephen's and those affiliated with our parish in many ways. She has volunteered the past 8 years in St. Stephen's Sunday childcare service. With the Daniel Pitino Shelter, she donated 365 hardback children's books so they could create a lending library for the children living at the shelter.

Katie doesn't help out just in Owensboro. Through the American Red Cross, she collected over 1,000 household and clothing items when a tornado struck Southern Indiana and Northern Kentucky in 2012. This project was the catalyst for her other service initiatives. Katie has served as a construction worker for Homes for Troops in Evansville, IN, who minister to wounded veterans by providing affordable functional housing. Katie also coordinated DCHS's first ever

cheerleading squad Relay for Life team. They collected over \$3,900 for the American Cancer Society. She also solicited donations for silent auction baskets in honor of two classmates, Jacob Helwig and Lauren Gertin, who lost their fight against cancer. St. Jude Children's Hospital has also been a recipient of Katie's help. Through the "Big Apple" Prom Project, Katie has collected over 300 prom dresses plus shoes and jewelry since this spring! The prom is held each year for teenage patients at St. Jude who would otherwise miss their school prom due to treatment.



Katie's hard work and dedication to her community and the parish is evident in all that she does. If you have any spare eyeglasses laying around the house, please bring them to church and place them in the really cool looking milk jug on the usher's cabinet.



Congratulations to the following who were confirmed by Bishop Medley on June 8th.

John Henry Booth
Fransesca Hoffman
Sarah Murphy
Natalie Ellis

Mikayla Ranburger
Mary-Katherine Gough
Donta Millay
Lucy Wright

Guided by the Holy Spirit:

A Brief Look at the 2014 Men's Conference

By Charlie Payne

On February 8th of this year, I was one of 350 men from the Diocese of Owensboro who gathered at Brescia University for the 3rd annual Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky. This small group formed in March of 2011 with the specific purpose of hosting a spiritual conference for the men of the Diocese of Owensboro. Their mission: Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach-out to Catholic men with faith-enriching and life changing presentations to strengthen their faith, family and work lives. The Diocese of Owensboro encompasses all of Western Kentucky, including: Bowling Green, Henderson, Madisonville, Hopkinsville and Paducah. However, the conference is open to all men regardless of their residence.

The expression of our faith witnessed at the conference was amazing: 350 men giving up their Saturday (UK played at 12:30 that day!) to join their Catholic brothers to become stronger in their faith; 350 men gathering not for a sporting event or music concert, but for something of eternal consequence; men standing in line during lunch to go to confession; men packing St. Stephen Cathedral with their families after the conference to attend Mass with Bishop Medley. No egos, no testosterone, just men being very open about becoming better Catholic role models.

My favorite speaker at the conference was Dr. Ray Guarendi (although George Weigel and Father Louis Caporiccio were exceptional as well). Dr. Guarendi, a father of 11 children, clinical psychologist, and author, used a mixture of wit and



wisdom to discuss what it means to be Catholic husbands and fathers. Among his gems: "Parenting is too important a task to be taken seriously."

I have attended the conference all 3 years. My contribution to the event is small – I help hand out lunch. The work done by Mike Sullivan, John Kurtz, Randy Clemens, Jerry Kuntz, Matt Carrico, Ray Purk, Kevin Schwartz and Father Brandon Williams to coordinate and host this conference is a great profession of their Catholic faith and their desire to help their brothers in Christ become better Catholic fathers, sons, brothers, uncles and friends.

For more information on the Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky, please visit their website at www.kycatholic.com

Cathedral Preschool Celebrates National Day of Prayer





Lenten Journey in Action through St Stephen's Parishioners

By Anna Rakotoniaina

Easter is not so far behind us and so is our Lenten journey. Looking back and going forward, our Lenten journey defines who we are; it is our daily walk with Jesus, our daily witnessing of St Stephen's parishioners of all age groups.

