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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 14

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 29, 2020

## Ordination to be livestreamed on August 1

Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will Ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Jude Chijioke Nnadibuagha and Deacon Severinus Kwasi Torwoe and to the Order of Deacon Matthew Stanley Conger, John Kennedy Ojuok and Donald Joseph Wilder.

Due to the COVID-19 guidelines from New York State limiting the seating capacity in St. Mary's Cathedral, we invite you to join us via livestream at [www.rcdony.org/ordination](http://www.rcdony.org/ordination) on Aug. 1 at 11 a.m.

The Ordination Mass program will be available at [www.rcdony.org/program](http://www.rcdony.org/program) shortly before the Ordination.

## SEMINARIANS RECEIVE DEGREES



DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Three seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg received their degrees from the Pontifical College Josephinum from Bishop Terry R. LaValley in a Mass held as part of the Seminarians' Summer Workshop. Pictured are, from left, Douglas Schirmer, Carter Pierce, Bishop LaValley, and Nicholas Olley. See the full story on Page 7.

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

The *North Country Catholic* is now on summer schedule and will print every other week throughout the summer. The next edition will be Aug. 12.

## NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING WEEK

Every July, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops sponsors Natural Family Planning (NFP) Awareness Week. In his pastoral letter for NFP Week 2020, Bishop Terry R. LaValley explains why. "We ask something from the faithful: take the time for some reflection and prayer on Natural Family Planning."

Learn more about Natural Family Planning and how it strengthens relationships within couples and with the Lord.

SEE STORIES ON PAGES 3, 4 & 5

## 'Journeying Together' will focus on young adults

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The U.S. Catholic Church will convene a yearlong intercultural process with young adults and ministry leaders July 25.

Called "Journeying Together," the initiative aims to explore the Catholic Church's engagement with young people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds and mobilize U.S. Catholics on issues and concerns related to culture and race in the United States, according to a July

22 news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The USCCB's Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church is leading the initiative, with the involvement of several USCCB secretariats – Catholic Education, Evangelization and Catechesis, and Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. They will be joined by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

Due to health concerns created by the novel coron-

avirus, the initiative will primarily take place online from July through next May. Plans call for a live gathering to take place next summer, pending health and safety directives.

It is based on Pope Francis' call for encounter and dialogue in his 2019 apostolic exhortation "Christus Vivit," ("Christ Lives") on the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment.

The pope urged parishes

and dioceses to rethink their young and young adult programs and to make changes based on what young people themselves say they want and need. Youth ministry cannot be elitist or focused only on the teens and young adults already active in the church's life, he said.

He also called on Catholic youth to reach out to other young people, to not be afraid to mention Jesus and to invite friends to church or a church-sponsored ac-

tivity.

The "Journeying Together" process will feature intracultural and intercultural digital gatherings and conversations with young adult delegates and key ministry leaders from different cultural communities, including African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, European Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, and Native Americans, as well as immigrant groups, migrants and refugees.

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

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Publish 45 issues per year. Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July

through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

## Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

## Telephone:

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## E-mail:

news@northcountrycatholic.org

## Entered at the

Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY

13669 and

additional mailing offices as Periodical Postage.

## Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication

should be

addressed to

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

and should be received by

Thursday prior to

publication.

Paper is printed each

Monday;

deadline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic Press

Association.

## POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## I'm trying to 'stop doing that'

It was the second time (maybe even the third) I had been told to "stop doing that."

I was with a trusted and beloved friend when a stranger approached me and said, "are you Darcy?"

"Yup! I'm Darcy Fargo," I responded.

"I love your column in the *North Country Catholic*," the woman said. "It's the first thing I read when I get the paper."

"I'm glad you enjoy it. It's my least favorite part of my job. It's always a struggle for me."

It was my response that

promoted my friend to tell me to "stop doing that."

"Why can't you just say, 'thank you' and appreciate the fact that God has given you gifts, and you're using them in His service?"

I was speechless, and that very rarely happens to me.

In my head, I knew my friend was right. But in my heart, I have a bad habit of focusing on my weaknesses and ignoring my gifts and strengths.

Someone once told me, "the longest journey is the 18 inches from your head to your heart."



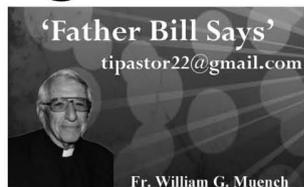
Darcy L. Fargo

## Recognizing evil in our lives, our world

I was truly fascinated by the Gospel reading from Matthew a couple of Sundays ago – the one about the wheat and the weeds. In this reading, Jesus again takes the time to explain it to the disciples and to us.

I am certain that you remember that his parable is a story about a man who plants his wheat field with good seed. Then an enemy (a very dastardly enemy) planted weeds among the wheat. Nothing was noticed for a few weeks. When they do discover what has happened, the owner decided to let them both grow together, and they will be separated at harvest time.

Remember this is a parable of Jesus. It didn't really happen. This is a clever story developed by Jesus to teach us something about ourselves and our spiritual lives. Jesus gives this interpretation of his own story: the planter is the Lord, the field is the word, the good seed is the children of the Kingdom – you and me. The weeds are the children of the evil one.



Fr. William G. Muench

The enemy is the devil. The harvesters at the end of the age are the angels. After the weeds are removed, Jesus adds: "the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father."

So, let us now consider Jesus' parable. In Genesis, God creates and says that all creation is good. So how did evil enter this world of ours? I suppose we can think of many answers to this question. However, the immediate answer we would all agree on is this human race, especially the selfish attitude that enters the lives of many of us.

Here in this story, Jesus tells us that good and evil will exist side by side in our world. We know this. This has been a significant part of our lives. This factor changes our existence

While that journey may be a bit longer than 18 inches for me (I'm only a fraction of an inch shy of six feet tall, after all), it still seems like my head and heart are miles apart some days.

In my head, I know I've been blessed with an enjoyment of and aptitude for writing and language. I know I've been blessed with an ability to make connections others might not see. I know I've been blessed to have amazing mentors, teachers and supervisors who have helped me develop my God-given talents.

But in my heart, I focus on all the parts of my life where I'm weak and sinful, and all

the things I could do better.

My friend reminded me that I'm selling God short by dwelling on my struggles and disregarding my strengths. God is working in my life. He's given me gifts and blessings. Ignoring those gifts and blessings is ignoring a large part of how God is working in my life and how I can bring Him to others. It's being ungrateful.

I thought of that this week when I was talking to a very kind woman, and she also complimented my work for the *North Country Catholic*. I responded, "thank you; the Holy Spirit really helps me."

I'm trying to "stop doing that."

tremendously. The very fact is that so many of our decisions are being made in a world in which good and evil exist side by side. The only solution for us is to seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the readiness to patiently take the time to make our decisions with the help of the Lord.

You see, it is rather difficult on many occasions to distinguish evil from good. Many will say that is not true. They'll say "I can always realize what is a good and what is a bad decision." However, I must be honest with you.

Speaking personally about myself, I can think of too many times when I looked over a situation and was certain what was the good thing to do, but then everything turned sour, even to the point that someone got hurt. And far too often I have failed miserably in my decision making. Not recognizing my selfishness can truly be a bad mistake. As I consider in prayer how desperately I want this world to be

a better place, I can become afraid to do what the Lord shows me is the right thing to do.

