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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 21

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPT. 30, 2020

## Youth participate in parish ministry

LOWVILLE – Youth at St. Peter's Church in Lowville, St. Mary's in Glenfield and St. Hedwig's in Houseville are taking active roles in ministry, and those roles are both helping the parish and helping the youth develop their faith.

Deborah Mullin, Faith Formation coordinator for the three faith communities, noted that teenagers from the communities are teaching and assisting with Faith Formation, serving as lectors, altar servers, technology assistants and musicians, and aiding with Vacation Bible Schools.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Pope: Change requires input of everyone

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The world will not overcome the current crisis if only big businesses, financial institutions and the powerful have a voice, Pope Francis said.

"Everyone must be listened to. Everyone – those on the top, those on the bottom," he said Sept. 23 during his weekly general audience.

"Getting out of this crisis does not mean brushing a coat of paint over the current situation," he said.

"Overcoming a crisis means changing. And true change comes about with everyone, all the people," who make up a community, he said to applause.

"Either together or it will not work," he said at the audience, which was held in the San Damaso courtyard of the Apostolic Palace.

He continued his series

of talks on "healing the world" by reflecting on the "principle of subsidiarity," which emerged in church teaching in Pope Pius XI's 1931 encyclical "Quadragesimo Anno" on the reconstruction of the social order.

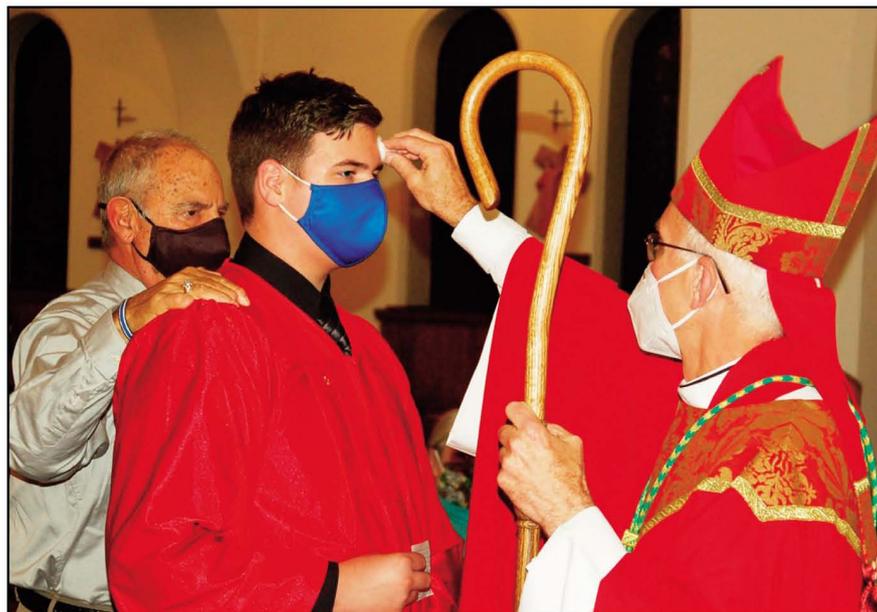
Subsidiarity has been explained as balancing the many necessary levels of society – government, business, family, associations, etc. – and seeking the allocation of resources by higher levels of society to support engagement and decision-making by the lower levels.

Pope Francis said the principle works both ways: from top to bottom and from the bottom to the top, with all levels working in a cooperative, not competitive way, leading to greater unity and working for the common good.

## CONFIRMED IN THE SPIRIT



Bishop Terry R. LaValley visited St. Alphonsus Holy Name of Jesus on Tuesday, September 22 to bestow the rite of Confirmation on local Catholic candidates from Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake and Malone. (Above) Bishop LaValley anoints Emma Robillard of Tupper Lake with chrism during the confirmation. (Below) Bishop LaValley anoints Porter Wood of Malone.



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## I'm thankful for 'the now'

"I love seeing the trees changing colors along the beautiful Lawrence River on my ride in to work, but I don't love what comes after those leaves drop," I wrote to one of the NCC's contributors in an email.

"Enjoy the now," the contributor responded.

It was good advice. I tend to spend a lot of my time and energy thinking about what might come next in my life, whether it be the

seasons/weather or developments in my personal or professional life. Add to that my propensity for preparing myself for the worst-case scenario, and I spend a whole lot of time dwelling on a future that I don't paint as very bright.

Darcy L.  
Fargo

It's not a very positive way to live, and it causes me to miss a lot of beautiful moments and gifts.

That simple phrase, "enjoy the now," made me reflect on those tendencies this week.

Yes, winter will be here sooner than I'd like, but right now, we have a rainbow of colors to enjoy right outside our windows. Right now, we have beautiful warm days and cool nights. Right now, I'm healthy enough to get out of bed every morning and spend time with a family I love, go to a job I love and enjoy activities I love. Right now, I'm sitting in my humble, but warm and safe home, doing something I've always loved (writing) and hearing my wind chimes singing in the breeze.

Right now is pretty amaz-

ing!

Maybe it's human nature, or maybe it's because I'm still relatively young, but I often seem to forget that there's no guarantee I'll see tomorrow. I plan for it, but it's not promised to me. My plans are not always God's plans.

So, I'm trying this week (and hopefully into the future) to "enjoy the now." I'm trying to be more grateful to God for the gifts I've been given in that now. And I'm thankful to the contributor who gave me that reminder.

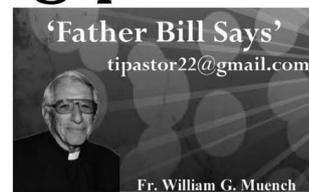
I pray we can all be thankful for the now together.

## Being part of Jesus' family

Each year, I am so impressed by our Priest's Appreciation issue of the North Country Catholic. I am so pleased to discover the priests of my diocese, the Diocese of Ogdensburg, my brothers in this priesthood of Jesus, being honored in such a special way. I want to thank the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for recognizing and honoring their priests.

I hope that each parish has a Sunday dedicated to Priests' Appreciation. I hope that you know just how much your priests love their mission to the Lord, Jesus. I believe that you know just how much your priests love your parish, their parish, and are always ready to care about you, the people of the parish.

I believe every Sunday should be a Priest Appreciation Sunday. They need it. Never be stingy with your gratitude. You show that gratitude with your involvement in your parish and by using well the opportunities you have to be Church. As



Fr. William G. Muench

we move forward, you, the people of a parish, will be more and more responsible for the life of your parishes. I am hoping this is the way you will find the unique happiness of being a Catholic during this rather difficult pandemic time.

Sometimes I find Gospel readings at a weekday Mass that I hadn't thought of in a very long time.

Today, it was a reading from St. Luke. Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Jesus but couldn't reach him because of the crowd. Someone tells Jesus, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, and they wish to see you." Jesus replied, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."

Some might be upset with

Jesus. Why doesn't he drop everything and go see his mother? I think Jesus was teaching us the message, "those who hear the word of God and act on it are my mother and my brothers," have a vocation – a vocation to be a family – a family with Jesus as part of it.

Each Catholic parish must be a family – praying and working together, trusting each other and being united with Jesus, who must be a part of each family and parish. In this way, we are guided and lead to discover a better way to live well in the Spirit of our Savior.

Jesus cannot be some sort of faraway Lord for us. He's much more than a statue. He's more than someone we think of only when we make the sign of the cross. Jesus wants us, each one of us, to develop a relationship with him – a relationship like with "mother or brother."

To accomplish this, we must form and develop our love for our Lord, Jesus. Only with love can we have a true relationship with Our

Lord, Jesus Christ. Love humbles us. In this way, we see Jesus in others, and we discover what it means to "Love our neighbor." Our parish truly becomes our family, and we realize that our vocation is bringing God's love to others – even to the strangers that we meet each day.

Love of God helps us realize that our true riches are not within ourselves. It is all about others and what I can do about this love of others – this love of Jesus. This love is about the gratitude to God for all the opportunities that God places in my life to make my relationship with Jesus all that it should be.

Jesus asks us to make a commitment when we recognize how important our relationship with Jesus is. When we truly love Jesus, our family with the Lord becomes so profound. May our parishes be filled with a real relationship with Jesus and with each other. May we be a family filled with love. This is our commitment.

# Youth take active roles in parish ministries

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

LOWVILLE – Youth at St. Peter's Church in Lowville, St. Mary's in Glenfield and St. Hedwig's in Houseville are taking active roles in ministry, and those roles are both helping the parish and helping the youth develop their faith.

Deborah Mullin, Faith Formation coordinator for the three faith communities, noted that teenagers from the communities are teaching and assisting with Faith Formation, serving as lectors, altar servers, technology assistants and musicians, and aiding with Vacation Bible Schools.

"I think we underestimate our kids a lot of the time," Mullin said. "This also applies for spirituality and faith. Kids are amazing, and they are capable of so much more than we give them credit for. They need to know we take them seriously, that we listen to their ideas and that we value their input."

Friends David Fayle, 15, of Lowville, and Colin Kempney, 15, of Beaver Falls, teach fourth grade catechism with a volunteer adult supervisor. Fayle also plays piano for the church community on occasion, while Kempney has served as a lector.

"It all started with a call for volunteers," said Kempney. "Now, I've taught Faith Formation for two years. Just coming out of Faith Formation, some of our classes were pretty boring. We know how to make them more fun."

"Colin needed help," added Fayle. "So, I taught with Colin. Last summer, I helped (the parish music minister) by playing piano. (The parish) needed volunteers. I love playing piano, and I love teaching. It's an opportunity to support something I really love."

