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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 40

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Follow me:
'Thank you for
being *In
Communion*
with us'

Bishop Terry R. LaValley discusses the importance of our diocesan newspaper, the North Country Catholic, as the paper begins its annual subscription campaign:

"Through the *North Country Catholic*, I communicate with Catholics around the diocese as we move forward *In Communion* on this journey of faith, guided by our loving God. The paper also shares local, state, national and international news and information relevant to our faith and our lives."

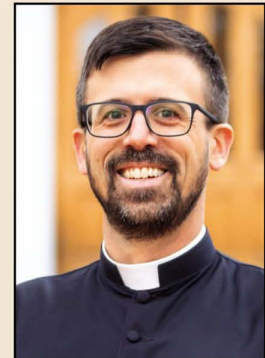
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

REMEMBERING FATHER CÔTÉ



A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Normand C. Côté will be held on Feb. 21 at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh. Father Côté died Feb. 8 at age 95. A full obituary and story are on page 4.

NEW FEATURES IN THE NCC



In this annual subscription campaign edition of the North Country Catholic, we're pleased to introduce two new features. "A Growing Voice" will feature the writings of Erin Savarie, a teen parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville, who will offer a youth perspective. We hope Erin decides to make this a regular feature. "From Wondering to Wonder in Worship" will feature our diocesan Director of Worship Father Bryan Stitt, also pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, answering common and submitted questions about worship. It will be a regular feature, included as space allows.

SEE 'A GROWING VOICE' ON PAGE 14 & 'FROM WONDERING TO WONDER' ON PAGE 15

Pope on Ash Wednesday: 'Return to God'

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

On Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis said that Lent is a time to look inward at our true selves and to share our deepest desires, worries, and weaknesses with the Lord in prayer.

In a world where "everything has to be exposed, shown off, and fed to the gossip mill of the moment," the Lord is inviting us to "remove the masks we so often wear" and to see ourselves as we truly are in the sight of God, Pope Francis said in his Ash Wednesday homily.

"Precisely there, where so many fears, feelings of guilt,

and sin are lurking, precisely there the Lord has descended in order to heal and cleanse you."

"Let us acknowledge what we are: dust loved by God. We are dust loved by God. And thanks to him, we will be reborn from the ashes of sin to new life in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit," the pope said on Feb. 14.

Pope Francis presided over Mass in the Basilica of Santa Sabina, a fifth-century church on Rome's Aventine Hill where St. Thomas Aquinas once resided.

In his homily, Pope Francis encouraged everyone to make more space for prayer in silence in Eucharistic adoration during the 40 days of Lent.

"Let us return, brothers and sisters. Let us return to God with all our heart," he said.

"During these weeks of Lent, let us make space for the prayer of silent adoration, in which we experience the presence of the Lord like Moses, like Elijah, like Mary, like Jesus."

"Let us not be afraid to strip ourselves of worldly trappings and return to the heart, to what is essential," he said.

Pope Francis reflected on Jesus' words in the Gospel of Matthew: "When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret" (Mt 6:4).

He quoted advice from St.

Anselm of Canterbury, an 11th-century Benedictine monk and doctor of the Church who wrote in 1078: "Escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labors. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him."

"Enter into your mind's inner chamber. Shut out everything but God and whatever helps you to seek him; and when you have shut the door, look for him. Speak now to God and say with your whole heart: I seek your face; your face, O Lord, I desire."

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We're doing it together

"I've created a monster," I told my friend.

I recently introduced this friend - someone who doesn't love technology -

to a couple Catholic apps, programs on his smartphone that offer prayer resources, Scripture, meditations and other Catholic content.

A week later, this same friend sent me a link to a Lenten program offered by a Catholic app. He thought I would find it helpful in my spiritual journey.

That's when I suggested I've created a monster. I thought it was funny the guy I was teaching to use his phone (I showed him another feature, as well) was suddenly suggesting an app-based program to me.

I tried the app he was suggesting not long after it first launched. I didn't love it then, but I figured I'd humor my friend and check



Darcy L. Fargo

out the program he suggested on that app I had dismissed long ago.

My friend was right. I love the program so far, and I'm glad he shared it.