Can evil be prevented. It is all up to us, isn't it? We have to truly seek the Lord's guidance. May the Holy Spirit guide us all and lead us well that we recognize just what it is that we must do, and may the Holy Spirit do so often. We must reach out to our God to show us his will, so that we will be vigilant and alert and, I might add, sensible.

And please remember: Often it is all about the little things. We calmly say, "I can recognize evil" thinking of the big evils that fill our world. We must constantly recognize that we are the very ones who can transform this world if we carefully and lovingly do the little things well – the little things that bring love and peace and happiness to a family to a community. I read somewhere that a saint is someone who does ordinary things extraordinarily well.

# Natural Family Planning: Open the invitation

By Suzanne & Angelo Pietropaoli  
Diocesan NFP Directors

Every July, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops sponsors Natural Family Planning (NFP) Awareness Week. In his pastoral letter for NFP Week 2020, Bishop Terry R. LaValley explains why. "We ask something from the faithful: take the time for some reflection and prayer on Natural Family Planning."

Let us begin that reflection with a few facts. The Catholic Church recognizes the right of parents to prayerfully determine, with generous hearts, the size of their families. This necessarily involves learning to live as good stewards of their fertility in the service of responsible parenthood – while respecting the God-given connection between the life-giving and love-giving meanings of their sexual union.

Only NFP, unique among family planning methods, honors this two-fold meaning which God has written into married love. How? Natural methods accept fertility as normal and healthy; they cooperate with fertility rather than suppressing it with drugs, devices, or surgery. Modern scientific methods of Natural Family Planning educate couples to understand, observe, and interpret the

bodily signs of fertility. This knowledge empowers them to know reliably when they are fertile and when they are not; they then use that knowledge to achieve or avoid pregnancy. These methods are as effective as the Pill and other hormonal methods, but without the side effects of those drugs.

NFP allows couples the freedom to love naturally, as God intended. Does this really matter to us? Should it really matter to us? These are strange ideas in a culture that is constantly re-designing sex and emphatically separating it from babies. Certainly, few people make the effort to discover what the Creator intended by the union of man and woman. His plan, though, is simple: the gift of life and the gift of love are BOTH written into the meaning of marriage and of sexual union. This often-inconvenient truth means rather than we can love as God loves – unconditionally making a gift of ourselves to one another. And that gift, that love, does not end with the couple but opens naturally to a new human person! St. John Paul II reminds us of this in his

Apostolic Exhortation on the Family (28). "With the creation of man and woman in His own image and likeness, God crowns and brings to perfection the work of His hands. He calls them to a special sharing in His love and in His power as Creator and Father, through their free and responsible cooperation in transmitting the gift of human life."

Clearly, As Pope Francis points out in LAUDATO SI (77,80), "Creation is of the order of love. God wishes to work with us and counts on our cooperation... Consequently we can ascend from created things to the greatness of God and to His loving mercy." Specifically, "The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father...(LG155). In fact, the Holy Father says, "...Creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion" (LG 76).

This is why our obedience to the Divine plan matters so much. In this context, seen from the Creator's own perspec-

tive, we can begin to understand why God's ways are far better than any we might wish to construct. In fact, Pope Francis writes (LS, 5, 6), "Our human ability to transform reality must proceed in line with God's original gift of all that is... The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves."

Authentic love is always directed toward the good of the beloved. Couples who live NFP in their marriages often discover that they have found much more than a simple, healthy, effective way to plan their families, as their comments attest. "NFP makes me, as a woman feel that my husband sees me as a whole person, not parts of me

that are there for his pleasure. Living this way is an invitation to a radical gift of self, and it is such a blessing!" "As Catholics, we believe that what happens in our bedroom is not only between us, but that God is a big part of it. Do not settle for less when it comes to God's plan. Don't sacrifice true intimacy for the sake of convenience." According to one husband, "If NFP were not part of our life, we would be filled with so many misconceptions, with the world's pornographic attitudes toward sexuality." Another husband shares that "NFP made me able to express my feeling better." His wife smiles as she adds, "NFP has changed everything! Now it is hard to believe that he loves me as much as he does!"

## THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...)

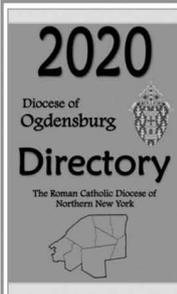


**AUGUST**

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		2020						
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16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. ALBERT J. HAUSER VF	18 REV. PETER G. HELFRICH	19 REV. MICHAEL J. JABLONSKI	20 REV. VINCETE F. JAZMINES	21 REV. DANIEL T. KEEFE	22 RETIRED PRIESTS		
23 REV. PAUL J. KELLY	24 REV. JOHN 24 KENNEDY	25 REV. THOMAS KORNMEYER VF	26 REV. STEVE KOVACEVICH	27 REV. DONALD KRAMBERG	28 REV. ARTHUR J. LABAFF VF	29 DECEASED PRIESTS		

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.myvocation.net

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# Natural Family Planning: Signs of Grace

By Jennifer Ricard

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes grace as the “free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God.” My husband, Frank, and I have experienced God’s “undeserved help,” as we have wrestled with His plan for our family. We now know it was God’s grace that guided our journey.

Frank and I met in our work place soon after college. Our first date was at a Chinese restaurant. After dinner, my fortune cookie read, “Stop searching forever, happiness is just next to you.” Frank thought it was the coolest thing ever – I wondered if it was a setup! From that unexpected beginning, we married and had five children almost immediately. Because of our family size, people often assumed that we were “good Catholics,” thinking that we had always accepted the Church’s teaching prohibiting contraception. In our case that assumption would be wrong. We had used contraception despite the

fact that the priest who prepared us for marriage taught us Church teachings. We stopped using contraception only to have our first baby, Emily. We did the same for our second child, Madeline, and our third child, Sam.

Around the time that Sam was born, Frank and I became involved in youth ministry.

This prompted me to question our own contraceptive behavior. If we had to explain the Church’s teachings on chastity, I thought, we should follow them ourselves! I quickly ordered Natural Family Planning (NFP) books and signed up for the local diocesan class. Before class began however, I skimmed through the book and started tracking my menstrual cycle on a calendar.

One romantic evening soon after that, with total disregard for the calendar, we conceived our twins, Caroline and Sophia.

Having five babies within six years was extremely overwhelming. Without hesitation I forgot about NFP and got a prescription for birth con-

trol pills. Something quite unexpected then happened. During these years using contraception I lost my sexual desire for my husband. Sex became one more thing I had to do for somebody. In addition, Frank and I began to fight about sex. Needless to say, this was upsetting – I loved my husband and I often prayed that God would help us!

In this difficult period a new parish priest came into our lives. With every examination of conscience in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation he would bring up contraception. I would immediately dismiss the subject. “That teaching doesn’t apply to us,” I thought, “we have five kids!” And yet, this new priest’s comments stuck with me and my heart remained restless. The turning point for me happened after a conversation about sterilization.

One of our friends had been sterilized and asked me when Frank would “get snipped.” Without missing a beat, I said, “Maybe for my birthday.” The fact that I so easily thought of sterilization got me thinking – how could I, we, decide to do something so major without talking about it and praying? Soon after this realization, I wondered why we were not open to having another child. I found myself offering simple prayers asking God to help us. It was the first time that I had asked God for guidance regarding our fertility. From that simple step, God began to send signs though neighbors, family and friends.