Sharing an Intimate Journey Is a Community Building Act of Faith

Interestingly enough, when asked to share our Lenten journey, we all have a similar, if not the same, reaction: we pause, we have for one split second a very serious look and then we have a large smile or we laugh. We want to say "I do not know" because we are so stunned by the question and are overwhelmed by mixed feelings. Sharing a Lenten journey is a hard thing to do, almost as difficult and painful as going to confession. It is uncomfortable to most of us because sharing profound and examined thoughts is never easy. We went through various supportive Lenten parish activities and somehow moved through the motion. But expressing out loud our reflection on the personal meaning

of forty long days of fasting, abstinence, prayers and temptation, awareness can be self-revealing. That sharing, by itself, is an act of faith. And those who have been willing to share their thoughts bring a sense of community building and unity to the St. Stephen Cathedral parish community.

Thank You for Sharing, St Stephen's Cathedral Parishioners!

In one way or another we could recognize ourselves in one of the following groups that makes St Stephen parish what it has been: a profoundly caring and faithful body of parishioners.

To the teenage parishioner, the Lenten journey is a "period of almsgiving and fasting." It is "emulating Jesus's sacrifice by sacrificing something ourselves."

To the young adult parishioner, away or at home, it is a period of "atonement in preparation for Easter." It is "remembering why sacrifice is important not only in

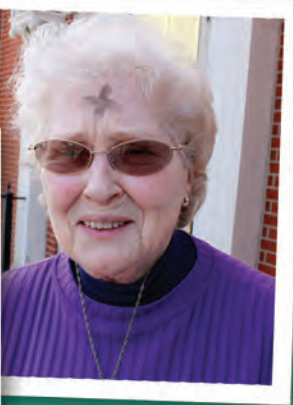
one's faith but also in one's whole life." It is "exercising in practice by faith."

To the middle age parishioner it can be "struggling to make sense of sacrifice" as they often expressed their strong urge to lifestyle "conversion" (often referred to as "giving up" on something) as a personal struggle to "correct" one's misdirected attitude or habit. It is struggling to live Jesus' sacrifice at one own's level: making Lenten sacrifices impactful.

To the parishioner who is at the wisdom of age, it is often a period of "reflection on what Jesus did for us." One parishioner said, "It makes me feel special."

To all St Stephens' parishioners, because you find a resonance of your personal Lenten journey in the above expressions, thank you for sharing and for being a piece of the mosaic of St Stephen's community in daily witnessing of the meaning of a Lenten journey.

Ash Wednesday



Holy Thursday



Fish Fry



Palm Sunday



Stations of the Cross

Hats Off to Our Graduates

By Marianna Robinson

Sixteen members of the Cathedral received their high school diplomas this May. Here are some comments and reflections from some of those seniors.

***Caroline Augenstein**, daughter of Drew and Susan Augenstein, graduated from OCHS. Caroline plans to attend the University of Alabama majoring in American Studies and Dance. After earning her degree, she sees herself dancing with a professional troupe. She has been a member of Joy Johnson's Dance Studio for 15 years. Ten years from now, she sees herself traveling around the world as a dancer or choreographer. Upon retirement from her dancing career, she might consider going to Law school.

*The son of Greg and Tina Gough, **Isaac Gough's** hopes and dreams center around his desire to become a nurse or a physical therapist. Ten years from now, he sees himself as having a solid career in nursing in a big city hospital, perhaps one in Nashville. Later he hopes to be financially sound and start a family. Isaac graduated from OCHS and will be attending Western KY in the fall.

***Pete Mattingly**, the son of Jess and Nora Mattingly, graduated from OCHS and plans to attend UK in the fall. His current plans is to major in Political Science. He plans on joining the Owensboro Fire Department after graduation.