Noah Comet, 15, of Lowville, said he first started volunteering to ful-



Teens, from left, Noah Comet, David Fayle, Colin Kempney, Madison Rhubert, Olivia King, Ireland Earl and Tucker Earl are among a group of youth who volunteer in various ministries at St. Peter's in Lowville, St. Mary's in Glenfield and St. Hedwig's in Houseville.

fill requirements associated with scouting. He's volunteered as both an altar server and aiding with Faith Formation.

"Keeping the interest of the kids is the hardest part," he said. "I help with the kindergarteners once in a while. It's hard to keep the littlest kids entertained and willingly learning."

Twins Tucker and Ireland Earl, 14, of Lowville, also volunteer together.

"I started altar serving a couple years ago," Tucker said. "And I helped with Vacation Bible School not long after. I help with the Sunday (Faith Formation) classes now, mostly helping with fifth grade."

"I first started with Vacation Bible School," added Ireland. "It was so much fun! I really liked it, so when my mom ended up teaching First Communion, she asked me to help teach that. I also sometimes sing with the choir, and I used to altar serve."

Ireland Earl said the young students respond well to their youthful teachers.

"Our age can be an advantage," she said. "It's easier to connect with the kids. We know what they're thinking, since we just went through it ourselves. Since it's not actual school that's required by the state, I think some kids feel like

(Faith Formation) is just one more thing their parents are making them do. We try to make them want to be there."

"I have two younger siblings," added Olivia King, 15, of Lowville, who has served as an altar server, lector, choir member and Vacation Bible School volunteer. "I think that also helps me know how to talk to and deal with kids who are younger than me. I know what I should and shouldn't say."

"You have to talk to kids, not at them," added Kempney.

Madison Rhubert, 14, of Lyons Falls, has volunteered as an altar server, choir member, Faith Formation volunteer and has assisted in running the parish PowerPoint, which is being used in place of missals during the pandemic. She also helps train younger altar servers.

"I've had to train four other kids, including my sister," she said. "I had to show them how to put on their robes, and I have to teach them what to do and when. One of the hardest parts can be working with them to get them to be patient. Some get tired of sitting and want to do something."

While the youth said they feel like adults in some of the ministries may struggle

to relate to them, they said they feel their service is appreciated.

"With the choir, I'm not sure they were used to kids being there at first," said Ireland Earl. "But everyone is friendly."

"When I play piano, I hear a lot of adults and older people say they like to see the younger people involved," added Fayle.

In addition to making them feel more engaged with their faith community, the youth said they feel like volunteering, especially teaching, has helped them learn about their faith. Several of the youth said they have really enjoyed learning about the faith from the YouCat, a version of the catechism that's written for youth.

"We used to give our confirmation students a bible at their confirmation," said Mullin. "I did a survey with parents and asked how often the teens used the Bibles they received. Needless to say, it wasn't the response we wanted to hear. Father (James W.) 'Jay' (Seymour) asked if we used YouCat. I had never heard of it, so the answer was 'no.' I ordered one, and both myself and the confirmation catechists were impressed with it. We now give each student a youth Bible and the YouCat at the beginning of the first year

of confirmation preparation."

"It's easy to read, and it breaks down the Scripture and teachings really easily," said Fayle.

The youth feel more informed about their faith after reading the YouCat and participating in the confirmation program, they said.

"Before I started confirmation classes, I didn't really listen to the readings at church," said King. "Our confirmation classes required us to write reflections about the readings every week. It's made me realize how enlightening the readings are. I've been listening ever since. And it's helpful to pass that on. Now, my sister is going to be confirmed. I get to help her through that."

"I've had conversations with kids at school who ask about my religion and why I believe the things I believe," added Ireland Earl. "It's been really helpful learning more of the ins and outs. It's made it easier to respond to some of the misconceptions."

"There are like seven churches within a mile radius here," added Kempney. "There are a lot of people who believe differently than we do."

"People our age seem a lot more open minded," said King. "We're trying to become leaders, so we can bridge the gaps, like Pope Francis says."

Several youth volunteers from St. Peter's, St. Mary's and St. Hedwig's, including Brody Brown, Anna Exford, Lily Exford, Anabella LaPuma and Stephanie Beyer, were unable to participate in the interview.

"I'm hoping as students become confirmed, more and more will want to stay connected to parish life and be a part of educating the younger ones going through Faith Formation classes, (Vacation Bible School), lecturing or choir," said Mullin. "

# Adapting ministry to a world in pandemic

By Darcy Fargo

Editor

OGDENSBURG – When the coronavirus pandemic shut down gatherings across the North Country and the state, ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg were forced to develop new ways to connect with others and help them stay connected with their faith, and the adaptations have created new opportunities.

“When COVID hit, I was scheduled to do a workshop on charisms for Formation for Ministry,” said Marika Donders, director of the New Evangelization. “Participants take a test to learn their charisms, I do a presentation on what the charisms are and how they’re used in ministry, and there’s typically small-group discussion. When we went into lockdown, we decided to do the workshop using videos and Zoom (an online meeting system). I recorded the presentation – that was a learning experience in itself. We sent the video to the participants to watch beforehand. In the Zoom meeting, we broke into small groups according to the charisms for discussion.”

Donders also participated in online Alpha, a program of evangelization that targets the “unchurched,” those who are no longer practicing their faith or who have never practiced a faith. The program was organized by St. Peter’s Parish in Massena.

“I first thought it was never going to work – the program relies on a dinner and face-to-face interactions,” she said. “But it was amazing how quickly people opened up in the small groups online. Usually, with the in-person Alpha, it takes three to four ses-

## SO WHAT IS A CHARISM?

A supernatural gift given to us by the Holy Spirit at baptism for the building up of the Kingdom of God



Marika Donders, director of the Office of the New Evangelization, leads an online workshop about Charisms. During the coronavirus shutdown, diocesan offices were forced to deliver ministry in new ways, incorporating online platforms, videos and social media.

sions for people to really start opening up. People were going deep in the first sessions. Some people were more comfortable online. It also allowed people to participate who might not have if they had to drive to Massena and then drive home after. We’re now doing a small diocesan Alpha online.”

Building on that experience, as well as an in-person experience, Donders then went online with The 99 Masterclass, a program that trains parish leaders in discipleship and evangelization with the goal that they’ll conduct a parish program.

“We had participants from four parishes and participants from the Diocese of Syracuse,” Donders said. “We found that to be one of the biggest advantages – geography and distance doesn’t matter.”

Spanning large distances using technology has been helpful in her role with the Cursillo movement, as well, Donders said.

“We have Ultreyas – monthly meetings,” she

said. “We were able to do those virtually. Now that things are starting back up, we’ve been doing a hybrid version. We’re meeting in-person in a large hall with social distance and masks, but people are also using Zoom to join the meeting. Some people are not comfortable going back to in-person meetings yet, and some would otherwise not be able to participate because of the distance they’d have to travel. People from Watertown or Plattsburgh could join our meetings in Massena without driving two hours.”

Stephen Tartaglia, director of Family Life, said technology also allowed him to continue his ministries during the coronavirus shutdown.

“The first thing was working from home,” he said. “(Diocesan Information Technology Director) Ian Fawcett really had us set up well for that because of the technology he had made available to us in terms of the laptops and (software programs), and because of how we’ve been trained. All our doc-

uments were accessible, and we were able to continue our work.”

Tartaglia also explained that programs such as Pre-Cana had to be modified for online delivery.

“Marriage preparation didn’t come to a halt,” he said. “Instead of doing in-person presentations, we were giving the engaged couples content to watch and workbooks to complete, then they’d connect with our Pre-Cana presenters and discuss their answers.”

With Family Guggenheim canceled for the season, the Family Life Office also opted to host a virtual Family Life Conference, “Iron Sharpens Iron.”

“Not having Family Guggenheim was a big heart breaker for us,” Tartaglia said. Technology can’t replace the real thing, but we wanted to offer an opportunity for families – especially the families who typically attend camp – to connect with one another, learn and pray together, and let’s see what families are doing and have them con-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Using tech to connect

By Darcy Fargo

Editor

In addition to adapting to new ways to deliver ministry, those involved in ministry were also forced to adapt to new ways to live their faith during the coronavirus shutdown and ongoing pandemic.

“As a family, we discovered iBreviary,” said Stephen Tartaglia, director of the Office of Family Life. “We’ve been praying night prayer together with iBreviary. We broadcast it to a big screen, and everyone includes their own intentions. It’s easy, and it’s a skill and prayer format I wanted my kids exposed to. This facilitated it for us.”

iBreviary is an online program and phone application that presents the Liturgy of the Hours in a simple, easy-to-follow format.

“I have the (Breviary) books, but this is easier to share, and it’s very simple to use,” Tartaglia said.

He also noted that his family continued to participate in Mass even when churches were closed.

“We had the stay-at-home Masses,” he said. “My family very much disliked not being able to go to Communion, but we went to Mass online, and we really participated in the Mass in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Adapting ministry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

tribute videos of skill shares or of the family doing something fun.”

The idea to have families share videos featuring their skills and fun came originally from skill share videos suggested to Tartaglia and diocesan staff by the diocesan Information Technology Department, as well as a conversation Tartaglia had with Youth Ministry Director Tom Semeraro.