Soon after that, I spoke with our new parish priest about my concerns. He confirmed that the

Church’s teachings were true and gave me CDs and books to learn more. At the same time, I kept receiving signs about having a sixth child. For example, when we were out to dinner I complimented a woman about the behavior of her five children. She thanked me and mentioned that her sixth child was away at college. At a parish meeting I saw an old friend who commented that she thought I had a new baby. She had not known we were discerning. I shared these and other experiences with our new parish priest and asked if they were signs from God. He said if they were, they would not stop coming. Father’s words could not have been more true – the signs kept coming.

Meanwhile, Frank and I signed up for NFP class. It may sound like an exaggeration, but from the first day we began using NFP everything immediately felt different. Frank would set the alarm, take my temperature, and record the numbers on the chart. I felt so taken care of. I felt a tenderness that I hadn’t felt in a long time. I liked that he was learning about my body. It was helpful that he knew where I was in my cycle, especially during difficult days. I came to understand this total love and acceptance in a deeper way.

As we lived the NFP lifestyle, we began to realize that all of our reasons for avoiding pregnancy were “earthly” – we would need a new car, a bigger house, and more money for everything. An unexpected encounter with an old man in a donut shop broke through our hesitation. “So, how many kids do

you have?” I asked. “Three boys and three girls,” he responded. I got the biggest smile on my face, called my husband to share the story, and that evening our precious son, Thomas Anthony, was conceived.

It is by the grace of God that we have our children and a redeemed sex life as well. My husband, Frank, and I have learned that our sexual union should be focused on giving rather than getting. NFP provided the environment to live this out. We are so grateful that we now have the kind of marital union that God had planned for us! It has changed our lives so much that we became NFP teachers to spread the good news.

Now that we use NFP, we see our married life as always having an opportunity to love like God loves. Of course, God provides the grace, and we must choose to participate with Him. I am convinced that there is something about getting the sexual element of marriage “right with God” that ends up affecting everything. Marital union is the marriage vows made flesh and every act of intercourse is a renewal of these vows. Only a union centered on God and His will in our lives will truly satisfy the desires of our hearts!

*Jennifer, her husband Frank, and their six children are from the Diocese of Cleveland.*

*Ricard, Jennifer, “Signs of Grace,” NFP/US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC: USCCB, 2011. Used with permission.*

## JOB OPENING

### Moderator of Diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg has an opening for the full-time position of **Moderator of the Diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal**. The Moderator will provide administrative support to the Judicial Vicar. The Moderator must possess strong secretarial and computer skills. Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is required. Strong interpersonal skills and good oral and written communication skills are also required.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:

Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg,  
P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
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**Deadline for application is August 20, 2020.**

# How Natural Family Planning Changed My Life

By Dawn Farias

As a child, I was baptized Catholic, but essentially grew up with no religious practice. As a married adult, I reentered the Church, and soon after felt a tugging at my heart to stop practicing contraception. At that time, I did not know about Natural Family Planning (NFP). More basic, I did not know about Church teachings on the moral practice of family planning. What I would learn about God's design for my married life and through the practice of NFP would change my life.

## TRUE FREEDOM AND OPENNESS TO LIFE

When my husband, Ariel and I took an NFP class, I have to admit that I was scared. Giving up control was frightening! It was one thing to be committed to an ideal, but something quite different to follow through on it. It definitely involved a leap of faith! Over time and with some experience, I began to appreciate the gift and beauty of NFP.

In practicing NFP, my husband and I must decide if we, as a couple, are ready to embrace the possibility of a new life in each menstrual cycle. When we had used contraception, we ignored this reality. With NFP we could not ignore how God made us—as a man and a woman. NFP helped us understand the relationship that God designed between the marital act and procreation. It has made us “open to life.” It even brought our last two children into the family!

## THE GIFT OF SELF

In using NFP over the years both my husband and I now see that we give ourselves to each other

fully in the marital act. For us, the idea of contraception has become almost vulgar. It cheapens the marital act. Contraception seems to say: “I love you, honey, but I don't love you THAT much.”

NFP also guards against the objectification of the woman in the relationship. Contraception often keeps the woman in a defensive position because it allows “intimacy on demand.” NFP does not allow this because of the practice of periodic abstinence when not seeking a pregnancy. A deeper equality between husband and wife can be nurtured with NFP. NFP begins the process of this awareness.

## GROWING TOGETHER IN HOLINESS

The sacrifices that NFP entails have only served to make me a better person and more devoted to the Lord. Without knowing it, using contraception promotes the idea that children are a burden. Children do require lots of work, and pregnancy demands its own set of sacrifices, but NFP has helped me meet these challenges by leading me to the realization that children are God's blessings. I am constantly forced to pray, change, make concessions and find solutions to the selfishness and laziness that come up often when meeting the needs of others.

Today, I am confident that had I not been open to life in the practice of NFP, I would not have needed to depend on God, and not have grown as a person. This growth benefits my family and the people I meet in everyday life. Jesus calls us to serve others. Mar-

riage and parenthood are ways we can immediately apply this call in our lives. NFP has led me to be more open to life, more aware of God's design for intimacy in marriage, more dependent on Him to fulfill these plans. It

has strengthened my relationship with my husband, given me personal insight and it has given our children life!

*Dawn and her husband, Ariel Farias have four children and live in the Arch-*

*diocese of San Antonio.*

*Farias, Dawn, “How Natural Family Planning Changed My Life,” NFPP/US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC: USCCB, 2015. Used with permission.*

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## Natural Family Planning

[usccb.org/nfp](http://usccb.org/nfp)



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## Environmental Stewardship

'They see,  
but they don't see'

Jesus tells his followers that they see, but they don't see (Mt/ 13:13). How often do we find ourselves seeing only a small part of what is in front of us until someone points out to us something that we totally missed? The following reflection, offered by Molly Amoriell, a member of St. Patrick's Church in Colton, is one of those people who sees something that most of us would have missed.

## Vacant

I pause beside a real estate sign nailed to a painted post pronouncing boldly:

## VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Behind the sign, a meadow filled with columbine and lupines, lacey yarrow and bee blessed buttercup grow lush upon...

This vacant land

A stream tumbles over mossy rocks calling with laughing gurgles of delight, "Here look at me! Come close where otter splash and native trout circle dance within my whirling pools. Where painted turtles sun and spring peepers join in hymns to praise..."

This vacant land

A maple elder stretching upward. Deep within its minstrel rings the time is told when native souls, lynx, and wolverine roamed free, until they fled in fear this promised land...

This vacant land

The soil is warm to touch, each grain breathes with star-infinite creatures too small for eye to see, but seen by That Who Is...

This vacant land

Behind that wooden sign...a tiny piece of universe where Monarch wings suspend in time this kingdom...

This vacant land

A red-eyed vireo sings a note of quivering uncertainty across This vacant land

Where timber doodles dance and cicadas hum within

This vacant land

Reflection: In this "vacant land," do I fail to see all the life surrounding me?