It's one of the things I love about our faith: we're all doing it together. I'm a woman who in my 40s who loves technology. My

friend is a man who is not in his 40s, shall we say (I'm trying to be nice), and who does not love technology. In a lot of ways, we couldn't be more different, but our faith, our love of Jesus and our desire to see each other in heaven overcomes our differences, and we're able

to help each other.

We're all called to be that for one another. We're called to be connected. We're called to support each other. As Bishop LaValley notes in his letter on the following page, we're truly *In Communion*, the theme for this year's *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign.

We connect to one another by sharing our stories, by inspiring one another, by helping one another grow in knowledge and love of our Lord.

You may have noticed in the box on page 1, we're introducing two new features this week to go along with that theme.

"A Growing Voice" is offered by Erin Savarie, a young lady from Minerva who is active in her home parish, St. Joseph's in Olmstedville, and in diocesan youth ministry program-

ming, including Camp Gugenheim. Erin is trying out the column format for now as she discerns her path forward with the *NCC*, but we're hoping she'll be a regular contributor. Erin is a talented writer, and she loves Jesus. I think we'll all learn from her youthful perspective.

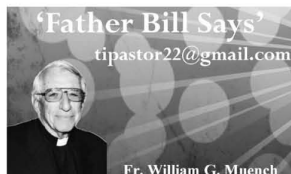
"From Wondering to Wonder in Worship" is offered by diocesan Director of Worship Father Bryan Stitt. Father Stitt will be offering answers to commonly asked and submitted questions about worship and our faith in general. We look forward to him helping us better understand and participate in worship.

We hope you enjoy and learn from these new features, and we thank you for subscribing and supporting our work as we grow in our love of the Lord *In Communion* with each other.

Encountering Jesus

For me, the Scriptures of Lent are old friends. All these years I have been a priest, each Lent I return to these same Scriptures, and again hope I can see them in a new light. Again, this year I hope I can be inspired to write meaningful homilies.

Today, I would like to consider with you a real favorite of mine, the Transfiguration of Jesus. This story is the Gospel reading at the Masses on the Second Sunday of Lent. Let me begin by reminding you of the story: Jesus takes only Peter, James and John with him. They go off to climb Mount Tabor. At the top, Jesus is transfigured before them. We learn of this experience in each of the three synoptic Gospels. It is a well-remembered story. St. Mark describes this event in this way: "his clothes became dazzling white such as no fuller on earth could bleach them." The three apostles were



truly amazed. They recognized the divine in Jesus. Peter says, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here!" Peter wants to stay right there forever.

I have been taught that Jesus wanted the apostles to realize his divinity to support them, to strengthen their faith. Their future with Jesus will not be easy. There will be stress and difficulty as they join with Jesus. Jesus wants them to remain bold and unafraid to become leaders of his Church.

I love this Gospel story. I walked up that road on Mount Tabor. I celebrated Mass at that Basilica that now stands on the top. This is a sacred and very special place. Today, I

would like to suggest that this story of the Transfiguration of Jesus is our story, a story for all of us as the People of God.

What I mean is this: I believe that frequently in the lives of us all, we faithful Catholics, we followers of Jesus, our Lord Jesus comes to us to be present with us in a special way when we pray in faith and with an open heart, present just as the Lord was with those apostles. Jesus comes to support us and strengthen us. The Lord wants us to live with confidence, to live powerful, good Christian lives. Jesus knows we often face challenges as His dedicated followers. We need the help and power of the Holy Spirit.

Our experience of the Transfiguration of Jesus will not be as dramatic as it was for the apostles. When we come to the Lord Jesus with an open living heart, we will realize the pres-

ence of Jesus who longs to bring joy and peace to us all, and we will be confident the Lord Jesus walks with us.

I am speaking here of each time that we participate in the celebration of the Holy Mass. Our Lord Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Eucharist. This is a powerful and transformative presence; we will be guided just as Jesus guided his apostles.

I further believe that every time we take some time to pray - maybe alone, possibly while visiting Church - Jesus will come and sit with us as we open our hearts in love Him. It is then that we should quietly listen. The Lord has a message for us every time. I know that it truly is like the Lord Jesus placing his hand on our shoulder.

So, this is the first of my old friends coming up again during Lent - the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus.