“I was watching skill share videos with my wife and kids, and we learned things like photography, origami and cooking,” he said. “Tom

Semeraro talked about how other families were doing similar things. There were just a lot of connections.”

The Virtual Family Life conference facilitated other collaborations, as well.

“Education, Youth Ministry, Evangelization, the chancellor, Respect Life, Natural Family Planning, Vocations and Faith Formation all participated and made contributions,” Tartaglia said.

Despite the successes and collaborations that were facilitated using technology, there were challenges, as well.

“It was our first virtual conference, and we didn’t have video professionals, so that was a challenge,” Tartaglia said. “And we’re competing with all these major names – Marriage Summit and these publishing companies are all having online events.”

“With videos and Zoom or Teams (another online platform) meetings, you’re only seeing faces,” added Donders. “You’re not seeing body language or seeing people’s eyes. It’s harder to tell if people are engaged. Also, it takes a lot more energy to hold an online meeting. Instead of just focusing

on the presentation, you also have to worry about the screen sharing correctly when it’s supposed to and the sound quality and figuring out who has a dog barking in the background and needs to be muted. You have to balance the presentation and the technology.”

Regardless of the challenges, the learnings from the lockdown period may prove advantageous into the future.

“We’ve learned a lot quickly because we had to, and we made changes very quickly,” Donders noted. “And it’s nice to have another tool in our

toolbox. This diocese is so huge geographically, it’s nice to have the option of online presentations. To me, it’s preferable to be in person, but if, for example, we can do a workshop online with people from Port Henry and people from Carthage, then we can have follow-up discussions face-to-face. I don’t think it’s an ‘either-or situation’ with in-person or technology. I think we look at a ‘both-and situation’ moving forward.”

## Using tech to connect

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

nearly the same way. We did all the stand, sit and kneel, and we all dressed up. I read an article at one point and someone talked about ‘watching Mass.’ We didn’t want to just watch. We participated. We prayed Mass.”

Tartaglia also noted that virtual platforms allowed him to continue participating in an Exodus 90 men’s group. Exodus 90 is a men’s program that includes a regimen of daily prayer, asceticism, and fraternity to reinvigorate their devotions to Christ and bring them back to the

foundations of their faith.

“We were all still able to access the readings, connect through video or Zoom or phone calls and stay connected, even when we couldn’t get together in person,” Tartaglia said. “And we still had the ascetical portions. We didn’t just rely on the technology.”

Tartaglia noted that there are also a number of online platforms to help people continue to learn about their faith, even when they can’t attend classes in person.

“Major conferences moved online, and a lot of them were free,” he said. “So instead of having the expense and time associated with travel and attending a conference in person, we could hear the speakers from our homes and participate with little or no cost.”

While there are many online resources available, Tartaglia noted that technology doesn’t take the place of working to develop our spiritual lives.

“The technology facilitates communication, but technology did not replace putting in the work,” he said. “We have to find ways to make sacrifices and participate, not just watch and absorb.”



 *Life Chain*

**Stand up for LIFE at this year’s LIFECHAIN  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

*Join in the 33rd annual peaceful, prayerful, public,  
pro-life witness to the sanctity of life.*

*Rain or shine. All faiths welcome.  
Bring a friend. Signs are provided.*

*LIFECHAIN practices social distancing.  
Please stand 25 feet apart.*

*For information about the LIFECHAIN in your area:  
www.lifechain.net*



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*



**Best wishes  
to our  
Fr. Don  
Manfred**

*from the parishioners of  
St. Francis Solanus in  
Harrisville.*

## Environmental Stewardship

## 'Praise be to you, O Lord...'

This coming Sunday we celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi who was made the patron saint of ecology by St. John Paul II in 1979. Early in Francis' life he heard the Lord say to him, "Go repair my Church." At that moment Francis thought he was being called to repair the small church San Damiano, outside of Assisi, which was in need of repair. Later in his life Francis realized that what God was asking him to do was to repair THE Church that at time in need of reform. If St. Francis were here today, would he be hearing this call as one to repair our "common home?"

During this month of October, we will celebrate Respect Life month. It is a reminder of our call as followers of Christ to cherish human life from conception to death. This begins with the challenge to protect the life of the unborn so that they may have an opportunity to enjoy life. Our challenge does not stop there though. That is just the beginning. We must ensure that the child has a home to live in... This "home" needs to ensure that the child will inherit a place where she/he will have access to clear air, pure water and rich land that will produce healthy and nutritious food.

The observance of Respect Life month calls us as Christians to extend the protection of life to include the quality of life in our "common home" that we share with everything that lives and breathes and has its being in Christ. The goal of the Season of Creation that ends on October 4 is for each of us to renew our relationship with our creator and all creation through celebration, conversion and commitment. Don't forget to bless your animal today; even if you don't have a pet, send a blessing to the creatures that inhabit your backyard and sky. Check: Blessings of Animals-Franciscan Media.

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. There are no live trainings scheduled. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413, who will coordinate online training.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Sept. 30** – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church, Chazy, with St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy

**Oct. 1** – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**Oct. 2** – 5 p.m. – Installation of the Deacon Candidates to the Ministry of Lector at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

7 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class at Wadhams Hall.

**Oct. 3** – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council at St. Andre Besette Outreach Center in Malone

3 p.m. – Dedication and Blessing of St. Mary's Parish Center in Champlain.

4 p.m. Confirmation at St. Mary's Church, Champlain, with St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point

**Oct. 5** – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at the Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig (at St. Peter's Church), Lowville, with St. Stephen's Church, Croghan, and St. Francis Solanus Church, Harrisville

**Oct. 7** – New York State Catholic Conference Board Meeting

## Rest in Peace

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

**Sept. 30** – Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, 1968

**Oct. 1** – Rev. Hermenegilde Brisson, 1954

**Oct. 2** – Msgr. Joseph D. Creeden, 1944; Rev. Ambrose Raphael Hyland, 1954; Most Rev. James J. Navagh, 1965

**Oct. 4** – Rev. George Drummond, 1839; Rev. Daniel F. O'Reilly, 1946; Rev. Thomas P. Fogarty, O.S.A., 1950

**Oct. 5** – Rev. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M.Conv., 1960; Rev. Eurené Beaucage, O.M.I., 1984

For a New or Used Car

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## To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianeyanulavich@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, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org).

## JOB OPENING

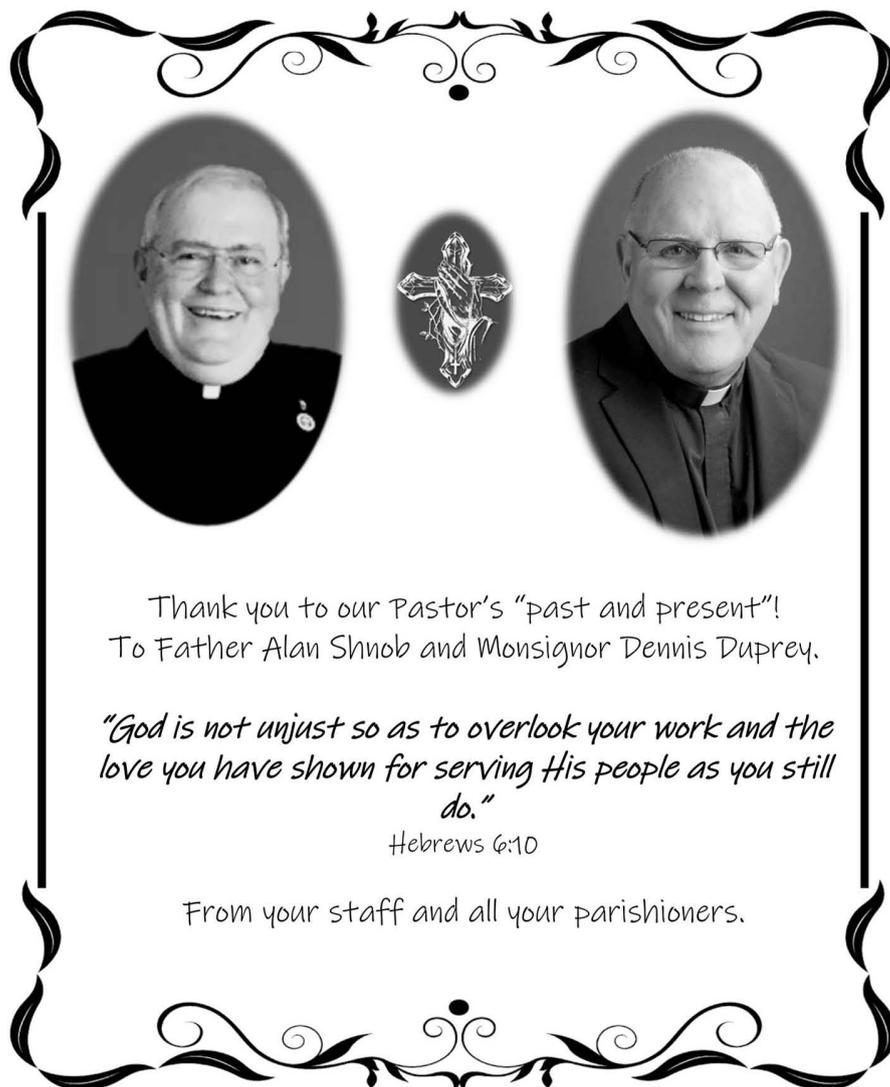
**Secretary/Bookkeeper for the Mission Office**  
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a **Secretary/Bookkeeper for the Mission Office.**

The full-time position provides administrative support to the Director of the Mission Office in collaboration with the Society for the Propagation of the Faith National Office. Applicants must possess strong secretarial, bookkeeping and computer skills. Must be proficient in QuickBooks, Microsoft Word and Excel. Knowledge of Microsoft Publisher is preferred. 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  
or e-mail: [ksnover@rcdony.org](mailto:ksnover@rcdony.org)

**Deadline for application is October 14, 2020.**



# Family Life serves families in all stages

**By Stephen Tartaglia**  
Director of Family Life

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. The Family Life Office is one of the ministries supported by the Bishop's Fund. Your contributions enable us to provide valuable services that strengthen and support families throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The Family Life Office supports families in a variety of ways throughout all stages of the family life cycle. The support for families begins with Pre-Cana, helping men and women prepare for the sacrament of matrimony and their new life together.