*Graduating from Owensboro High School, **Frances Seaton** is the daughter of J.C. and Mary Lou Greene. Frances was a member of several clubs and organizations while at OHS – International Thespian Society, the Rose Curtain Players, band, and OHS's track and soccer teams – and holds several recognitions within these groups. She is also the Chairperson of the St. Stephen Cathedral Youth Group. Considering Psychology as her major, Frances plans to earn a B.S. degree and then continue studies toward a Master's Degree. This fall, Frances will head for the University of Louisville with 3 scholarships valued at over \$59,000. Involvement with Youth



Ministry and missionary work are among Frances' hopes and dreams for the future. Her biggest role model was her good friend, Clint Campbell, someone she met about the same time she fell in love with God. She listened and watched as he prayed, and she wanted to have the same kind of connection with God that he had. She added that God worked through Clint to show her what truly mattered in life. This summer, she has been hired as a Head Staff in Training at Gasper River Catholic Retreat Center.

***Ryan Purk** is the son of Ray and Darcy Purk. His hopes and dreams for the future include a host of goals: traveling abroad to understand other cultures and ways that Christians in other countries worship God, becoming fluent in Spanish, learning how to read and write in Latin, getting a bachelor's degree and doing graduate studies in that field, and above all else, knowing, loving, and serving God with all his talents and abilities.

***Catherine Clark**, daughter of Sy and Brenda Clark, graduated from Owensboro High School. As she looks back on her high school career, she has nothing but positive memories. She said she is thankful for the positions she's held such as President of 3 clubs: National Honor Society, Student Y, and Pep Club. She was also editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, Vice President of the varsity tennis team, and a member of the Rose Curtain Players. Owensboro High School has been home to Catherine where she has had plenty of opportunities to grow as a person. In the fall, she will attend Transylvania University in Lexington; she hasn't yet decided on a major. She looks forward to getting involved on campus and in the Lexington community.

Youth Group





A Servant Leader in Ministry Award

We are pleased to announce Ryan Purk as the young person from St. Stephen Cathedral who was selected to receive the Servant Leader in Ministry Award. He was selected for his outstanding service to St. Stephen Cathedral, the Western Deanery and the Owensboro Diocese. To name a few of his many involvements: Catholic Leadership Institute 2011; Gasper River as a Camper for 2 years and SIT and Counselor for 2 year; Youth 2000 for 4 years and Core Team for 1 year; NCYC 2013; Youth Group for 3 years; St. Stephen Fish Fry Volunteer for 8 years; St. Stephen Parish Picnic Volunteer for 9 years; Vacation Bible School for 3 years; Hospitality Minister for 4 years; Habitat for Humanity Club for 3 years; and Right to Life Walk for 3 years. We thank you, Ryan, for your many acts of love!

Saying Goodbye By Jennifer Payne

Our church family has been blessed for the past 13 months to have had Noelle Curry as our Coordinator of Youth Ministry. Working with our youth from grades 7-12, Noelle has recreated and reinvigorated our Youth Group. Even though the number of youth attending fluctuates throughout the school year and summer, and no matter how long it has been since a teen has attended the Youth Group, he/she is always welcomed back with joy by Noelle.

Noelle earned her B.S., majoring in Social Work, from Illinois State University in 2012. After graduation, she worked with a Catholic Charities-type organization in the Peoria Diocese helping families with adoptions and fostering. Due to new civil union laws, the organization was forced to close, but we were fortunate enough to have Noelle join our church family.

The past 13 months have been busy, and even though the Coordinator of Youth Ministry is a part-time position, it is readily evident that Noelle has devoted many more hours than a part-time position requires. With an emphasis on teaching the teens how to pray from their hearts, Noelle has reintroduced many of the teens to praying the Rosary as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Her focus has been helping the Youth grow in prayer and “how to better commune with their Lord.” She stated that she hopes that she has taught them to “listen to where He is sending them.”

Middle school and high school youth meet on separate nights been participate in many activities together. Under Noelle’s guidance, our youth have participated in the following: prayer chain at Planned Parenthood, Evansville, IN; Bingo and prayers at Davco Nursing Home; singing at Christmas Masses at Fern Terrace and Hermitage Nursing Homes; caroling to and creating Christmas cards for St. Stephen

shut-ins; assisting at many picnics (not just at St. Stephen but throughout the area); and assisting the Sisters at Mt. St. Joseph with their 5K run/walk. She has also helped bring the Chastity Project to St. Stephen Cathedral.

