St. Mary's Backpack

Cathy H. Abell
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Article submitted by Cathy H. Abell
Photos submitted by Paul W. Abell
FRANKLIN, Ky. - Fr. Robert Drury and the members of St. Mary Church here have instituted a new project to encourage and recognize spiritual commitment of the youth. The project is called Saint Mary’s Backpack. Religious Education teachers give students a ticket for attending Religious Education and doing their homework. Students can receive additional tickets for being engaged in a church activity outside of the classroom or by participating in a church ministry.

Students accumulate tickets and one Sunday each month, St. Mary’s Backpack is open in the fellowship hall. At this time, students can use their tickets to acquire school supplies from the Backpack. Students have been working hard for their tickets and on Sunday, October 30th, they had their first opportunity to visit St. Mary’s Backpack. Everyone seemed to enjoy the activity.

Posadas in the Catholic Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Owensboro

By Luis Aju, Director of Office for Hispanic Ministries

The great tradition of the Celebration of the Posadas (Spanish for “the inns”) takes place from December 16th to 23rd. In any Hispanic community in the parishes of the Diocese, you will find the family celebration taking place in a home, in a heart, so that the Son of God, Jesus, in form of a baby can be born in us.

The posada is to prepare us to receive the Birth of Jesus in our homes and in our hearts. Together with people of all ages, including the joy of the animals and all of creation, we pray and reflect during the posadas to receive Jesus in the home. Not only the Historic Jesus, but the Jesus that is all around us, walking the same streets that we walk. In this occasion, the Offices of the Pastoral Center of the Diocese, with the Bishop of the Diocese, have come together and prepared to receive the traditional Posada planned for December 23 at 7:30pm with the Hispanic community of Sts. Joseph and Paul Parish. This will be a great experience of two or more cultures coming together to prepare the way of the Lord, to walk together learning from one another the cultural values from our Catholic faith.

As we say, you don’t have to understand it, you have to do it. You have to get involved to be part of this type of tradition. This type of preparation is so that we can say that we are ready for the Birth of Jesus. Just as in the Old Testament they waited ages and ages to see the Messiah, although some did not accept how he was born, how he grew up, how he died and finally how he rose from the dead.

In the Latin American culture, we celebrate 9 posadas before Christmas Eve. Each family asks to host a posada and in each posada we pray and sing special songs of Christmas. The leader each night offers a small reflection on the meaning of the birth of Jesus in the world, especially today as it’s so hard to accept. Each host family offers their visitors a punch with whatever the family can offer, like tamales, tostadas, or arroz con leche, depending on their possibilities. Sometimes there is also a piñata with the sense that the child Jesus is also present in the children.

Note: In the Pastoral Center the situation will be a little different since the Spirit of preparation for Christmas is different. In this case the Latinos and non-Latinos will share what we have but with one Lord, one faith and in the same prayer. We invite everyone to participate in this celebration and appreciate your presence so that together we can learn to live as brothers and sisters. Merry Christmas to your family. May God accompany us in these difficult times. Peace and Love!

In Your Kindness Please Pray For The Repose Of The Soul Of Sarita Milliner, SCN

Sister Sarita Milliner, SCN, 76, a native of Grayson County, Ky., died at Nazareth Home on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. She transferred from the Ursuline Sisters at Maple Mount, Ky. in July 1974 and has been a Sister of Charity of Nazareth for 37 years.

Sister Sarita served in the apostolates of elementary education, parish ministry, health care and community service at Bardstown, Nazareth and Louisville, Ky. and has served in the Apostolate of Prayer at Nazareth Home/Maria Hall since July, 1995.

Survivors include one sister, Sara Marie Higdon and one brother, Richard Milliner, both of Louisville, Ky., and her religious community.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at Nazareth Home, followed by burial at 2:30 p.m. in Nazareth Cemetery, Nazareth, Ky.

Funeral Arrangements are being handled by Ratterman Funeral Home, 3800 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY. Memorials may be made to SCN Missions, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048.

Father Maurice J. Tiell

By Rev. Paul Pike Powell

Carmel Home, Owensboro, Ky.

With the passing of Father Maurice Tiell a few weeks ago, the community mourns the loss of a valuable citizen, a great Christian witness. Fr. Tiell (1923—2011) came to us in 1948 from Ohio; he wanted to work in a “missionary” diocese. With Father Tiell’s zeal and dedication, he could have been a successful servant of God anywhere. When met for the first time, Father Tiell seemed to be retiring and bashful. Yet, he soon could work himself into any group or organization. His non-threatening approach made it possible for him to attract the very youngest as well as adults. While making many converts to Catholicism, he was not “pushy”, but expended his convictions and beliefs in such a way that others would want to hear what he had to offer.

 Everywhere he went, he became the part of the local Ministerial Association; oftentimes he would eventually become its President. He was especially effective working in the Ecumenical Cursillo Movement. (The Cursillo weekend is an intense review of our faith convictions with a group of men and women. Natural leaders are formed into spiritual leaders, so that they can share more perfectly what is near and dear to them. The name “Father Tiell” became a household word among many families, both Catholic and non-Catholic.)

While being “ecumenical,” he could be very adamant when it came to defending the religious truths in which he believed. There was no compromise!

We miss you, Father Tiell; you have served God’s people well during your 61 years as a Priest. The community and the Church has been enriched by your having played a prominent part.

DOES YOUR MARRIAGE NEED HELP?

Go to: www.retrouvaille.org or email sherryvincent@insightbb.com

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