After the wedding cere-

**Family Life Office activities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are supported by funds raised through the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal. Thank you for generously supporting family ministry and other vital ministries through the annual appeal.**

mony, married couples continue to benefit from support. We offer marriage enrichment programs and resources. Currently we offer the Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage video series for both Pre-Cana and marriage enrichment. This video series features prominent speakers and theologians including: Dr. Edward Sri, Jason and Crystalina Evert, Patrick Coffin, Greg and Julie Alexander, Christopher West and Leah Darrow.

The Family Life Office promotes and leads a variety of spiritual enrichment

programs to support men and women in different circumstances.

One program we offer, Exodus 90, is an intense 90-day spiritual exercise for men characterized by prayer, asceticism and fellowship. The purpose of this program is to help men be free of the "idols" which enslave them and prevent them from fully loving God and their family.

Feedback we've received from many of the participants' wives indicates that the program is extremely effective, that the husband is more present and

responsive to the family as a result of their participation in the program.

As the family grows through the welcoming of children, needs can intensify.

The Family Life office is leading the Walking With Moms in Need initiative introduced by the USCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities, which aims at highlighting the pregnant and parenting moms in our parishes, identifying resources available within local communities and connecting these women to the resources they need.

One of the most special and joyful times of the liturgical year for families with small children is Advent.

Celebrating Advent well is an excellent and effective way to counteract the

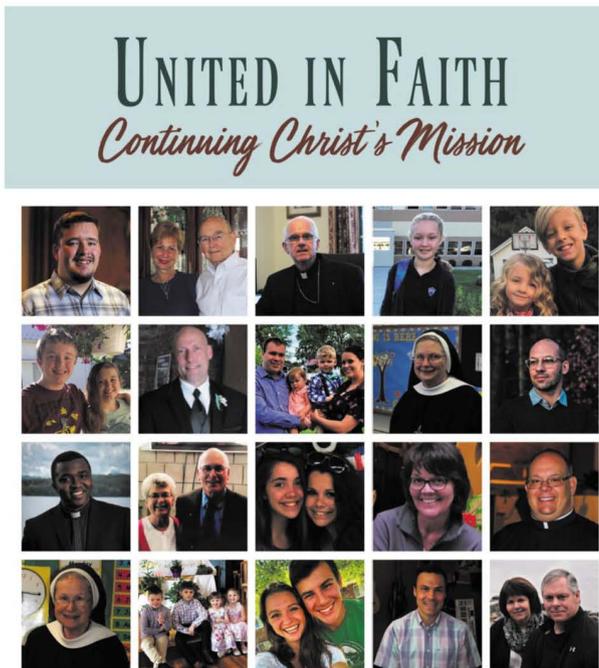
secular influence and leads to a proper celebration of Christmas.

The Family Life Office maintains Advent webpages full of resources and information on the Diocesan website which support families in their efforts to celebrate Advent well. The webpages are active each year from November 1 through the second week in January.

There are a lot of families that are struggling and suffering. The Family Life Office offers support for families that are suffering.

We offer Grief workshops for those who have lost a loved one. For separated and/or divorced families, we offer the Surviving Divorce for Catholics program, which is a series of 12 meetings

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



**UNITED IN FAITH**  
*Continuing Christ's Mission*

Please use my/our gift to continue the good works of our Church and help support the ministries of the Diocese.

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Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**2020 Bishop's Fund Appeal**  
*Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg*

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*The Sisters of St. Joseph are grateful to the priests who celebrate daily Mass at the Motherhouse.*

*We especially thank:*

*Fr. Leo Wiley, Fr. William Muench, Msgr. Paul Whitmore, Fr. Deepak Baru, Fr. Mickey Demo, and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, for their priestly presence among us.*

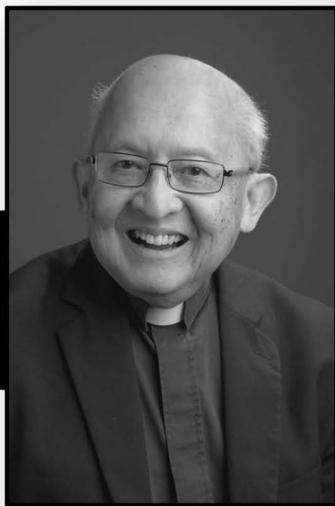
## Father Jazmines

*If you had not come we would be orphans.*

Thank you for putting your retirement on hold to be with us at St. Mary's and St. Paul's.

You have to admit it has been a "very different year" for all of us.

Parishioners of St. Mary's in Evans Mills and St. Paul's in Black River.



## WELCOMED INTO THE CHURCH AS A FAMILY



Father Christopher J. Looby and the parishioners of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga welcomed into our family of faith the Bassett Family! Harry and Francine Bassett were baptized, confirmed and received First Eucharist at the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Sept. 6. Their daughter, Winnie, was baptized with them. "This is our faith and we are proud to profess it with you through Christ our Lord!"

## Family Life Office

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

that include video presentations and conversation focused on topics relevant for separated/divorced Catholics and their families.

The Family Life Office offers the annual Marriage/Religious Jubilee. The Jubilee draws together entire families to a Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley at the cathedral in Ogdensburg each September.

The event recognizes and celebrates the love and commitment of men and women who have said yes to God in their respective vocations. Married couples renew their wedding vows. Consecrated religious celebrating special anniversaries are honored.

The Family Life Office also sponsors other marriage and family enriching events, such as a Mother/Daughter Tea, an annual retreat for men at the Guggenheim Lodge, usually in early June, men's conferences such as

the annual Ignite Conference held in the Diocese of Syracuse, and Women's conferences, such as Women of Grace. In addition, the Family Life Office sponsors the Family Guggenheim program, weekend spiritual retreats for entire families held at Camp Guggenheim twice in August and once in October.

One of things that makes Family Guggenheim program so effective is that it is based on the concept of families ministering to other families as they spend time together. In a sense, the ministry flows from the idea expressed in Proverbs 27:17, that people learn from one another as iron sharpens iron. This usually happens best when families get together at in-person events. While the pandemic has prevented most of these in-person events for the time being, the Family Life Office continues to offer opportunities for families to encounter and learn from each other

in a virtual way through the Iron Sharpens Iron program.

The kick-off to the program was a free Virtual Family Life Conference held in late August. The conference featured ten formal presentations. It included opportunities to pray together, to play Bingo, to watch and discuss a family movie. It also included several informal recordings submitted by families from around the diocese, doing a variety of activities including skill shares, a book review, performing skits, singing songs, playing instruments, telling jokes, etc. All of these recordings can be accessed on the Iron Sharpens Iron webpage at [rcdony.org/vflc](http://rcdony.org/vflc), where we continue to accept and display recordings of families.

If you are interested in sharing a recording of your family, please contact Steve Tartaglia at [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920.

# 'A beautiful and priceless gift'

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

OGDENSBURG—Faith brought Jesse and Stacey Sovie of Ogdensburg together, and their faith continues to help them sustain their marriage.

"Stacey and I met through the online dating site CatholicMatch.com," said Jesse. "Looking back, we can both reflect on how each of us knew how important our faith was to us and how important it was in finding our future spouse. So, three years of marriage and two kids later, it really shouldn't be a surprise to see how much faith meant to each of us. But having said that, I am still astounded and amazed at God's working of bringing us together as a couple. Having a spouse that I can share my faith with openly and can walk this faith journey side by side with is such a beautiful and priceless gift – a gift that I still remain so grateful to God for."

Both Jesse and Stacey, members of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, were raised in the Catholic faith, but both can point to moments when they realized the importance of that faith.

"Though my faith has been a part of my life from the very beginning, it wasn't until the passing of a loved one that things started to take root," Stacey said. "My parents raised me in the Church, and I went through the motions of going to Mass, but on the day of my grandmother's passing, the view I had of my faith changed. My grandmother was a very devout Catholic, and there were countless times I would say the rosary or attend Mass with her. She had a



Jesse & Stacey Sovie

very strong faith. It wasn't until after she was gone that I realized that she had instilled it in me. It was something that she had nurtured in me. That's when I started to notice her true devotion to our Lady and to our Lord. As a high school teen, I made it a point to start nurturing my faith a bit more, and now it is a part of my life that I could never live without. To this day I still marvel at how much she had influenced my faith in God."