Noelle is about to leave her St. Stephen church family to return to work as an advocate for the unborn. She has been a Youth Apostolate (similar to an oblate) to the Servants of the Pierced Heart of Jesus and Mary and will be returning to live with three other Youth Apostolates in Bloomington-Normal, IL. She hopes to volunteer at Care Net-like places to counsel mothers. She feels a special connection to the Right-to-Life movement and will further her relationship with that organization. Her goals for the next five years include earning her Master’s Degree in Social Work and doing “whatever and wherever the Lord wants me to do.”

Noelle is an “old soul,” devout in her love and devotion to our Lord and our Lady, Mother Mary. She shared with me that she also feels she has a special connection with St. John II and sees him as her “spiritual grandpa.” Noelle has taught so much to so many and yet she says that she has learned so much herself from spending time with our Youth. Noelle’s words of advice include the following: “Do not be afraid to love Jesus. Do not be afraid to be Holy, for the Youth are the new saints of the Millennium. Don’t ever stop living, loving, forgiving and being you.”

Many prayers and best wishes for a continued holy journey will follow this young lady who has blessed St. Stephen Cathedral with her time and talents. We will not forget Noelle Curry and her many gifts that she has shared with our Youth and neither will our Lord.

St. Stephen Cathedral Welcomes New Members

By Marianna Robinson

As part of the ritual of Easter Vigil services, the Cathedral welcomed into the Catholic Church several new members. These included Taylor West, Carrie Warren, Rick Hubbard, Jackie Gentry, and Jefferson Sorley. To use Church terminology, one in the group was a “catechumen,” meaning that he or she had never before been baptized. Four members were referred to as “candidates,” meaning they had been baptized and were ready to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, and Reconciliation. Along with Fr. Jerry, Bishop Medley presided over the Easter Vigil rituals. After Holy Saturday evening, all of these new Church members are referred to as “neophytes,” defined as new members of the Roman Catholic Church. Here are two neophytes’ stories of their Faith journey. Look for others in the September issue!



From left to right: Carrie Warren, Taylor West, Jackie Gentry, Jefferson Sorley, Rick Hubbard

By Carrie Warren

My name is Carrie Warren, and I am a new Catholic. I married my wonderful husband, Nick, in 2011. We also have a beautiful little girl, Anna, who just turned 2 years old. Throughout the past year, especially, it was Nick and Anna who encouraged me and motivated me to continue growing in my faith through the Catholic Church. This is my Journey.

I was born into a Christian family and baptized in the Methodist Church. My family went to church every Sunday when I was younger, and my family took part in just about everything that our small church offered. When my sisters and I were in middle school, the family switched to a large Baptist church so that we could be even more involved. Although attending church was a priority to my family, our faith was not. We did not pray or talk about God at home. We simply went through the motions each Sunday. When I was in high school, my parents and my sisters became too busy for all the church activities that we were part of, so they stopped attending church altogether. During that time, I went to a Presbyterian church with my friends. It wasn't long, though, before I stopped going to church as well. I was away from the church for about 10 years. I always missed going to church on Sundays, but it was too easy to come up with reasons not to go.

In 2005, Nick and I met and started dating. I knew that he was Catholic, but growing up with a largely Baptist family, I believed every stereotype there is about the Catholic

Church. Nick and I spoke very openly about our religious backgrounds, and over the years, he answered countless questions for me. In 2008, when I knew that Nick and I were planning a future together, I began attending a Catholic church on my own, just to see for myself what it was really like. I was in no hurry to become Catholic and really had my doubts that I would ever take the step to join the church. I spent those years attending church, talking to Nick and his family, and seeing how they lived faith-filled lives through the Catholic Church. When Anna was born in 2012, Nick and I made the decision to baptize and raise her Catholic. That is when I began thinking very seriously about joining the church, to be a model and guide for my daughter as she grows up.