## Rest in Peace

*This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg*

**July 30** – Rev. Francis Smyth, 1902; Rev. Patrick Majock, O.S.A., 1922; Rev. Jeremiah P. Murphy, 1925; Rev. Moses Minnie, 1935  
**July 31** – Rev. Napoleon Brisson, 1950; Rev. Michael O'Reilly, 1980  
**Aug. 1** – Rev. J. Everett Denesha, 2013

**Aug. 2** – Rev. Zephyrin Jutras, 1919

**Aug. 4** – Rev. Alexandre Soulerin, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Adolphe Saurel, 1925; Rev. Willie Caron, M.S.C., 1972

**Aug. 5** – Rev. M. Calixte Mourier, O.M.I., 1912; Rev. David N. Burke, 1913; Rev. Gerald A. Sharland, 1973

**Aug. 7** – Msgr. Edmund H. Dumas, 2000; Rev. Lawrence E. Cotter, 2016

**Aug. 8** – Rev. Donald E. Seguin, 1976

**Aug. 9** – Rev. Edward B. May, O.S.A., 1953; Rev. James N. Flattery, 1997

**Aug. 10** – Rev. Walter J. LaRocque, 1936; Rev. Joseph Bolduc, O.M.I., 1956; Rev. Cornelius Vullings, M.S.C., 1971; Msgr. Anthony A. Milia, 2010; Deacon Bruce C. Wadsworth, 2013

**Aug. 11** – Rev. Gilbert Monroe, O.F.M., 1958; Rev. John M. Kennedy, 1979

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-anna Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terriannayanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org).

## FORMED helps families feel empowered to educate

By Jessica Hargrave  
Contributing Writer

For parents to be the primary catechists for their children, they must feel empowered. The on-line resource FORMED aims to do just that by offering free videos to make teaching the Catholic Faith simple for adults and engaging for children.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**July 29** – 10 a.m. – Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Inc. Meeting in New York City

**July 31** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**August 1** – 11 a.m. – Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Jude Nnadibuagha and Deacon Severinus Torwoe and Ordination to the Diaconate of Mr. Donald Wilder, Mr. Matthew Conger and Mr. John Kennedy Ojuok

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. Due to CoVid-19, there are no live trainings scheduled. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 x 1413, who will coordinate assigning the training to be completed online.

## Letters to the Editor

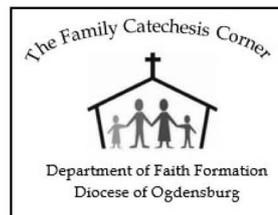
We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 500.

- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)

- Join the conversation!



dren.

The COVID-19 pandemic has halted group gatherings and altered confirmation and First Communion plans, which has made some catechetical leaders turn to parents to help in preparation.

Deb Mullin, catechetical leader for St. Peter's Church in Lowville, said she believes FORMED is very effective for sacramental prep. Each week, the parish's confirmation class was emailed a segment from "YDisciple-Confirmation," a FORMED program, and questions to answer based on the segment.

St. Peter's First Communion students were also able to benefit from FORMED. Mullin suggests videos from Brother Fran-

cis, who helps children understand how to live a joy-filled Catholic life. In Brother Francis' "The Bread of Life: Celebrating the Eucharist," he explains all about the sacrament of the Eucharist. To encourage family catechesis, Mullin points parents to a video series titled, "The Wild Goose" Father Dave Pivoka guides parents to discover their relationship with the Holy Spirit.

"With the feedback we got back from both parents and students, I think they enjoyed the assignments on FORMED and the flexibility of watching when it was most convenient for them," said Mullin.

To watch free videos, browse programs and so much more, head over to [watch.formed.org](http://watch.formed.org).

The phone line to the Department of Faith Formation is always open to parents or catechetical leaders with questions on how to incorporate catechesis in their home at (315)393-2920.

Visit our website

[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

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- Search archived papers
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# Seminarians receive degrees, Rite at workshop

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG –Three Diocese of Ogdensburg Seminarians received their undergraduate degrees and the Ministry of Acolyte was conferred on another seminarian in a Mass held at Wadhams Hall on July 21 as part of the seminarians' annual Summer Workshop.

Seminarians Nicholas Olley, Carter Pierce and Douglas Schirmer received bachelor's degrees from Pontifical College of Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. The three young men were unable to receive their degrees in a ceremony at the seminary due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"They missed out, if we could say I that way, on their graduation ceremony at Pontifical College," said Father Christopher C. Carrara, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and director of Seminarians for the diocese. "This seemed like a perfect opportunity."

Also at the Mass, the Ministry of Acolyte was conferred on Seminarian Leagon Carlin, a student at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Rite of Installation of Acolyte would typically be celebrated at the seminary, but was delayed and celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, also due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Acolytes assist the deacon and the priest at liturgies by preparing and cleaning the altar and sacred vessels and, when necessary, act as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. The acolyte also has other im-



DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Seminarian Nicholas Olley receives his bachelor's degree from Pontifical College Josephinum from Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Olley, along with seminarians Carter Pierce and Douglas Schirmer, were awarded their degrees in a July 21 Mass held as part of the seminarians' annual Summer Workshop. The three seminarians received their degrees at Wadhams Hall, since graduation ceremonies at the Pontifical College Josephinum were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.**

portant functions, such as leading the procession by carrying the cross to and from the altar at the beginning and end of Mass.

"Because you are specially called to this ministry, you should strive to live more fully by the Lord's sacrifice and to be molded more perfectly in its likeness," the Rite says. "You should seek to understand the deep spiritual meaning of what you do, so that you may offer yourselves daily to God as spiritual sacrifices acceptable to him through Jesus Christ."

In the homily he delivered at the Mass, Bishop LaValley noted that "some would say today's generation has an attitude of entitlement," and he asked the seminarians present to reflect on the

day they became entitled as Christians, the day of their baptisms.

"That day, we were given a mission, a baptismal charge to be about doing the will of God, to be about the Father's business," Bishop LaValley said. "Our attitude of entitlement should be that of being an intentional disciple."

Bishop LaValley reminded the seminarians that "Jesus took time away, time to be off by himself in prayer."

"I would invite you in your own prayer to tap into that intimate relationship that Jesus had with his Father while he walked on this earth," he said.

Bishop LaValley encouraged the seminarians to "be creative" when praying.

"Give yourself permission to be creative in your prayer," he said. "Don't do all the talking in the dialogue. Listen. Listen to how our God made man was energized, challenged, affirmed and so richly loved in doing the Father's business, His will."

Bishop LaValley reminded the seminarians gathered that the Church – through its traditions, teachings, seminary classes and formation, and parish faith formation – "helps us to know the Father's will."

Father Carrara noted that the 17 diocesan seminarians, upon arrival at Wadhams Hall for their summer workshop, spent some time exploring the building and located pictures of the classes that attended the seminary prior to its closing, pictures which featured a number of active priests in the diocese.

"You missed out on graduating from Pontifical College, a wonderful institution, but you're graduating instead from the institution the brother priests of the diocese graduated from," he said. "Praise God, you'll be serving with them."

While he said he wishes the semester had ended differently for the graduates, Father Carrara noted that he saw blessings in the fact that the seminarians were able to celebrate their graduations with their families, fellow diocesan seminarians, himself and Bishop LaValley here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"For our sake, I'm glad you're here," he said. "What an honor it is for us to be here with you."

When awarding the de-

grees, Bishop LaValley praised the young graduates.

"We have some mighty fine young Christian gentlemen who have just graduated," Bishop LaValley said. "They're joining the ranks of fine young Christian gentleman of years gone by."

