

# BRESCIA SUNDAY

## in the Diocese of Owensboro

### August 7th-8th

The Diocese of Owensboro will match your gift up to \$25,000!

As the only Catholic University in Western Kentucky, Brescia is honored that these dates have been designated to celebrate our partnership with the Diocese of Owensboro. We are fortunate that the leaders of our Diocese have placed such great emphasis on the value of a Catholic education. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a contribution to Brescia University during the collections on August 7th and 8th. Last year, collections from your parishes, combined with the \$25,000 matching gift from the Diocese of Owensboro, provided over \$40,000 to support Catholic higher education in our region. With your help, we are confident we can reach this year's goal of \$50,000 in Brescia Sunday collections.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we come to another Brescia Sunday I want to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your ongoing support of Brescia University. Every year, Bishop Medley allows us to invite the Catholics of our diocese to invest in the lives of our students. By doing so, you also invest in your community and in the work of the Church. I use the word "invest" carefully because any support of the only Catholic University in western Kentucky is directed to our students to strengthen their experience and enhance their education. Upon graduation, they return home with the skills to start their careers but also with a deeper understanding of the importance of giving back with generous hearts. As Catholics we don't give because of something we get in return, but it is nice to know that the act of giving does yield positive results.

These results are seen most clearly in the lives of our students who bring the Brescia Difference with them as teachers, lawyers, physicians, social workers, moms and dads, priests and sisters, along with any number of careers and vocations to create a better world for the next generation. This is perhaps most clearly seen in the work of 2021 graduate Heidi Reyes, who is working with a new program at Catholic Charities to help those caught in human trafficking. Her work and that of many others will help end this horrible scourge. She is but one example of so many of our alumni who are using their education to make a difference in their communities in the spirit of Caritas, which guides all we do at Brescia. (Caritas is the Latin word for love and expresses our desire to be faithful to the call of Jesus to love one another as we have been loved.)

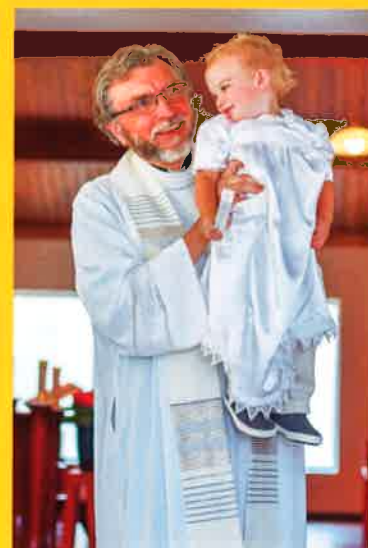
I'm also happy to announce an expansion of our campus ministry services. Fr. Mike Williams will be joining Sr. Pam Mueller to provide additional services to our students, faculty and staff. I'm excited to welcome Fr. Mike to campus and know that his presence will strengthen our Catholic identity and our students' experience of our Ursuline and Catholic mission.

Finally, I also want to offer a word of thanks to all of you for your prayers this past year. To say that the pandemic was disruptive to our work as educators is an understatement. Despite the challenges, we were able to provide a high quality educational experience while keeping everyone in our University community as safe as possible. During this time we were also able to provide our daily and Sunday Mass to those at home via our livestream services. This was important to us as it gave us the opportunity to give back to the Catholic community after we have received so much from you.

Thank you for your continued prayers and your financial support.  
Your support changes lives and creates a better world. Thank you!



Fr. Larry Hostetter, S.T.D.  
President, Brescia University







### *Catholic Connection Grant*

Brescia University is committed to making a difference in our Catholic church. One of the many ways we do this is by offering the Catholic Connection Grant, a 50% tuition reduction for new students who live on campus and who have graduated from a Catholic high school or have received a recommendation from their parish priest.

In the past five years, over \$1.8 million has been awarded to 187 students through the Catholic Connection Grant.

Your Brescia Sunday gifts help make this grant a reality. Thank you for making a difference. The Catholic Connection Grant is an exciting opportunity for Catholic high school students to continue their faith-based education at a university that believes in educating the whole person; mind, body, and spirit. Brescia University is committed to providing intellectual and moral formation for its students which fosters a renewal of faith and encourages students to pursue professions in a spirit of servant leadership.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 1-877-BRESCIA or admissions@brescia.edu.

### *Catholic Schools Week*

Barney the Bearcat wasn't able to visit schools in the Diocese in the traditional way this year. Instead, students across the Diocese received a #FlatBearcat to take with them to all the week's events. Students were able to submit photos of themselves with the #FlatBearcat for a chance to win a Chromebook and \$500 for their school. Brescia received hundreds of entries. The winning school was St. Mary of the Woods in Whitesville, KY and the student winner was Remi McDaniel. Barney was able to visit the school to drop off the prizes and some special gifts!



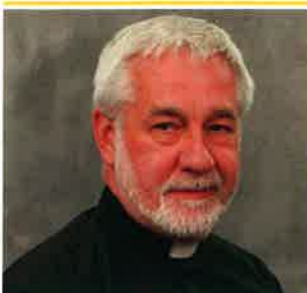
### *Heidi Reyes, Class of 2021*



After two years serving the Catholic Charities of Owensboro as an AmeriCorps VISTA coordinating community outreach, Heidi graduated from Brescia University with a degree in political science and accepted a new position as the Case Manager for Human Trafficking in Western Kentucky. This new role establishes the satellite office for Catholic Charities of Louisville, the Diocese of Louisville, through the Bakhita Empowerment Program. This program provides direct assistance and case management to survivors of human trafficking, and aims to educate the community about human trafficking, as well as how to identify individuals who are being forced or coerced for the purpose of sexual exploitation or labor.

*"I am very excited to kickstart this program in Western Kentucky through the support of the Diocese of Owensboro/Louisville, local coalitions, and related organizations. Their efforts to diminish human trafficking in the community are essential to survivors and I am honored to contribute in the efforts to ensure a better Owensboro." #BresciaDifference*

### *Fr. Mike Williams, Chaplain at Brescia University*



Brescia University is excited to welcome Fr. Mike Williams to campus this fall as the new Chaplain. Fr. Mike has been a priest for 24 years, and most recently served as Chaplain of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

*"After being the volunteer chaplain at Brescia in 2000, I am very excited to be back on campus this fall as the Chaplain. I'm looking very forward to being back on campus to minister with and to students, faculty and staff."*