FOLLOW ME:

‘Thank you for being *In Communion* with us’

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Searching the word “Communion” on the online Merriam-Webster dictionary, you’ll find four definitions. The first definition is “an act or instance of sharing.” Next, you’ll find it defined as “a Christian sacrament in which consecrated bread and wine are consumed... as the body and blood of Christ.” The third definition is “intimate fellowship or rapport.” Finally, the fourth definition is “a body of Christians having com-

mon faith and discipline.”

This year, as the *North Country Catholic* begins its annual subscription campaign, we celebrate being *In Communion*. In the pages of our *North Country Catholic*, you’ll find many “acts or instances of sharing.” The newspaper shares stories of how our North Country neighbors - individuals, parishes, schools and organizations - are trying to follow the Lord’s call and share His love. Reading those stories, we find similar-

ities with our own lives. We find ideas to improve our faith and spirituality, and we find inspiration in seeing what the Lord is doing in the world around us. It helps connect us, despite how far apart we may be geographically. The newspaper helps create that “intimate fellowship or rapport” and helps us see our “common faith and discipline” in action, as mentioned on that online dictionary page. And, of course, we are drawn together by Holy Communion, Christ given to us, body and blood, soul and divinity. We are truly *In Communion*.

Through the *North Country Catholic*, I com-

municate with Catholics around the diocese as we move forward *In Communion* on this journey of faith, guided by our loving God. The paper also shares local, state, national and international news and information relevant to our faith and our lives.

This weekend, the annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign begins. I ask every family to subscribe to our diocesan paper. If you are a current subscriber, thank you for renewing your subscription in this week’s campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I

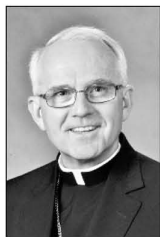
invite those who do not currently subscribe to consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

Thank you for being *In Communion* with us by subscribing to the *North Country Catholic*. I am grateful for your prayerful support.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Application period open for leadership grants

One of the realities of our church these days is the decline in the number of priests in our parishes. There is a greater need than ever for the lay faithful to step up into leadership roles in parishes. Pope Francis, on June 17, 2016, spoke about this need:

“We need well-formed lay people, animated by a sincere and clear faith, whose life has been touched by the personal and merciful love of Christ,” he said. “We need lay people who take risks, who get their hands dirty, who are not afraid to make

mistakes, who have a vision of the future ...”

Looking to the future and realizing this need in our diocese, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Watertown established a foundation to support the development of lay leaders willing to “get their hands dirty.” The Sisters’ charism, or the particular way in which the community lives out the Gospel, is one of unity, reconciliation and the living of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy for the dear neighbor. Grants of up to \$4,000 are awarded to sponsoring

organizations that support leadership training.

The grants can support existing programs or new programs, particularly programs celebrating the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Several grants have been awarded to parishes to help support the education of parish life coordinators, deacon formation, principal formation and candidates in the Formation for Ministry program.

If you or someone you know is currently active in a leadership role in a diocesan parish, school or established program or is in training, requests for applications for the grant can be made to Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation, 1425 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601.

The grant cycle begins February 1 and runs through April 24.



Deacon Neil Fuller, pictured here celebrating a baptism, received a Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation Grant to further his leadership training to become a Parish Life Coordinator. Other grants have supported candidates from parishes in the deacon preparation program.

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Fr. Côté 'was a very holy and simple soul'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Father Normand C. Côté collected items, people and prayer intentions.

Father Côté died the evening of Thursday, February 8, in Plattsburgh, where he had resided since retiring in 2003. He was 95 years old.

A complete obituary appears at the right of this page.

"He was a very holy and simple soul," said Father Timothy G. Canaan, who became pastor at St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh while Father Côté resided in the church rectory in his retirement. "He loved people - he loved to joke with people, he loved to be around people. He was a person who had a very deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He also loved celebrating Mass every day. When it got to the point with his infirmities where he couldn't celebrate Mass on his own, he continued to concelebrate. That was a very difficult thing for him to journey through. The Mass was so important to him."

Father Canaan said Father Côté regularly celebrated Masses in a parish in Vermont from the time he retired until he could no longer do so. The retired priest also covered daily Masses at St. John's weekly on Father Canaan's day off.