Bishop LaValley also praised the group of 17 diocesan seminarians and their families.

"We have a group of seminarians that I'd put up against any group anywhere," he said. "It's the fraternity that these guys are about. It's the prayer they're taking so seriously. It's their love of family. They're Gospel people. We have to thank their moms and dads for that. You've done good, moms and dads."

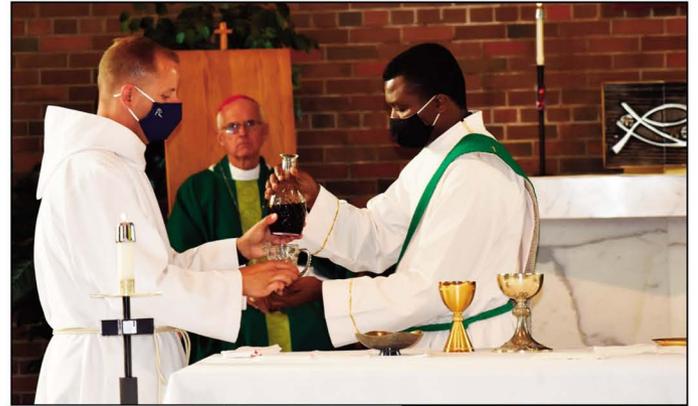
Bishop LaValley noted that two in attendance at the gathering, Deacon Jude Nnadibuagha and Deacon Severinus Torwoe, are scheduled to be ordained as priests on Aug. 1, while two others, Matthew Conger and John Kennedy Ojuok, will be ordained as deacons.

"Because of the way things are in the world right now, not everyone will be able to enjoy their ordination with their families," Bishop LaValley said. "But this is family, as well. Welcome to the family of the Church of Ogdensburg."



JULY 29, 2020

SHARING FAITH, FORMATION, FELLOWSHIP  
**SEMINARIANS' SUMMER WORKSHOP**



SHARING FAITH, FORMATION, FELLOWSHIP  
**SEMINARIANS'  
SUMMER  
WORKSHOP**



# Faith is 'part of what keeps me going'

*Editor's note: The following is an installment of an ongoing series featuring how Catholics of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are living out their faith. To suggest an individual to be featured in this series, please call the North Country Catholic at 315-393-2920 or email [dfargo@rcdony.org](mailto:dfargo@rcdony.org).*

**By Darcy Fargo**  
Editor

**MASSENA** – For Marilyn DeCelles, a parishioner of St. Peter's Parish in Massena, faith is a critical part of her life.

"You've got to eat, and you've got to sleep," she said. "For me, I also need my faith. It's part of what keeps me going."

DeCelles said she grew up in a household of faith. Her mother was part of a large Catholic family from Alexandria Bay, and her father was a convert to Catholicism.

"I've always been serious about my faith," she said. "I can remember when I made my First Communion – what I looked like and what I felt that day."

DeCelles said her family worshipped and celebrated their faith together.

"My father made his confirmation with me," she noted.

DeCelles said she attended Holy Family School in Watertown from grades six to nine and Immaculate Heart Academy, now Immaculate Heart Central, for high school.

"I had good teachers – all nuns," she said. "They helped me grow my faith."

While she noted that she got into some mischief as a youth, she said God protected her and prevented her from danger.

"I've been totally blessed," she said. "I didn't



**Marilyn DeCelles**

get into any real trouble or danger, even though I was into some mischief. When I was 13, a girlfriend and I got a rowboat. We took turns rowing and swimming, and we swam out to Boldt Castle. This was before the shipping channel opened in the St. Lawrence, so there wasn't all the commercial traffic, but we got picked up by the Coast Guard. They weren't happy we were out there. Our parents weren't happy, either. But, through the grace of God, we made it safely and didn't get into too much trouble."

DeCelles said the blessings continued into her adult life.

"I've had a charmed life," she said. "I've been very blessed. I had a good marriage, a good family, good in-laws. I had a career I loved. God has been very good to me."

DeCelles noted, though, that her faith helped her

through the loss of her father and her husband.

"My dad died early," she said. "He was only 56. My faith helped me through that. And when my husband died after 48 years of marriage, my faith helped me through that, too. I prayed a lot. I would go to the church and just sit. It was very calming. It made me feel at peace."

Now retired after a long career at Massena Memorial Hospital, where she worked in accounting and medical records, DeCelles said she is blessed to be able to spend her time participating in the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS), the Commissioned Lay Ministry program, Sacred Heart League and volunteering.

"I'm involved in a lot of things," she said. "With the DOVS, Sacred Heart League and Commissioned Lay Ministry program, I spend a lot of time



with other Catholics. I think it really helps support my faith. We all support each other. We pray with and for each other."

DeCelles said her work with the AARP tax program and helping others file their taxes gives her an opportunity to share her faith with individuals who may not be Catholic or Christian.

"It's one of my favorite things in life," she said of the volunteer opportunity. "When you're helping them with their taxes and financial documents, people tend to open up about their struggles and hardships. When people share their struggles with me, just saying 'I'll pray for you' opens up a discussion. It gives me a chance to share my faith."

DeCelles said praying for others has become an important part of how she can help others.

"I participated in the Alpha program in my parish," DeCelles said, describing the program aimed at reaching the "unchurched." "The second year of the program,

Father Mark (Reilly) asked Sue LaCombe and I to be prayer warriors. With that, we'd go and eat with the participants, we'd watch the video and then we'd go to the church and pray for each participant individually and by name. We would sit with and eat with a different group each time. I really saw the Holy Spirit in business. Normally, I live on sticky notes. My memory is not great. But while eating with the groups, people would ask what we were doing, and we told them. Many of them would come up with some personal issue that they'd ask us to pray for – issues in the family, a kid trying to get into college, someone in an accident. I could remember every single one, and I don't remember anything. I'd pray that they'd have a good experience and result from Alpha, and I'd pray for their personal intentions. It was so amazing that I could remember each person and their needs. It was three or four new ones each week,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## 'Keeps me going'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

but by the end, I could still remember them all. Sometimes, they'd approach me weeks later and I'd hear that the prayers worked. It was definitely the Holy Spirit at work."

DeCelles said she also fosters her faith by reading the "Word Among Us" reflections daily, as well as reflections from "Living Faith." She said she also takes her intentions and requests to the Blessed Mother but does so in a unique way.

"I'm not sure I'm supposed to do this, but I change the Hail Mary to suit my needs and the needs of others," she said. "I used to go to Daily Mass with a group, including my friend, Marie. After Mass, we'd go for coffee. We both liked trains, and it seemed like whenever we were having coffee, a train would go by. She's

been gone for five or six years now. Every time I hear a train, I say the Hail Mary, but instead of 'pray for us sinners,' I say, 'pray for the soul of Marie.' Other times, I say 'pray for the soul of my husband.'"

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, she also attended daily Mass and prayed the Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours prior to Mass.

"Thank goodness for the streaming of Mass now," she said, noting she's trying to stay as safe as possible and follow the pandemic restrictions by staying home. "It's been very good. It's like going to Mass, but not. Not having the Eucharist has been like a hole. It's something I'm missing a lot. I miss it, but I was told to stay home, so I'm staying home."