"I was born and raised in a faithful Catholic family," added Jesse. "We went to Mass every week. We said Grace before meals and said prayers before traveling. I served as an altar server when I was younger. Faith was just a part of our family life from the very beginning. But I would have to say my conversion experience or moment happened back when I was around 21. Between 2010 and 2011, I thought I knew my faith through and through, but I still felt like

it was lacking. In retrospect, I can see how God gave me the grace of awareness back then, as around that time I began to realize how little I actually knew about my faith. I had an interest back then in joining a Bible study, thinking that would help me learn more. That thought process eventually led me down the trail of enrolling in the Formation for Ministry - Commissioned Lay Minister Program. Upon enrolling in that program in 2011, the knowledge, experiences and friendships I gained were priceless. Upon being commissioned in 2013, I began working in a variety of ministries that have been so rewarding and nourishing for my faith. Like any conversion, it doesn't end, and it simply continues on as one ongoing journey."

Stacey said she continues to nurture that faith by attending weekly Mass and by praying the Rosary with Jesse. She said she hopes to start including



her young daughter in this practice, and she also hopes to resume an earlier practice of attending daily Mass.

"As our daughter gets a little older, we would like to make it a tradition of doing a family rosary together," she said. "Before our son was born, Jesse and I would take turns going to daily morning Mass. On days (Jesse) went to morning Mass, I would make a point to go to noon Mass with our daughter, Rebecca. Times are a bit more difficult to accomplish these goals, but I would eventually like to get back to this routine."

Jesse noted the couple also says Grace before meals and take that moment to thank God for the gifts He's given them. Jesse also points to his participation in men's groups as important to helping him grow his faith.

"Being able to meet up with and be surrounded by faithful men every week has been an amazing and crucial experience in my faith journey," Jesse

said. "Our men's group name MSM – Men Sharpen Men – is based on Proverbs 27:17 which states, 'Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.' Our experience as a group relates that truth. At the beginning of this year, we as a group decided to embark on a spiritual journey of undertaking the program Exodus 90. The program consists of dedicating time each day for prayer; meeting as a fraternity every week; each man pairing up with another to serve as an anchor for each other. In addition, each man is required to give up a variety of daily things over the course of 90 days, as each seeks to cut out distractions, addictions, and certain comforts which hinder us from seeking God on a deeper level. It certainly was no small undertaking, but it was absolutely worth it!"

That faith has been critical in helping them through challenging times.

"My faith has been my

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## 'Beautiful and priceless gift'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

cornerstone of my life and has helped me through many challenging times but one time that specifically comes to mind is my first pregnancy," Stacey said. "My husband and I were so excited when we realized that we were going to have our first baby. It was the beginning of a new year and I thought it was all going to be a cake walk. Little did I know that for the next five months, I would be sick as a dog and wouldn't be able to leave my bed or eat anything but dried toast, apple sauce, bananas and sip ginger ale through a straw."

Stacey was so sick during her pregnancy, she had to go the emergency room for IV fluids on more than one occasion.

"I was so tired and scared that something horrific would happen to my baby from me being so sick," she said. "I also re-

member thinking that I wasn't sure I could handle another pregnancy if it was going to be like this. I wasn't that strong."

Despite the challenges, Stacey said she saw God's grace, especially when she gave birth to a health baby girl.

"Throughout that time of being so scared, my mom and Jesse were by my side telling me that God had a plan and that He wouldn't give me more than I could handle," she said. "God was there through the most difficult times of feeling so helpless, He was there when I wasn't sure I could handle the pain, and He was there when I held my beautiful baby girl for the first time. It was the greatest reward that one can receive and the most beautiful miracle."

Jesse said his faith also helped him through the death of his brother, Lance Corporal Nicholas "Nic" Sovie, who was killed in a

helicopter crash in 2006 while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

"I can still think back to that moment when we were notified of the crash and ultimately to the news that he was killed in the crash," Jesse said. "I cannot begin to imagine trying to deal with, process or recover from that moment without the aid of my faith. Even in the midst of the darkest grief of loss, we could see God's light. We could feel His presence with us. Even in the saddest moment, we all knew and felt that we would see Nic again. Death has already been conquered."

Jesse and his family were also comforted by knowing Nic had become closer to God in the months leading up to the crash.

"In his last months, Nic started going to church whenever he could," Jesse said. "He would also listen

to various church songs and hymns that he was used to hearing back home at his home parish. More than all that though, Nic grew within his own faith. He told my Mom that with each flight they made, he entrusted each one to God, knowing that God was in control and was present. Faith not only helped carry us through that challenging time of losing Nic, but it also helped draw my brother Nic closer to God before God ultimately decided to call him home."

As they move through life and overcome challenges together, the Sovies say they do so with the help of God and acknowledging His graces.

"(Faith) helps put things in perspective and to help understand why things happen the way they do," Stacey said. "I'm not saying that accidents or unfortunate events don't happen but, believing in

God and having faith that He has a bigger plan for us does make getting through the tough times a little bit easier to bear. It makes living life a little easier to manage – to have something solid to rely on, even though you can't see it physically. The truth is though, is that you can see it. God is there in the simple things, the little miracles in life. My faith in God is confirmed and strengthened with the snuggle of a baby, the soothing sound of the water or the wind in the trees. If we could just slow down our lives to notice and to appreciate the tiniest details in our surroundings, we would realize that there is something much greater, something so great that only one's faith can gain strength from it. My faith in God helps me every day – in the simplest of tasks and in the largest of struggles. He truly is my strength each day."

## Trump announces U.S. Supreme Court nominee

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Eight days after the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, President Donald Trump announced Sept. 26 that Judge Amy Coney Barrett, a judge on the Chicago-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, is his nominee to fill that seat.

The president said he was honored to nominate Barrett whom he described as "one of the nation's most gifted legal minds" to the court and praised her for her loyalty to the Constitution.

This should be a "straightforward and prompt confirmation," he added before a small crowd seated in the White House Rose Garden. "The stakes are incredibly high," he added.

Barrett, for her part, said she was "humbled by the prospect of serving in the Supreme Court," and said if she were confirmed, she would always be mindful she would be following in Ginsburg's footsteps.

Noting she would be in a group of nine as a justice, she said this is something she is very used to, with her husband and their family of seven children. She also stressed that if confirmed she would "assume the role to serve you," the American public, and she has no illusions that the road ahead will be easy.

Trump's pick is not a surprise. The 48-year-old Catholic and law professor at the University of Notre Dame was reported to be on the president's short list

of nominees just hours after Ginsburg's death..

The news drew immediate reaction from both sides of the political spectrum and Catholics were similarly vocal in either support or alarm over Trump's nominee choice.

Brian Burch, president of CatholicVote, an independent political advocacy group, said in a Sept. 26 statement ahead of Trump's formal announcement: "Catholics are thrilled with the expected nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett and believe she represents the best choice to protect the rule of law and our constitutional rights." He added that she "deserves a speedy confirmation process and a Senate vote as soon as possible."

Catholics expressing concern about Trump's pick stressed unease with her stance on a number of issues. For example, John Gehring, the Catholic program director for Faith in Public Life, a Washington-based advocacy group, said in a Sept. 26 tweet: "Being 'pro-life' isn't a single issue. Many Catholic voters are worried that Amy Coney Barrett could undermine health care access, workers rights', environmental protections and other moral issues central to church teaching."

Barrett is not an unknown. Two years ago, she was viewed as a potential candidate for the nation's high court after Justice Anthony Kennedy retired, in the slot that was filled by Justice Brett Kavanaugh. At

the time, Trump reportedly told advisers that he was "saving" Barrett if Ginsburg announced her retirement during his presidency.

In 2017, Barrett was nominated by Trump to serve on the 7th Circuit in Chicago and she garnered support from some for her responses to the line of questioning she received in her confirmation hearing from Senate Democrats that focused on her Catholic faith.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, told her: "The dogma lives loudly within you, and that's a concern," to which Barrett responded: "It's never appropriate for a judge to impose that judge's personal convictions, whether they arise from faith or anywhere else, on the law."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Congress urged to cover immigrants, refugees in stimulus bill

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The chairman of the U.S. bishops' migration committee told a House subcommittee Sept. 23 that any stimulus bill Congress is considering must include assistance for immigrant and refugee families and also make them eligible for past stimulus relief. Many immigrants and refugees in this country are among the front-line essential workers the country has relied on during this pandemic, said Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington. Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, he made the comments in written testimony to the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship during its hearing on "Immigrants as Essential Workers During COVID-19. Immigrants and refugees are a blessing to our country," the bishop said. "The church teaches that every human being is created in God's image and deserves dignity and respect and that human labor has an inherent dignity, allowing all to share in the ongoing work of creation, while providing the resources to build and sustain families." The text of Bishop Dorsonville's written testimony can be found online at the Justice for Immigrants website, [justiceforimmigrants.org](http://justiceforimmigrants.org).

## U.S. bishops say 'enough' on federal executions

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – Just hours before the sixth federal execution took place this year, and two days before the next one was scheduled, two U.S. bishops' committee chairmen called on the government to end this practice. "We say to President Trump and Attorney General Barr: Enough. Stop these executions," said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in a statement issued late Sept. 22. "In the last 60 years, before the Trump administration restarted federal executions, there were only four federal executions. Since July, there have been five, which is already more federal executions than were carried out in any year in the last century," the bishops said. They said the Catholic Church "must give concrete help to victims of violence" and "encourage the rehabilitation and restoration of those who commit violence." They noted that "accountability and legitimate punishment are a part of this process" and emphasized that "responsibility for harm is necessary if healing is to occur and can be instrumental in protecting society."