"He loved that sense of being able to help out," Father Canaan said. "As he aged, it became hard for him to hear and difficult for him to see. When the decision was made that he would concelebrate going forward, he found that so difficult to accept. He loved the Mass so."

Father Canaan noted that people frequently asked Father Côté to pray for them, and he took those prayers to Mass with him in a special way.

"He had this very simple chalice," Father Ca-

naan said. "The base of the chalice was octagonal in shape, I believe. He would cut pieces of paper in the shape of that base. When somebody asked him to pray for them, he'd write their name on one of those pieces of paper. He'd open up the base of his chalice and put those papers inside of his chalice. The papers would be full, front and back, with names, and he'd have several of them in the chalice. When he celebrated Mass, he was remembering all the people who asked him to pray for him. When I developed a heart issue, he added my name to a piece of paper like that. He showed it to me. He was so proud of the fact that he could pray for me in that special way. I never knew another priest who did that."

Father Canaan also recalled his friend as an avid collector.

"When you went upstairs to the third floor at St. John's (rectory), there were six rooms," he said. "When (Father Côté) moved in, the pastor then said he could have two rooms. He took over five rooms, and every room was full. He loved to save and collect all kinds of things. Msgr. (Joseph) Aubin and Father Normand were very close in age. There were only a couple weeks between them. Msgr. Aubin would say, 'when I go visit Father Normand and go to his room, his main room, I feel I'm in a Catholic shop and got to buy something.' He had so many religious and various other items, and they all were all dear to him. He loved to display them. Everything had to be displayed in a case or container."

Additionally, Father Côté proudly collected every copy ever made of the Diocesan Directory, published by the North Country Catholic.

"He was very proud of that," Father Canaan

Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated Feb. 21

A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Normand C. Côté will be celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh.

Reception of the Body will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, at the church with Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, dean of the Clinton-Northern Franklin Deanery, presiding. Calling hours will follow concluding with Night Prayer at 8 p.m. Calling hours will resume on Wednesday morning from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

A spring burial will be in the family plot in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Father Côté died late in the evening on Thursday, February 8, 2024, in Plattsburgh, where he had resided since his retirement in 2003. He was 95.

Born August 18, 1928, in St. John's, Quebec, he was the son of Gabriel and Christine (Biasaillon) Côté. His parents predeceased him.

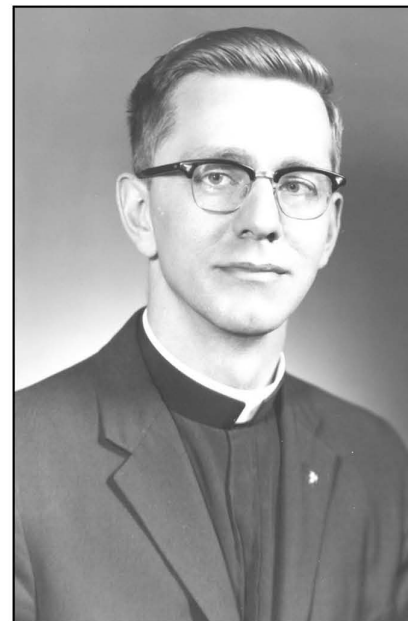
The third of six children, his family left Canada for the United States in September of 1929, and he attended grammar school at our Lady of Victory Academy in Plattsburgh and high school at St. Edmund's Junior Seminary in Swanton, Vermont. His first two years of college were spent at St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont. He then went to Bourget College in Rigaud, Quebec, to study philosophy.

He was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in November of 1953.

He began his seminary studies at Holy Apostles Seminary, La Prairie, Quebec, in 1954. He completed his seminary studies at the Grand Seminary of Saint Sulpice in Montreal, Quebec.

On May 31, 1958, he was ordained by Bishop James J. Navagh in St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

He celebrated his first Solemn High Mass at his home church, Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh. He then began his priesthood as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Church in Clayton, followed by time in that same role at St. Augustine's Church in Peru, St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Moun-



Father Normand C. Côté in an undated file photo.

tain, Notre Dame Church in Malone (temporary assignment), Holy Name Church in Tupper Lake, Church of the Holy Family in Watertown, St. John the Baptist Church in Keeseville, and again at St. Mary's Church in Clayton.