In more normal times, DeCelles said she also

found profound moments of faith by attending retreats. She said one of the most memorable moments was praying in the life-sized Stations of the Cross at St. Anne's Shrine in Isle La Motte, Vermont.

"Because the Stations are life-sized, it makes it more real," she said. "As you're going through the stations, it's very sad. It makes you want to cry. It's just very powerful."

As she moves forward in her journey of faith, DeCelles said her goal is to walk with others.

"I'm a helper," she said. "I like to help people. I'm healthy, and I've never wanted for anything. I'm middle class, and I'm happy with what I have – even my old car that clinks and clunks. I see others who are less well off, and I feel like I need to help. I feel like that's my mission."

## Funeral Mass held for Theresa Giroux

Theresa C. Giroux, 95, of Plattsburgh, passed away, Sunday, July 19, 2020 at home with her loving family by her side. She was born in Lacolle, Quebec, Canada on April 11, 1925, the daughter of the late Joseph and Rosa (Martin) Bedard.

Theresa was predeceased by her husband Leo Giroux in 2016, a daughter Monica Giroux, a son Lawrence Giroux, and her sister, Rita Lushia.

Theresa was a very faithful catholic and member of St. Peter's Church. In 2013, she and her husband were conferred with the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* cross, a papal honor for dedication and service to the Church.

She is survived by her children; Joseph (Carolyn) Giroux, John (Rosemary) Giroux, Marcel (Gail) Giroux, George (Debra) Giroux, Lucy Giroux and Patty Gallagher, all of Plattsburgh, Kathryn Giroux of Essex Junction, VT, Philip (Pam) Bronder-Giroux of Malden, MA, and Marian (Ken) Knox of Amherst, NY, her siblings; Jean Depo, Rose Ducharme, Andrew Bedard, Henry and Sue Bedard, Irene Williams, her 26 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 25 at St. Peter's Church. Interment followed in the family plot at St. Peter's Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the aides who provided excellent care to Theresa.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mission of Hope or the Catholic Relief Services. Online condolences may be offered at [www.brownfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.brownfuneralhomeinc.com).

## KNIGHTS AND PILGRIMS



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) Knights of Columbus from around the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered for Mass as part of a pilgrimage at St. Anne's Shrine in Isle La Motte Vermont on July 19. (Right) Dr. Charles Robinson, State Warden for the Knights of Columbus, gives closing remarks at the pilgrimage.



## Fauci: COVID is a 'pandemic of historic proportion'

PHOENIX (CNS) – There is no denying the fact "this is a pandemic of historic proportion," Dr. Anthony Fauci told students at Jesuit-run Georgetown University in a recent online webinar focused on young people's risks and responsibilities in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

"I think we cannot deny that fact. It is something that when we look back in history, it will be comparable to what we saw in 1918," he said, referring to the deadly influenza epidemic that lasted from February 1918 to April 1920 and infected 500 million people around the world.

Fauci is director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health and a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, established Jan. 29.

After the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic March 11, a national emergency was declared in the United States, leading to a shutdown of all but what government officials declared to be essential services, like grocery stores and Home Depot and other big-box stores. Public celebration of Mass in Catholic churches and services in other houses of worship were among numerous events that had to be canceled for months.

In recent weeks a majority of states have gradually opened up, but the number of confirmed cases of COVID are now spiking around the country.

Fauci said the increases in cases might have a cor-

relation with the reopening of states and the younger culture.

The challenge the country is facing right now is the resurgence of infections in the South and Southwestern parts of the country, Fauci said, adding, "We are seeing record numbers of cases mostly among young individuals, which strongly suggests a link (with) attempting to reopen."

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, as of mid-day July 24 there are currently over 4 million positive cases in the U.S. and over 144,000 deaths. The numbers are leading the world in both categories.

Among the states that began reopening in the past few weeks, Arizona, California, Florida and Texas in particular have seen the biggest spikes in confirmed cases of the coronavirus, as Fauci noted.

Among the top-10 counties with the most confirmed cases, Florida and Texas each have two counties in the list: Miami-Dade and Broward counties in Florida, which have been at No. 5 and No. 8 on the list, and Harris (which is home to Houston) and Dallas counties in Texas, at No. 6 and No. 10.

"Our challenge today, tomorrow and the next week is to try to contain these outbreaks and get us back on the track of not only being able to contain but also to open safely," Fauci added.

Dr. Scott Atlas, a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, sees no correlation between the reopening of

states and the increase in cases, attributing the rise to large public demonstrations taking place since May 25, the day George Floyd died while in police custody.

"By the way, they (the numbers) do not correlate, in a time sense, with the reopening of states," said Atlas. "If you look at the timing, it is just a misstatement and false narrative. The reality is that it might correlate to the recent massive demonstrations. Suffice it to say that the majority of cases come from younger healthier people."

In Arizona, for example, 61% COVID-19 cases are in people under 45, public health officials said. In Texas' two largest counties, Harris and Dallas, about half of the new cases have been in people under 40.

Fauci, Atlas and others agree that younger people, on average, are less likely to become severely ill and die of the disease, but they can spread it to older, more vulnerable people.

Atlas also said the increase in the number of ICU beds being occupied is not related to increase of positive COVID cases but with reinstallation of medical care for non-COVID patients.

"When you look at Texas, 90-plus percent of ICU beds are occupied, but only 15% are COVID patients," said Atlas.

Regardless of different perspectives on what's causing the spike, states have been reinstating restrictions, while also urging the public to continue to adhere to social-distancing and mask-wearing protocol.

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Hunger high on list of battles aid agency faces amid pandemic

WASHINGTON (CNS) – As the coronavirus pandemic commands global attention, for those working at organizations such as Catholic Relief Services, the health crisis is one in a long list of emergencies staff must tend to in its mission to help the world's poorest. "Our partners in Lebanon said COVID is not their top problem, that their top problem is an economic crisis where they had an 80% devaluation of currency and are being really hit economically," said Sean Callahan, president and CEO of the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency in a July 17 interview with Catholic News Service about a dire hunger problem the world will soon face. Hunger is what Lebanon is facing with the collapse of its currency, as people are able to buy far less with their money and food imports become scarce. Some worry the country may soon face famine, a situation the country hasn't seen since the late 1910s when, like the rest of the world, it, too, was dealing with a pandemic. And hunger, particularly during a pandemic, is of utmost concern – not just in Lebanon. A July 13 report from the United Nations said almost 690 million people went hungry in 2019, an increase of 10 million from the previous year – figures arrived at before the pandemic began. Countries and geographic areas with a high number of vulnerable populations that may soon experience large-scale hunger, in addition to other conditions, are causing alarm among aid agencies such as CRS as the virus spreads.

### Canadian court: Agreement with U.S. violates rights

TORONTO (CNS) – Canada's Federal Court has ruled the country's Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by sending refugees who arrive at Canada's land borders back to detention in the United States. It is the second time a federal judge has struck down the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement on constitutional grounds. For Catholic refugee advocates, the ruling is a victory, said Norbert Piche, Jesuit Refugee Service country director for Canada. "If we're going to be saying that we are Christians, that we believe in what Christ tells us, then we have to believe in welcoming the stranger," Piche said. "The stranger is the refugee claimant, the person who is fleeing persecution. If we are truly, bona fide Christians, we will stand up for these people." "We can continue being Canada – a fair country and a country that protects refugees," said Loly Rico, co-director of the FCJ Refugee Centre, a shelter sponsored by the Faithful Companions of Jesus. The case was brought in 2017 on behalf of three women by the Canadian Council of Churches, Amnesty International Canada and the Canadian Council for Refugees.