I began going to RCIA last October. Because I didn't grow up in a family who shared our faith or prayed outside of church, it was very difficult for me to open up to a room full of strangers. Over the past few months, however, the members of the group have become extremely close. We not only discussed our thoughts and feeling about scripture but also our lives and our faith. It has been very exciting to see each other and help each other grow and learn. The excitement in the group grew each week, building toward Easter Vigil. Gradually, as the weeks went by, my objective changed. I began the process because I wanted Anna to grow up in a family with strong moral values and religious convictions in church and at home. While I still want that for my daughter, by Easter Vigil, joining the church was more of an opportunity for me to be part of a faith community.

By Jackie Gentry

I started on my faith journey 30 years ago. I attended RCIA classes at another parish in Indiana and unfortunately I let other things in life get in the way and I never completed the course. My heart always had the desire to attend the Catholic Church. I would often think about going back to RCIA but I didn't think I could commit to attending regular weekly classes due to my work. I moved to Owensboro and things started to change for me, for the better. Last spring, I attended St. Stephens with a friend and I knew immediately that this was where I wanted to be. As I left church that day I picked up a bulletin to take home and read. I searched for information about RCIA and found Donna Murphy, Director of Christian Initiation faith formation. Donna answered all my questions about the class schedule and I made an appointment to meet with her. I had the fever. My heart was on fire for Jesus. I wanted to be a Christian; I wanted to be a Catholic for once and for all. I couldn't stop thinking about it and I had no excuses to hold me back any longer. In my heart I didn't want any excuses. My soul was hungry and I longed for the Catholic faith.

I started attending the Wednesday evening classes and I never looked back. I met so many wonderful people in my class and in St. Stephens' church community. The more I attended RCIA, the more my passion and desire grew to be a part of the Catholic faith community. Father Jerry, along with Father Suneesh, Deacon Curry, Sister Sharon, Donna and Sponsors within the RCIA group, contributed to teaching and guiding me and the other inquirers about the sacraments of the church.

I received the blessed sacrament of Baptism at Easter. As I was walking towards the baptismal font and stepping into the water, it was as if one journey was coming to an end and a more wonderful, glorious journey was just beginning. It was the most wonderful gift I could have received. I also received my first communion and it also felt as if I was receiving another sacred gift. I cherish those most precious gifts each and every time I take communion. I know what it is like to wake up on Easter morning with a smile and a pureness of heart. After my baptism the evening before, I was re-born in our Lord Jesus Christ. I look forward to continuing this faith journey with the people of St Stephens Cathedral and the Catholic community and I want to thank everyone who has been instrumental in my journey to this point.

May Crowning



Work Day to Spruce Up the Grounds



Thank you to all of our volunteers!



610 Locust Street
Owensboro, KY 42301-2130

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
OWENSBORO, KY
42301
PERMIT 900

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter Contributors

Writers

John Kurtz Fr. Jerry Riney
Charlie Payne Marianna Robinson
Jennifer Payne Anna Raktoniaina

Editor

Katie Pagan

Layout Designer

Taylor West

Photographers

Rob Abney
James Kincheloe

40 Days for Life

On April 12, St. Stephen's youth participated in 40 Days for Life. The mission of 40 Days for Life, as stated on their website, is "a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion." The last coordinated vigil took place during Lent, March 5th to April 13th.

Our group traveled to the Planned Parenthood in Evansville, Indiana, for the prayer vigil. When we arrived at the location there was a large family of four generations praying on the side walk outside. Some of the family drove from Ohio and Illinois just to be present. It was powerful to see the body of Christ come together from different states to unite in prayer for the end of abortion.

All of us quietly prayed while we walked up and down the sidewalk. One of the Planned Parenthood employees told us that we needed to keep walking or she would call the police for loitering. Some people drove by, waved, and honked their horns in support for life. Others honked with strong disapproval and asked us to leave in various ways. The youth showed respect and chose to conquer evil with love.



We ended the 40 day vigil with a group rosary and a closing prayer led by Jacob Payne.

The next 40 Days for Life campaign is September 24 through November 2. For more information and to learn how you can get involved contact Amanda Reffitt at areffitt07@att.net or go to 40daysforlife.com