In June of 1969, Father Côté was named pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in LaFargeville. He later served as pastor of St. Therese Church in Newcomb and St. Joseph's Church in Coopersville, with a brief period of service as a special assistant at St. Mary's Church in Champlain.

Father Côté retired in 2003.

In addition to his parents, Father Côté was predeceased by a sister Lillian Côté; a brother, Paul Côté, his wife Patricia and their daughter Valerie; a brother, George Côté and his wife Valida; and a brother, Lionel "Joe" Côté, and his wife Barbara and his sister Aline Côté.

Father Côté is survived by several nieces and nephews, and extended family.

Arrangements are through Brown Funeral Home.

Book recounts miracle with local ties

'You're a Miracle' recounts a healing attributed to Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus

By **Mary Beth Bracy,**
Consecrated Virgin
Contributing Writer

It isn't often that we encounter family members of the saints. In the North Country we are blessed to have several, however, including relatives of Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. Recently, I was blessed to read a miraculous true story of his intercession as retold in the new book *You're a Miracle*, written by one of his relatives, Joe McGivney.

At a young age, Mr. McGivney began drinking and eventually became addicted to alcohol. Although functional, his drinking spiraled out of control. It overtook his life and wreaked havoc on his family and health. Finally, on December 20, 2020, he literally lost his mind. One day, Mr. McGivney collapsed on the living room floor. His wife managed to drag him to the car and drive him to the hospital. He didn't have another coherent thought for nine weeks.

Mr. McGivney became trapped in Korsakoff Psychosis and was put in restraints, haunted by hallucinations, and unable to recognize his closest loved ones. Transferred from institution to institution, he was committed to a psychiatric ward, and his family was told he would need 24/7 care for the rest of his life.

But then, one morning, Mr. McGivney woke

up completely well. Doctors had no explanation for his sudden healing and didn't figure the secret out until later. Mr. McGivney related, "As I found my way back to the Church of my birth, I started going to Church each week and joined the Knights of Columbus. Soon after, my Aunt Gerry told me that, when I was sick, she was fervently praying for our relative Blessed Father Michael McGivney's intercession. When I learned that she was praying for him to intercede for me, I realized why I was healed. Father McGivney has proven to be a powerful intercessor."

God continues to open the doors for Mr. McGivney to share his testimony to help bring hope and courage to those who are struggling from addiction.

"When I give talks about my story, people often share that they are powerfully moved by God's grace," he said. "Also, I am able to give witness to the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney in my life."

Mr. McGivney says his life has become less self-centered and is now God-centered.

"I've really learned to increasingly live 'The Surrender Prayer' that my sponsor recommended, and I began praying immediately when I came home from rehab," he said. "By God's grace and living the twelve steps, my life has become more beautiful and wonderful



Joe McGivney

than it ever was before, more joyful and fulfilling than I ever imagined possible. Experiencing God's infinite power, I have felt embraced by His loving presence and more grateful than ever before."

The blessings in Mr. McGivney's life didn't stop there.

"Although my marriage ended," he shared, "another miracle of God's mercy occurred. When I 'let go' and prayed for my wife Nicole, God led her back to me again. We were remarried and our marriage is better than it's ever been because God is in the center of it. Not only that, but He placed in her heart the desire to become Catholic, and I was her sponsor when she entered the Church."

"Everything in my world just began to change and that beautiful way of learning through the steps of how to surrender my will and my life to God has transformed everything about me. It's work but it's so simple," Mr. McGivney added.

When we surrender our lives to God, He does miraculous things in our lives, as Mr. McGivney attests. "Even more amazing is that

Prayer for the canonization of Father McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.)

God gave me a beautiful gift. I was driving home from an A.A. meeting and in my car I suddenly felt this overwhelming sense of euphoria and joy and peace all kind of wrapping itself around me. That lasted for about forty-five minutes and then it just gently drifted away. Words cannot even begin to describe this incredible feeling that I felt. I felt like I was in the presence of His infinite power and love for that forty-five minute period. That gift, one that I will never forget, helps me every day when I'm encountering real world stuff — death, sickness, and failures, and I just drop to my knees and say 'The Surrender Prayer.'"