## Cardinal Becciu resigns as prefect, renounces rights as cardinal

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** – In a move apparently related to Vatican financial scandals, Pope Francis accepted Cardinal Angelo Becciu's resignation as prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes and his renunciation of the rights associated with being a cardinal, the Vatican announced late Sept. 24. The cardinal, 72, has been one of the central figures in a financial scandal involving millions of dollars of Vatican money invested in a property in London. He also is accused of using Vatican funds to support a Caritas project in his home diocese run by his brother. But Cardinal Becciu told *Il Fatto Quotidiano*, an Italian newspaper, that investigators "have found nothing" to accuse him of regarding the London property. On the other hand, he said, "I may have made a mistake out of too much love for my diocese, but I don't see the crime. I am ready to shout the longer truth." Cardinal Becciu will remain a priest and retired bishop but will no longer exercise the role of a cardinal, including by serving as a papal adviser, a member of Vatican congregations and councils, and as an elector of a new pope.

# In final drive, campaigns go all out for the Catholic vote

**CLEVELAND (CNS)** – It's a little more than five weeks from Election Day and the campaigns of Democrat Joe Biden and Republican President Donald Trump are making a final push for Catholic votes.

Through online events, phone banks aimed at Catholic-heavy counties and specific digital messages and emails citing each candidate's appeal to Catholics, the campaigns are ensuring that voters who make up the country's largest religious group know where Trump and Biden stand on key issues.

The Catholic vote is significant. Catholics make up about 23% of the population.

Current estimates are that upward of 80% of Catholic voters have made up their minds, with the count being evenly split between the two major candidates.

That leaves a minority of Catholic voters up for grabs, according to political observers, who estimated that 10% to 20% of Catholics have not yet made up their minds about which candidate will get their vote.

Even then, it is Catholics in a handful of swing states who are being targeted, said Vincent Stine, adjunct professor of political science at George Washington University.

Key battleground states with significant Catholic populations include Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, Stine told Catholic News Service.

Stine said that in nine of the past 10 presidential elections, Catholics have sided with the winner, illustrating how the country's largest religious group is truly a swing voting bloc, making them of particular interest to the major party

campaigns.

That said, the Catholic vote is not monolithic. A survey by the Pew Research Center conducted from July 27 to Aug. 2 shows that 59% of white Catholics planned to vote for Trump and 40% for Biden. Meanwhile, among Hispanics, 65% planned to vote for Biden and 33% for Trump.

Two-thirds of Catholic registered voters are white while about 25% are Hispanic, according to data collected by the Pew in 2018 and 2019.

It's unlikely that having a candidate who shares their religious beliefs will sway Catholic voters to a great extent. A February 2020 Pew survey found that about 62% of Catholics said it is very important to them to have a president who personally lives a moral and ethical life and that they are not necessarily seeking a president who shares their religious beliefs.

Both major campaigns run operations focusing on outreach to Catholics through initiatives respectively known as Catholics for Trump and Catholics for Biden.

Catholics for Trump was introduced in April. It has six co-chairs: former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich; Republican consultant Mary Joe Matalin; Mick Mulvaney, former acting White House chief of staff; Alfonso Aguilar, president of the Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles; and Matt Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union. The board includes 28 other prominent Catholics.

CNS scheduled interviews with Schlapp three times in late August and early September, but Schlapp did not return calls.

"Catholics for Trump will energize and activate the Catholic community in re-electing President Donald J. Trump by sharing the many successes of the Trump administration," the group's mission statement says. "Reelecting President Trump will ensure continued victories in pro-life issues, judicial appointments and religious freedom."

Catholics for Biden held a kickoff event Sept. 3.

Josh Dickson, national faith engagement director for the Biden campaign, said the outreach to Catholic Americans is focusing on how the former vice president's Catholic faith aligns with the common good and "their common values."

As a Catholic, Biden supports legalized abortion. He has said he accepts the Catholic Church's teaching "in my personal life" but that he refuses to impose his belief on others.

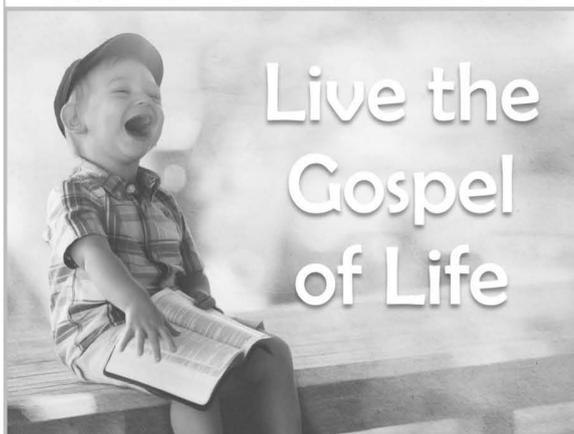
If elected, Biden also plans to seek repeal of the Hyde amendment, which bans the use of federal funds for abortion except when a woman's life is in danger. Until the 2020 primary season, Biden had supported the amendment.

According to Dickson, Biden "has a comprehensive view when it comes to women's health" and that he supports expanding access to health care for women. "He has an approach that doesn't take abortion or any other issue lightly," Dickson said.

In determining who they will support for president, Dickson said he believed, the majority of Catholics are multi-issue voters who are concerned about racism, health care, the country's response to the coronavirus pandemic and the economy in addition to abortion.

## October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting you to consider  
sponsorship of a full page  
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to appear in our October 28th issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

## NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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# Pro-life leaders welcome Trump's 'Born Alive' order

WASHINGTON (CNS) – President Donald Trump's Sept. 23 announcement that he will issue a "Born Alive Executive Order" will "provide necessary legal protections for some of the most vulnerable in society," said Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund.

"These steps had to be taken," she said, "because some Democrats in the Senate promised to block legislation that mandates basic medical care for children who survive an abortion – an extremist view shared by vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris."

Mancini made the comments in a statement she issued shortly after Trump announced the order in his remarks during the annual National

Catholic Prayer Breakfast, which this year could not be an in-person event because of the pandemic and was livestreamed to over 10,000 registered participants.

"We believe in ... the eternal truth that every child, born and unborn, is made in the holy image of God. ... I will always defend the sacred right to life," the president said. His executive order will "ensure that all precious babies born alive, no matter their circumstances, receive the medical care that they deserve. This is our sacrosanct moral duty," he said.

Trump's opponents and some obstetricians and gynecologists say existing law that already provides protections to newborns, whether born during a failed abortion or under

other circumstances.

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Nebraska, the lead co-sponsor of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, S. 311, has said current law does not provide enough protections. His bill would protect newborns who survive abortions by requiring appropriate care and admission to a hospital. On Feb. 23, a Senate vote to advance the bill failed.

In other reaction to Trump's planned executive order, said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, "protects the youngest of patients and ensures that their right to life is defended to the greatest extent of the law."

Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life Action, called it "a humane response to a struggling infant gasping for air."

"The fact that Democrats in the House and Senate have blocked efforts to provide legal protections for babies born during botched abortions should horrify all Americans," she said, adding that "one of the sleeper issues of this election cycle is infanticide, which is allowed under our current laws."

The Guttmacher Institute estimates that out of about 926,000 annual abortions, about 12,000 take place after viability, or after 20 weeks, she said.

"The radical reality of Roe is that abortion is legal in the U.S. through all nine months, sometimes with taxpayer funding, and it offers no legal protections for babies born during botched abortions," Hawkins said.

*"Lord bless us and teach us to be grateful"*

## Fr. Arthur J. LaBaff

We are blessed and we are grateful!

Thank you for all you do for us!

St. Mary's, Clayton and St John's, LaFargeville



## CLINTON

## SPAGHETTI TAKE-OUT

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host a take-out spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 10

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center

**Cost:** \$8 per person

**Features:** Regular and gluten-free will be served. Funds raised will be used to assist St. Augustine's Parish and the local community.

## VIRTUAL SETON GALA

Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic invites everyone to join us for our Virtual Mardi Gras Gala.

**Date:** Oct. 24

**Features:** The idea is a Dinner for Eight style evening where you can dine in the safety of your home and support Seton at the same time. Corporate sponsorship is \$600, Individual tickets are \$50 each and \$25 for Seton Staff. Silent and Live Auctions will be available online. Party baskets will be delivered to participants. Help us make this unique Gala a huge success!

**Contact:** Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin at spellerin@setonknights.org for more information.

## FRANKLIN

## GARAGE SALE

Malone – St. André Bessette Parish is holding its annual garage sale.

**Date:** Sept. 26 to Oct. 3

**Place:** Former Holy Family School

**Features:** Furniture, household goods, tools, toys, books, bedding, miscellaneous. There is something for everyone.

## HARVEST TURKEY DINNER

Brushton – The Catholic communities of St. Augustine and St. Mary's are sponsoring a take-out only harvest turkey dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 4

**Time:** 11 a.m. until all is gone

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center, 769 County Route 6 (Gale Road), Brushton

**Features:** Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, squash, stuffing, cabbage salad, rolls and dessert.

**Cost:** Meals are \$12

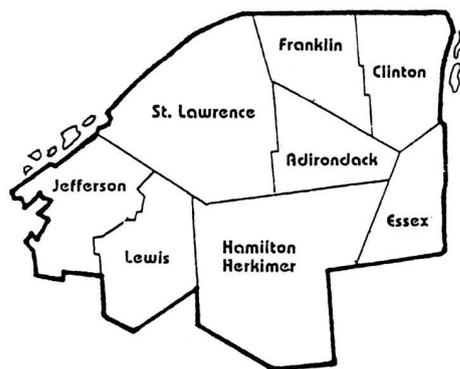
## HARVEST HAM DINNER

Constable – Harvest Ham take-out dinner to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 18

**Time:** Noon to 4 p.m.

**Place:** St. Francis of Assisi



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 315-394-0670;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

**Cost:** \$12 per dinner

**Contact:** Reservations encouraged, please call 518-483-0486 or 518-358-0208

## LEWIS

## MYSTERY BAG SALE

Lyons Falls – Mystery Bag Sale to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 26

**Time:** 10 a.m. until gone

**Place:** Riverside Park Ladies' Auxiliary Building

**Cost:** \$10 per bag

**Features:** Pay \$10 and get an envelope with a number in it. Your number will match a bag with the same number! Everyone wins! You can purchase as many bags as you want. Contents worth \$10 or much more! There will be attendants there to assist with this sale. Masks are required. Proceeds will go to St. John's Catholic Church.