### New Vatican Library site aims to serve scholars, entice curious

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Vatican Library has revamped its website to serve scholars better and facilitate navigation for the curious. "Because of the pandemic, physical presence has become more difficult and, therefore, the website aims to be a place for welcoming, collaboration and openness," Msgr. Cesare Pasini, the library's prefect, told Vatican News July 22. With a fresh look, easier and more intuitive navigation, and greater online services for researchers, the updated site, [www.vaticanlibrary.va](http://www.vaticanlibrary.va), went live in mid-July, right when the library closed for the summer months. Along with many other Vatican institutions open to the public, the library had shut down during Italy's nationwide lockdown, then reopened June 1 to limited numbers of scholars and with the required restrictions and safety measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

# Saint Joseph, the 'Silent Man'

*Editor's note: In May, Bishop Terry R. LaValley consecrated the Diocese of Ogdensburg to St. Joseph. To celebrate that consecration, the NCC will be featuring occasional columns highlighting St. Joseph.*

By Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin

I have often said, and I meant every word of it, that one of the best things my mother ever did for me was to choose the name of Joseph at my baptism.

No man in the history of mankind was so chosen to become the spouse of Mary, a chaste virgin who would become the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God!

By Joseph's position in



## St. Joseph's Corner

the history of salvation he is regarded as the greatest saint in heaven with the exception of Mary, the queen of all saints. After Christ, Mary is the rare jewel of God's creation.

This glorious man, St. Joseph, is mentioned several times in the four Gospels of the New Testament. However, not a word from St. Joseph is

recorded in Sacred Scripture. His actions are faithfully brought to our attention – actions of a man of profound humility. Words on the part of Joseph were not necessary to portray the one who was chosen to care for Mary and help raise Jesus, her Son, the Incarnate Son of God.

There is no fanfare in the life of St. Joseph as

head of the Holy Family of Nazareth. He was profoundly humble in following God's plan revealed to him in a series of dreams. He listened very carefully and followed God's plan. His focus was always the care of Mary and Jesus.

When the Church began to spread throughout the known world, Joseph is never mentioned. For five hundred years the Church was silent about Joseph. He became known as "The Silent Man."

But St. Joseph is silent no longer. He is honored in over 30 shrines throughout the world. In 1870 Pope Pius IX named St. Joseph as Patron Saint of the Universal Church, and in 1955 Pope Pius XII

established the feast of St. Joseph, the Worker.

In our own diocese, Bishop Terry R. LaValley dedicated all of our people to St. Joseph. This special dedication took place on May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker.

If God could trust St. Joseph to care for the Holy Family of Nazareth, can we also trust St. Joseph to care for us and all of our needs?

Blessed be the foster father of Jesus.

Blessed Saint Joseph, patron saint of all of us, accompany us in our journey to eternal life.

**Action Step:** Place a picture or statue of St. Joseph in a place of honor in your home. Consecrate your family and loved ones to St. Joseph.

## 2020 VIRTUAL FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Friday, August 21, 7pm to Sunday, August 23, 3pm

People learn from each other  
as iron sharpens iron.

(proverbs 27:17)

**FREE Registration:**

**[rcdony.org/VFLC](http://rcdony.org/VFLC)**

**Registration Deadline:**

**Friday, August 14**

### Presenters include:

Dcn. James Crowley	Colleen Miner
Catherine Russell	Tom Semeraro
Anita Soltero	Ian Fawcett
Desiree Kirk	Lorraine Carney
Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli	Dr. Maura Fehlner
	Dayna Leader

- Connect with Families from around the Diocese
- Pray the Liturgy of the Hours
- Participate in Live Workshops
- View Pre-Recorded Presentations
- Play Virtual Bingo

For more information:

Steve Tartaglia [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Readings focus on God expressing love

It's all about feasting. How welcome the readings are to us who live in a time of confusion and uncertainty, never knowing what tomorrow will bring.

In the first reading, the people of Israel have been chastened and purified through years of slavery in Babylon. Back in Jerusalem, God invites them to rich food and drink, all at no cost.

"You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without

cost." In His love, His bounty is endless. Their only obligation is to remain faithful to Him and obey His laws.

In the second reading from Romans, Paul declares that nothing can ever separate us from God's great love, neither the present nor the future, not even death itself.

In the Gospel, we have another proof of Christ's great compassion in the story of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Jesus had heard



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

**August 2**

**18th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Isaiah 55:1-5

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Matthew 14:13-21

of the Baptist's beheading and went off to a desert place to pray and mourn. A huge crowd followed him, and he preached to them until evening was coming on. The disciples asked Jesus to dismiss them so they could go and buy themselves something to eat; Jesus tells them to feed them themselves, which He knew was impossible.

They tell him they have only a few loaves and fish. After praying to His Father, Jesus distributes them to the whole crowd. There were 12 basketfuls left over.

What great lessons we find in that whole incident. Jesus doesn't get rid of people who are hungry and in need. He has compassion for everyone. He wants us never to dismiss people, but to take whatever we have and bring them to Jesus.

We will find that when we welcome the poor and the needy, Jesus will multiply our sharing with them through His grace. But Jesus wants our mea-

ger gifts first.

This great story is a foreshadowing of Jesus giving us the gift of His own Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. He gives Himself daily for our nourishment. There is no greater gift of His Love, and He gives it to us without cost.

In these days of the pandemic, it's so important that we show discipline and patience with wearing our face masks in public places and keeping that social distancing. And we pray for religious freedom, respect and unity for all whom Christ died to save, including the unborn.

## CALLED TO SERVE

# Three pieces of exciting news

Amid all the glum news about the virus, the economy, the international milieu and such, we have at least three things to be excited about. In reverse order of importance, I survived the clergy golf tournament, baseball season has finally started and dioceses across the country are ordaining men as priests and deacons.

Perhaps I should explain the golf thing. This duffer does not play often or

well. The opportunity to gather with brother priests, deacons and others at the beautiful Malone Country Club was an opportunity not to be missed. If you do not play the game, you do not care, but I only lost two balls, both on the same water hole. That fact and the occasional good shot will keep me coming back. There is logic in that, but only golfers will understand.

And then there is baseball. New rules, no one in the stands, announcers in studios away from the ballpark but essentially the same game.

Baseball is my favorite sport, so I am thankful for a professional brand being played in any COVID-19 form this year.

More important than my embarrassing golf tales or the renewal of the summer pastime, ordinations have been taking place across the country. One diocese had two ordinations in one day to accommodate the number of candidates. Another bishop spread the group over four ceremonies.

The ceremony in the

Diocese of Ogdensburg will occur August 1.



**Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon**

This is a "by invitation only" event because of the attendance limitations we are following. It is also unusual to have men ordained as priests and others as deacons in the same liturgy. But that is what will occur. It is unusual

but not unprecedented. At St. Mary's in Ogdensburg, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside as two transitional deacons become priests, two seminarians will be ordained to the order of deacon (transitional) as they continue their preparation to become presbyters, and one man will be ordained a deacon (permanent). Parts of the ceremony will be

truncated because brother priests and deacons will not be present for the traditional kiss of peace, a welcome to our order gesture.