"The greatest gift is to know that it was God's hands, He is the one that guided me to all this," concluded Mr. McGivney. "My children have welcomed me back and wrapped their arms around me because they've seen what happens first hand when people surrender themselves to God. Even in this modern day, nothing is impossible with God. It is my hope that sharing my story may be a reminder of God's

glory."

Blessed Michael McGivney, the eldest of 13 children, has relatives in the Malone area. He tirelessly worked to provide his flock with sacraments in the midst of a pandemic. Additionally, he fostered conversions and vocations, inspiring two of his brothers to become priests. Known as "the Priest of the Beatitudes," Father McGivney once adopted a boy who would have otherwise been orphaned due to his father's death. He also visited a young man on death row daily to minister to him spiritually. Desiring to provide a Catholic fraternal society, during a time of persecution, Father McGivney was inspired to begin a lay organization. His first approved miracle was the healing of an unborn baby with a fatal condition and no hope of survival.

Faithful continue to be encouraged to ask for the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney and submit any answered prayers to Father McGivney Guild at 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510. For more information visit fathermcgivney.org or kofc.org.

Environmental Stewardship**Fasting from Anger**

Stories of injustice typically elicit feelings of anger. When we hear of an individual or group being harmed or taken advantage of, our desire for fairness becomes upset. Jesus taught compassion should be the response in all cases, both for the victims and the perpetrators of an unfair event. We must strive to overcome our innate response of anger, which can lead to hatred, and replace it with forgiveness, mercy and compassion towards all involved.

Lent is a perfect time to fast, as much as possible, from angry reactions. Whenever you encounter a situation in which you feel an injustice has occurred, like being cut off in traffic or having a neighbor's dog trample through your flower garden, take a deep breath, try to relax, smile and ask your guardian angel in an encouraging tone to do a better job next time in bringing about harmony. Perhaps offer a blessing instead of an angry word or gesture.

Spending time in nature is an excellent way of reducing anger, stress and other negative emotions. The peace, quiet and stillness off a wooded glade can do wonders for your soul. The harmony that radiates from nature can be felt by anyone willing to let go of their problems and open their hearts to Jesus. While most of the environment across the planet is being severely harmed by our "throw-away culture" and "consumerism-driven society," these injured creations of God still share with us their joy just for being whenever we visit them.

Try to change your anger reactions into responses of love and compassion this Lent. We have ingested way too much anger throughout the year and should attempt to fast or abstain from this detrimental emotion as much as possible for these next 40 days. All things are possible with God's grace!

By Tom Kalinowski
Faith & Ecology Member

Bishop's Public Schedule

Feb. 21 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 22 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 23 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 24 – 11 a.m. – Closing Retreat Mass at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown followed by Lunch

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 25 – 11 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 27 – 1:30 p.m. – Mount St. Mary's Seminary Board of Trustees Zoom Meeting

Feb. 28 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions:

Feb. 27 – 1 p.m. – Diocesan offices, Ogdensburg

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: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 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



Boxes of food donations collected in Trinity Catholic School's 'Soup'er Bowl' were prepared for delivery to the Massena Community Center.

Trinity School has 'Soup'er successful food drive

At the time of year when many people were thinking of the Su-

per Bowl, Trinity Catholic School was thinking of giving to others in a fun way.

The Massena school recently held its "Soup'er Bowl, an annual food drive for pantries in the Massena area.

Each year, the school sets a goal to match the year, so this year's goal was 2,024 food items. The first couple of weeks of the collection were a bit slow due to a weather-related early dismissal and two snow days, but once the weather cleared, Trinity families and supporters came through!

The school's final to-

tal was 2,622 items!

Miss Augenstein's fifth-grade classroom was the top donor with 705 items, and they earned a class pizza party!

The whole school earned prizes throughout the event, including a lunch time treat, and an afternoon movie with popcorn.

The donated items were given to St. Peter's Mission, the Massena Community Center and Massena Meals on Wheels.

The competitive food drive was organized by Trinity Catholic School's "Soup'er Bowl Committee.