## ROSARY PROCESSION &amp; HIGH MASS

Port Henry – St. Patrick's Church will host an outdoor Candlelight Rosary Procession followed by a Missa Cantata in the Extraordinary Form for the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.

**Date:** Oct. 7

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Features:** Latin/English worship aid will be provided. Masks, physical distancing and COVID-19 protocols will pertain.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## ROSARY DEVOTION

Massena – First Saturday Rosary Devotion to be held.

tion to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 3

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

**Features:** The Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima will be prayed, starting at 3:15 p.m. Confessions will be available at 2 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Saturday Mass Vigil is at 4 p.m.

## Prayer to add to the Rosary

Submitted by Sister Helen Hermann, SSJ

Pope Leo XIII asked that this prayer be added to the end of the Rosary, especially during the month of October, which is dedicated to the Rosary:

*To you,  
O blessed Joseph,  
do we come in  
our tribulation,  
and having implored the  
help of your most  
holy Spouse,  
we confidently invoke  
your patronage also.*

*Through that charity  
which bound you  
to the Immaculate Virgin  
Mother of God  
and through*

*the paternal love  
with which you  
embraced the Child Jesus,  
we humbly beg you  
graciously to regard  
the inheritance  
which Jesus Christ has  
purchased by his Blood,  
and with your power  
and strength to aid us in  
our necessities.*

*O most watchful  
guardian of the  
Holy Family,  
defend the chosen  
children of Jesus Christ;  
O most loving father,  
ward off from us  
every contagion  
of error and  
corrupting influence;  
O our most mighty  
protector, be kind to us  
and from heaven assist*

*us in our struggle  
with the power  
of darkness.*

*As once you rescued  
the Child Jesus from  
deadly peril,  
so now protect God's  
Holy Church  
from the snares of the  
enemy and from  
all adversity;  
shield, too, each one of  
us by your  
constant protection,  
so that, supported by  
your example  
and your aid,  
we may be able to live  
piously, to die  
in holiness,  
and to obtain eternal  
happiness in heaven.*

Amen.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## VIRTUAL PRIEST DISCERNMENT SESSIONS

Zoom in to Priest Discernment. High School Junior men & older are invited to join Father Howard Venette & guests for 60-minute virtual discernment sessions.

**Dates:** Oct. 4 & 18, Nov. 1, 15 & 29 and Dec. 13

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Contact:** Father Venette at hvenette@gmail.com for meeting access.

## LIFECHAIN

Stand up for LIFE at this year's LIFECHAIN! Join in the 33rd annual peaceful, prayerful, public, pro-life witness to the sanctity of life. Rain or shine. All faiths welcome! Bring a friend! Signs are provided. LIFECHAIN practices social distancing. Please stand 25 feet apart.

**Date:** Oct. 4

**Contact:** For information about the LIFECHAIN in your area, visit [www.lifechain.net](http://www.lifechain.net)

## CLM FALL GATHERING

Watertown – Special Mass and program for all Commissioned Lay Ministers in Jefferson and Lewis counties.

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Family Church

**Features:** Deacon James Crowley will speak on the topic of Catholic Leadership in a COVID-19 World.

## DIOCESAN LEAD FOR CATECHESIS

Diocesan Lead: RCIA as model for Catechesis on how to fundamentally use the Catechumenate Model for effective catechesis.

**Date:** Oct. 17

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Place:** Zoom event

**Speakers:** Anita Soltero, assistant director of Faith Formation for the Eastern Region, and Pam Ballantine, former assistant director of Faith Formation for the Eastern Region

**Features:** There is no cost to attend, and the event is open to anyone.

**Contact:** To register contact Department of Faith Formation Secretary, Jessica Hargrave by phone (315)393-2920 or by email [jhargrave@rcdony.org](mailto:jhargrave@rcdony.org) by Oct. 9

## VIRTUAL FAMILY CONFERENCE

Watch the "Iron Sharpens Iron" project from the virtual Family Life Conference at <https://www.rcdony.org/vlfc>

**Description:** see the videos from the Virtual Family Life Conference or to submit a video of your family doing something fun.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Some thoughts for Vineyard Sunday

Some years ago, I had the privilege of visiting Assisi. I'll never forget the rich panorama of fertile vineyards that surround the town from the valleys below. No wonder God used the image of a vineyard in describing the chosen people of Israel. In today's first reading, Isaiah describes how his friend, God, went to elaborate pains

in constructing his vineyard, with ditches and a tower for protection, and a winepress for squeezing out the precious grape juice that would become delicious wine.

How disappointed God was when all that the vineyard produced was wild grapes, unfit for a

good yield. All that work and loving care came to nothing! While Isaiah wrote, the Assyrians were pounding at the gates of Jerusalem, about to destroy it, as God promised to tear down that vineyard and let it revert to pastureland.

Jesus in the Gospel uses that same image of a vineyard to describe Israel, but now he focuses in on the unfaithful people who, by their sin and failure to listen to the prophets, have brought God's anger down on them. Jesus' reference to the killing of the King's only Son was not lost on the Pharisees. They had already decided to kill this Jesus who



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

October 4

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

claimed to be the son of God. Jesus' words enraged them, and their hearts were further hardened against him.

There is an axiom in law which states that the greater the person offended, the greater the offense itself. Since God himself was the victim, the offense against Him was beyond measure. In addition, while the Pharisees reject Him because of their hardness of heart, Jesus himself is wounded beyond measure with a broken heart. We will never understand the im-

mensity of God's love for us. To offend the Lord is worse than any possible offense given to human beings, whether a president or a homeless person.

This week we need to think about the vineyard which the Lord has given us to tend – our spouses, our children, those in our workplace that we're responsible for. On the day of God's judgement, we'll be held accountable.

How well have we cultivated our faith? Has it produced the good works that come from faith? "By their works shall you know them..." What are the good works? Prayer, caring for the poor, cultivating our relationship with the Son of the vineyard's owner. The closer we come to putting on Christ, the easier it is to

put on love for God and for one another, humility – not lording it over anyone, courage in proclaiming that we're Catholic Christians, and boldly stating what we believe in. This month is Respect Life month. Are we convinced that life-issues are at the top of the list of priorities in our society, and are we courageous in proclaiming those values?

This month is also the month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. The rosary. Will the undertaker have to buy a new one for our casket or will our own be old and shabby from use?

These are just some thoughts for Vineyard Sunday. God is still in charge of his vineyard. Let us stir up our courage, do the best we can and trust in the Lord.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Deacon candidates prepare to share Scripture

"Let's review!" I can recall those words from various grade school, even high school teachers in years gone by. "Let's review" usually meant one of two things (both in some cases). We were about to embark on new material, or we were about to have a quiz. The former piqued our interest; the latter sent shivers down our spine.

No quiz today! But let us review. All priests are deacons. Not all deacons are priests. The Second Vatican Council, way back in the 1960s, "renewed and encouraged the order of deacons throughout the entire Catholic Church." All men on the journey to ordination as a priest will be ordained deacons first. That has been the case

since the church codified the formation of men for the priesthood. The renewal of the permanent diaconate took place when Pope Paul VI issued his apostolic letter, *Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem*. In a different apostolic letter, *Ministeria Quaedam*, the pope instituted the ministries of reader and acolyte. All men preparing for ordination are first installed as readers and then acolytes.

The 14 men who have been in formation for ordination as permanent deacons will be instituted into the ministry of reader by Bishop Terry LaValley this Friday evening (October 3) at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. This is another of the significant steps for these men on

their journey to an ordained life of ministry of the word, sacrament and service.

You may wonder what the difference is between an Instituted Reader and the readers who share Scripture with us each weekend from the pulpit. The major difference is preparation. In our diocese, these men have studied scripture and how to share it with us at Mass. Once instituted as readers (lectors), these men should "carry out their office at least on Sundays and festive days (Holy Days), especially at the principal Mass of the day." They should wear an alb when

reading. An alb is the white, full-length vestment worn by priests and deacons.



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

The pastor decides when an instituted reader will exercise his ministry, so this new role does not mean lay readers in parishes with an instituted reader are out of work. However, it is good for the instituted reader to share the sacred Scripture, except the Gospel, during Mass from time to time. It will help the future deacon become more comfortable in his vestments and standing at the ambo (lectern). These men have received extensive biblical formation over the last

three years. As readers, therefore, they can share with the listeners the scripture in context and "perceive by the light of faith the central point of the revealed message." People at Mass deserve readers who will share the scripture with knowledge, good diction, clear articulation, and sufficient volume. The Mass readings and the teachings found in them is one reason we come to church. The instituted reader will hopefully command all these gifts. We congratulate these men for this important moment on their journey.

*Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*



**The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.**

**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**  
 Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
 (315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
 mbrett@rcdony.org

# Mission Sunday: Here I Am, Send Me



This year's theme for World Mission Sunday is "Here I Am, Send Me." Every parish in the world can participate, united, in this special Eucharistic celebration. Every parishioner is a missionary, sharing our love for Christ's Gospel with one another, supporting the Church most in need.

Here I am, Send me to Africa...

Where those who are sick are provided loving care at 6,500 Catholic hospitals and clinics, where 19,000 young men are preparing to be priests, to uplift the poor, celebrate the sacraments, reach out to children and families and comfort the sick and dying.

Here I am, Send me to Asia...

Where 6 million children receive an education from religious sisters in more than 15,000 Catholic Church-run schools.

Here I am, Send me to Latin America...

Where catechists travel to remote areas to bring the good news of God's great love to families there.

Here I am, Send me to the Pacific Islands...

Where 3,500 religious bring the Lord's mercy and peace to those in need of so much.

Here I am, Send me to Europe

Where new churches are being built to welcome faith communities, renewed after years of persecution.

Here I am, Send me Lord! Pray for the Church's worldwide missionary work!

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
[www.rcdony.org/mission-office](http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office)

## OBITUARIES

**Carthage** – Caroline S. (LaLonde) Demers, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2020 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Randall M. Davis, 71; Private Graveside Services to be held at St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – Avis (Trumble) Ghostlaw, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 25, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

**Fort Covington** – Loren D. Mainville, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 24, 2020 at St. Mary's Church.

**Keeseville** – Vivian I. (Bailey) Barber, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 26, 2020 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Malone** – Michele Lee Hutchins, 47; Funeral Services Oct. 2, 2020 at the Brusno-Desnovers Funeral Home; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Massena** – Madeline G. (Beaudet) Dow, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2020 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher.

**Massena** – Frank J. Pellegrino, 100; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 28, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Roger L. Tallon, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2020 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Gaylord D. Duval, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 25, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

**Morrisonville** – Arthur E. Renadette, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 26, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Morristown** – Philippe J. Bertrand, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2020 at St. John the Evangelist Church; burial in Foxwood Mausoleum.

**Norfolk** – Julia (Demeter) Davis, 92; Graveside Services held Sept. 24, 2020 at Visitation Cemetery.

**Norfolk** – Angus V. LaDue, 79; Funeral Services Sept. 22, 2020 at the Buck Fu-

neral home; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Carleton W. McWilliams, 77; Funeral Services Sept. 29, 2020 at Frary Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Donald R. Sullivan, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Susan Cahoon, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2020 at St. Peter's Church burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Chazy.

**Plattsburgh** – Robert King Carpenter, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Jeanne Y. Bergeron Collings, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 28, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Lewiston, Maine.

**Plattsburgh** – Ray LaBombard Jr., 86; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 21, 2020 at St. Peter's Church.

**Potsdam** – James Carl Hendershot Jr., 64; Graveside Services Sept. 26, 2020 at West Stockholm Cemetery.

**Rouses Point** – Leo Paul Bedard, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Elizabeth (Gunning) Bevilacqua, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 26, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Watertown** – James K. Burnett, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 23, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** – Merrill Joseph "Steve" Longamore, Jr., 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 25, 2020 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Watertown** – W. Dennis O'Driscoll, 79; Graveside Service Oct. 3, 2020 in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Lynn Weldon Trimmer, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 22, 2020 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

## 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 (...)

Amen.

**October**  
The Most Holy Rosary

### OCTOBER

2020

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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		4		5	6	7	8	9	10
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		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
		REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	REV. STEPHEN ROCKER	REV. JOSEPH N. SESTITO	REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR VF	POPE FRANCIS	BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR	
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
		REV. ALAN D. SHNOR	REV. F. JAMES SHURTLEFF	MSGR. HARRY K. SNOW	REV. BRYAN D. STITT	RETIRED PRIESTS	REV. RICHAHD S. STURTZ	REV. TODD E. THIBAUT	
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
		REV. JUSTIN THOMAS HIGN	REV. SEVERINUS A. K. TORWOE	REV. HOWARD J. VENETTE	REV. RAYMOND J. WERTMAN	DECEASED PRIESTS	MSGR. PAUL E. WHITMORE	REV. LEO A. WILEY	

For more information visit us online at [www.mprapostolate.com](http://www.mprapostolate.com)

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.myvocations.net](http://www.myvocations.net)

**THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS**

# Catholic voters asked to consider array of teachings

By Mike Matvey  
Catholic News Service

ALBANY (CNS) – The envelope read: "There is a war on Catholics and Faith in God."

Inside the mailer was "The 2020 Elections Catholic Voter Survey," distributed by the organization CatholicVote, which wants to poll "1,000,000 eligible Catholic Voters ... on the Left's War on Catholics and Faith in God."

When completed, the report will be "distributed to President (Donald) Trump and his top advisers ... members of Congress ... radio talk show hosts," the mailer said.

CatholicVote is seeking information as well as donations. But the mailers

that many Catholics in the Diocese of Albany and elsewhere have received have left them with more questions than answers: Was this survey put out by the Catholic Church? Was it approved by the diocese? Is the church telling us who to vote for?

The questions point to the difficult and demanding job Catholics have when faced with how to decide whom to vote for in an election. Some want their bishops and pastors to come out and tell them who should get their vote.

However, such a step is not something the Catholic Church can do, as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' explains in its quadrennial document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call

to Political Responsibility."

"Obviously, the church is a tax-exempt entity and so we are governed by the IRS rules and guidelines. We can't get involved in partisan politics, which means we can't endorse one candidate or oppose another candidate," Kathleen Gallagher, director of pro-life activities for the New York State Catholic Conference, said.

"That is the beauty of it, that the church gives it to us with our free will to form our own consciences and use our own prudence and good judgment to make these difficult decisions," Gallagher told The Evangelist, newspaper of the Diocese of Albany.

CatholicVote is a non-profit, political advocacy group that is independent of the church. The organization in mid-September launched a \$9.7 million advertising blitz in swing states in support of President Donald Trump's re-election.

Other efforts are underway to turn out the Catholic vote for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, himself a Catholic. They include Catholics for Biden, Catholic Democrats and Vote Common Good.

"There are a lot of groups out there that put the word Catholic in their name but people have to dig deeper than that because they don't officially represent the Catholic magisterium or the hierarchy of the Catholic Church," Gal-

agher said.

To guide discernment on voting, Gallagher pointed Catholics to the bishops' "Faithful Citizenship" document, which incorporates the tenets of Catholic social teaching to guide an individual's moral framework when it comes to choosing a candidate. Notably, it does not tell anyone who to vote for and explains that "as Catholics we are not single-issue voters."

"We are urged and called to examine all of the issues, the broad gamut of issues. But all issues are not of equal moral weight, right? Some issues have a special claim on our conscience, the bishops say. And abortion, they call it a preeminent priority. Why do they do that? They do that because abortion threatens life itself," Gallagher said.

"So, of course, we have to give that strong moral weight, but at the same time our bishops say that's not an excuse to dismiss other issues," she continued. "No issue is optional for the Catholic voter. Assistance to immigrants and promoting racial equality and all of these issues that are on the front burner right now, we have a responsibility to examine. Where do the candidates stand on these issues, what are the party positions on those issues?"

If that isn't dizzying enough, the temperament and mentality of the candidate should be added into

the decision.

"Our bishops also say character and integrity of candidates counts," Gallagher said. "We should put that into the mix as well, not just their positions on the issues."

In an extremely polarized world, where both sides are predicting catastrophic results if either Trump or Biden is elected and where social media is filled with hate and misinformation, it is difficult not to look at the issues with a biased eye.

"We all have a political lens that colors how we see the world. But our faith says try to look through your faith lens first," Gallagher said.

"But I think if we keep in mind, as Catholics, as Christians, we should put the most vulnerable, the most defenseless, the most oppressed people in the forefront. We have to think of others more than our own pocketbook, more than our own selves," she said.

She also pointed to the Catechism of the Catholic Church as providing additional guidance.

"The catechism tells you there are three main responsibilities of Catholic citizens and they are: to pay taxes, to defend the country and to vote," Gallagher explained. "All of those responsibilities are really putting the emphasis on the other guy. ... Our faith says we are doing it for our brothers and sisters."

## Father Garry Giroux,



*Thank you for your selfless untiring dedication to the spiritual growth and well-being of the parishioners of Brasher Falls, Norwood, Norfolk and Raymondville*



St. Peter's Catholic Parish in Massena, NY is seeking qualified candidates to apply for the position of Director of Evangelization and Christian Formation, effective immediately. The Director of Evangelization and Christian Formation upholds the mission of the Church to evangelize and bring others to Christ. This position entails a dual leadership role that works simultaneously:

1. Evangelization, which promotes and pursues a parish culture of invitation and welcome, to facilitate an encounter with Christ and His Church among those within the active community; the inactive community and the unchurched.
2. Catechesis, which is the overall responsibility for the parish catechetical formation of children, youth and adults.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and education. No phone calls please. Applicants must participate fully in the practice of the Catholic Faith. Please submit cover letter and resume to [smarion@massenacatholics.com](mailto:smarion@massenacatholics.com) or mail to St. Peter's Parish, Attn: Human Resources, 212 Main Street, Massena, NY 13662.

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