Regardless of the form, this day will be a welcome one for the candidates, their families, friends and for the diocese. And there are 14 men entering their final year of formation for the Order of Deacon (permanent) this fall and a like number of men in various stages of college and seminary preparation for the priesthood.

All this leaves us to write, thank you, Lord.

*Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.*

*He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

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# Father Dan Chapin visits Mollendo with friends

Father Daniel L. Chapin was a former missionary in Mollendo, Peru from 1976-1986 and has returned every two years to visit the Parish of San Martin de Porres, often bringing with him small groups of those interested in Peru and the church there.

This tradition continues as from December 30, 2019 to January 17, 2020 Father Dan traveled to Peru, having invited six friends to accompany him: a professional photographer and his family, a college student studying electrical engineering and a psychologist. All reside in Cochabamba, Bolivia. One reason for inviting them was the fact that they had never seen the Pacific Ocean, as Bolivia is a landlocked country.

While in Arequipa, Peru, the group went up to the Province of Caylloma vis-



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iting a few villages, including Yanque, where Father Paul Hagan lived and from where he traveled to a number of the villages in the province carrying out his missionary vocation over many years.

Father Hagan was one of the first two volunteers to the Peru mission.

In Yanque, the group visited the grave of Sister Antonia Kayser, MM, a native of New York and a Maryknoll Sister who served for years as a member of the pastoral team headed by Father Hagan.

Also, during this trip,

Father Dan filled in for the priests from Mollendo, who were on their annual retreat in Arequipa.

Between the two parishes, he presided at 11 Masses, including four Funeral Masses.

He celebrated Sunday Mass in Alto Inclan and visited Inclan. He was able to spend time with many parishioners and friends throughout his time in Mollendo.

The group also went to the Tambo Valley, the Port of Matarani and some of the islands, coves and inlets of the Pacific Ocean.



(Top) Father Daniel Chapin poses for a photo with Haydee Barriga de Salas, a longtime friend from the beginning of mission in the Port of Matarani and Mollendo. (Bottom) Father Chapin in Mollendo with friends, Coco, Lucha & Karina Paredes, and a group from Cochabamba, Bolivia.

## OBITUARIES

**Au Sable Forks** – Charles Marshall, 82; Mass of Christian Burial July 16, 2020 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Champlain** – Henrietta May (Ducharme) Babbie, 94; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Champlain** – Gerard Joseph Ducharme, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2020 at St. Mary's Church.

**Chateaugay** – Gregory William Riley, 62; Private Mass of Christian Burial July 25, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Clayton** – Leonard P. "Obie" O'Brien, 79; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Elizabethtown** – Clarence J. Phillips, 93; Private Services to be held.

**Fort Covington** – Clayton J. Almond, 83; Graveside Services July 22, 2020 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Hopkinton** – Sandra Lee (Collins) LaShomb, 78; Graveside Services July 25, 2020 at the Holy Cross Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** – Grace LaDuke Berliner; Mass of Christian Burial July 13, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Malone** – Elizabeth J. (Matthews) Myatt, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 16, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Helen's Cemetery, Chasm Falls.

**Malone** – Dorothy L. (Gaynor) Paquin, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 16, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Massena** – Kristin Glaude, 38; Funeral Services July 18, 2020 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Beverly J. Gratton, 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2020 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Thomas J. Gordon, 69; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Cadyville.

**Norfolk** – Shirley A. (O'Hara) Shoen, 81; No Services at this time.

**Ogdensburg** – Philip D. Sharrow, 71; Funeral Services July 24, 2020 at Fray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Plattsburgh** – Patricia Ann (Mace) Coleman, 80; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, Peru.

**Plattsburgh** – Theresa C. (Bedard) Giroux, 95; Mass of Christian Burial

July 25, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Gertrude Elaine (Mead) Infante, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 23, 2020 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Louis R. Maloney, 63; Mass of Christian Burial July 17, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Sharon St. Germain, 81; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at St. Peter's Church.

**Port Henry** – Walter J. Mimas, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Moriah.

**Potsdam** – Demilt F. Aitken, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 22, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Notre-Dame de-Belmont Cemetery, Quebec City.

**Potsdam** – Daniel P. Collins, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Emma Law Berghorn, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Vincent Edward Jay, 89; Private Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2020 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Dorothy L. "Dot" (Klock) Foley-Persons, 95; Funeral Services to be held at a later date.

**Watertown** – Stephen L. St. Joseph, 69; Mass of Christian Burial July 24, 2020 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

## CLEANING AT CAMP



MARY JO ROCKER/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Father Stephen T. Rocker, pastor of St. Mary's Potsdam and St. Patrick's in Colton, cleaned Rocker cleaned the exterior windows of the Guggenheim Lodge during a recent camp clean-up event.

## New Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation awards grants

WATERTOWN – The Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation is established for the purpose of supporting leadership training for the Catholic Church of the North Country.

The newly established foundation just completed its first year of awarding grants. Recipients include the Department of Education for completion of studies in Catholic School Administration for one of its principals; St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's in Watertown for training leadership to implement a Pre-school Family Catechesis Program; and St. Mary's in Clayton for theological training for one of its lay leaders in the parish.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation was established two years ago as a means of continuing the community's support of the Church of the North Country and continuing their charism of all-inclusive love and reconciliation through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

The foundation focuses on programs that build relationships by offering spiritual and financial support for leadership training, and by providing grants to parishes, schools, educational pro-



DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Sister Sahayarani Selvaraj, a Sister of the Cross of Chavanod and pastoral associate/coordinator at St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's, Kathy Mastellon, coordinator of Early Catholic Family Life in Watertown, and Father John M. Demo, pastor, receive a Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation grant from Sister Shirley Anne Brown, SSI (second from left).

grams and other ministries.

The application cycle is March to April each year, and grants are awarded in May-June.

For more information and/or a brochure de-

scribing the program, email [ssjfoundationchairperson@gmail.com](mailto:ssjfoundationchairperson@gmail.com) or write the Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation, 1425 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601 Attention: Chairperson.

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### AROUND THE DIOCESE

#### CHICKEN BBQ PLANNED FOR ST. MARY'S, CANTON

The Famous St. Mary's Chicken BBQ is back in Canton! The BBQ will be held Saturday, Aug. 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. Pre-orders must be received by Friday, Aug. 7 at 2 p.m. Pre-order by calling 315-386-2543.

Meals will be available for drive-thru pick-up only. To pick up your pre-ordered meal, enter the parking lot at the corner of Court Street and Powers Street in Canton.

Each meal includes a BBQ chicken half, salt potatoes, cole slaw, baked beans and dinner rolls. Cost is \$11 for a meal, \$7 for chicken only.

#### GOLF TOURNAMENT PLANNED

St. Peter's Catholic Church in Plattsburgh will host its annual golf tournament on Aug. 7 at Adirondack Golf Club. This will be the final golf tournament, and all funds raised will benefit parish youth programs.

Registration will run from 11:30 to 12:25, with a shotgun start at 12:30. Food will be available, and all activities are designed with appropriate social distancing in mind.

Cost is \$70 for individuals who are not members at Adirondack Golf Club; \$55 for members. Teams should consist of four members. For registration or more information, call John Mockry at 518-578-4927