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 21 – Rev. Charles A. Paquette O.M.I., 1925; Rev. John J. Kelly, 1944

Feb. 22 – Rev. Edward Tortel, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. Peter H. J. Ryan, 1930

Feb. 23 – Rev. Leo Heinrichs, O.F.M., 1908; Rev. Edward Blanchard, 1922; Rev. André Payette, O.M.I., 1976

Feb. 24 – Rev. George Belanger, 1932; Rev. William J. Murphy, C.S.C.O., 1959

Feb. 25 – Rev. William Howard, 1888; Rev. P.J. O'Connell, O.S.A., 1895; Rev. James J. Duffy, 1912; Msgr. L. Kevin Connors, 1971

Feb. 26 – Rev. Francis X. LaChance, 1916; John F. Wiley, 1984

Feb. 27 – Rev. Ferdinand Grenier, O.M.I., 1872

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Head of Pontifical Missions USA resigns, admits he broke vow of celibacy

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

Monsignor Kieran Harrington has resigned his position as the national director of The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States (TPMS US) after the Diocese of Brooklyn found “sufficient proof” of “inappropriate behavior with an adult,” which he has since admitted to.

The Diocese of Brooklyn’s Adult Allegation Committee (AAC) investigated Harrington after it received an allegation of “inappropriate conduct” on March 6, 2023. The committee found “sufficient proof” to support the allegation but did not disclose any specifics about the conduct.

In a statement provided to CNA, Harrington admitted that he had an “inappropriate” encounter with a woman in which he had “broken [his] promise of celibacy.” However, he claimed the incident was consensual and occurred long before he assumed his leadership role with TPMS US.

“Regrettably, more than a decade ago and prior to my appointment to this position, I had a single, inappropriate, consensual encounter with an adult woman for whom I cared deeply,” Harrington said in a statement provided to CNA. “I was wrong to have done so.”

Harrington added that he is “not the subject of any complaint or civil proceeding” and that “the fact came to light during an ecclesiastical proceeding unrelated to me.” He said he “cooperated and was forthcoming about the events” during the investigation.

Harrington claimed that the report “concluded that the encounter was consensual,” but the Diocese of Brooklyn disputed that characterization, telling CNA that “the board did not make a finding on the issue of consent.”

“The board concluded that his behavior violated the Code of Conduct and he should have known better,” the diocesan statement read.

Harrington since April 2021 served as the national director of TPMS US, which is a pontifical organization that supports the missionary work of the pope. He had also served as the vicar

for communications for the Brooklyn Diocese since 2006 but was placed on a leave of absence from his priestly ministry pending a diocesan evaluation to determine whether he is suitable to serve the Church in the future.

“I have cherished my 22 years in the priesthood, both in Brooklyn and in service to the Holy Father and the Church,” Harrington said. “It has been my greatest privilege to serve in my parish and in the missions, accompanying the Church in places where it is still young, often poor, and frequently persecuted.”

Harrington apologized to “my colleagues, friends, and parishioners” and requested their prayers. He added that he hopes this incident does not distract from the work of TPMS, which he said is “more vital than ever before.”

“I am proud of the team we’ve assembled at The Pontifical Mission Societies and our shared accomplishments,” Harrington said. “We’ve taken specific steps to increase levels of transparency, accountability, and oversight, including reforms in our governance, systems, and processes. I am so grateful for their dedication.”

A spokesperson for TPMS US accepted Harrington’s resignation but thanked him for his service with the organization.

“Monsignor Harrington’s resignation is related to a matter which occurred over a decade ago, prior to joining TPMS, when he was serving under the Diocese of Brooklyn,” the statement read. “We thank Monsignor Harrington for his service and dedication to the Church’s mission. Under his tenure, TPMS has taken specific steps to increase levels of transparency, accountability, and oversight.”

The board of directors for TPMS appointed Father Anthony Andreassi, CO, to serve as interim national director.

“TPMS is devoted to bringing the Gospel to all nations while strengthening the Church in the USA and mission territories,” the statement added. “We are committed to continuing our important work and serving God through our global network of Catholics united in prayer and alms.”

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Aid group warns of violence against Christians in Myanmar

Christian Solidarity International (CSI) has warned of a rise in violence against the persecuted Christian minority amid the bloody civil war in Myanmar. “Violence against Christian communities has increased enormously since the military regime ended the short-lived hybrid government agreement,” said Selina Biedermann, a project leader with CSI, highlighting the dire situation of what the U.N.’s chief investigator for Myanmar has called “systematic violence” following the 2021 coup. Biedermann detailed the intensifying suppression faced by Christians, who mostly hail from ethnic minorities like the Karen, the Chin, and the Kayin. “Like the Rohingya Muslim ethnic group, they are subjected to cruel ethnic-cleansing campaigns,” she told CNA Deutsch. Amnesty International has called for the recent attack on a Christian church to be investigated as a war crime. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) condemned the military’s “indiscriminate” airstrikes on civilians on Feb. 7.

Notre Dame spire to be unveiled nearly 5 years after fire

The unveiling process for the newly rebuilt spire of Paris’ legendary Notre Dame Cathedral began this week, with the process expected to be completed in time for the 2024 Paris Olympics in July. Deconstruction of the scaffolding surrounding the spire – which reaches 330 feet in height – will take several months, the restoration authority, Etablissement Public, told AFP News Agency. The spire’s new cross was mounted on Dec. 6, 2023, and on Dec. 16 a golden rooster – a symbol of France – was blessed and added, replacing one that was destroyed in the fire. The cathedral has been closed ever since a devastating fire April 15, 2019, saw the spire crash through the centuries-old timber roof. Major religious and artistic treasures of the cathedral were removed as the fire began, including a relic of Christ’s crown of thorns. Authorities have not yet found any evidence that the blaze was not an accident, with an initial investigation conducted in the months after the fire concluding it may have been caused by an electrical malfunction.

Missionary priests kidnapped in Nigeria have been released

Two missionary priests who were abducted from a parish rectory in Nigeria earlier this month have been released and admitted to the hospital for examination. Father Kenneth Kanwa and Father Jude Nwachukwu were taken from the rectory at St. Vincent de Paul Fier Parish in the Diocese of Pankshin in Plateau state on Feb. 1. In an interview with Channels TV, Father Polycarp Lubo, the chairman of the Plateau state chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), confirmed the release of the two members of the Congregation of Missionaries Sons of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary (CMF), also known as the Claretians. Lubo said that Kanwa, the parish priest, and his assistant, Nwachukwu, “were released in the early hours” of Feb. 8. The CAN chairman could not disclose “whether ransom was paid to secure the release of the priests.”

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Mr. and Mrs. Fred Trimbach

St. Joseph's Church, Olmstedville

Mrs. Diane McNally
Ms. Barbara Repp

St. Augustine's Church, Peru

Joan Forrence
Mrs. Mary Hensel
Mark and Debbie Leta
Robert and Linda Manchester
Monica Remillard

Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh

Mrs. Anne Arnold
Debra Biasini
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boulrice
Starr Burke
Loretta and Andy Cappelio
Mrs. Dorothy Carr
Mary Clark
Aline Cote

Deacon Gerald Defayette

Mr. and Mrs. Chris DeGrandpre
Mr. Arlen Favero
Mrs. Josephine Garratt
Mrs. Joan Jarvis
Frank Hay
Ceil Johnson
Mrs. Carolyn Keable
Mr. and Mrs. George Miller
Mr. and Mrs. William Murray
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Nephew
Terry and Janice Norcross
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Polhemus
Sisters of Charity of St. Louis
Deacon Randal and Karen Smith
Mr. Herling Sorrell

The CC of Moriah, Port Henry

Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Lemza
Alton Supernault
Mr. Peter Zelinski

St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Beltowski
Eva Sessions

St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

Felicitas Baxter
Mr. and Mrs. James Corbett
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gibbs
Rev. Joseph Giroux
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Healey
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lahendro
Bill and Kathy Putnam

St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point

William and Gail Ancil
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Barcomb
Mr. and Mrs. Arsene Letourneau
Mrs. Eleanor Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Vacca

St. Ann's Church, St. Regis Falls

Mrs. Cheryl Crinklaw
David Montroy

St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor

Mrs. Robert Brennan
Mr. and Mrs. Grover Brenon
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Huneymann
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Townsend

St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake

Mr. Andrew Cassidy
Mrs. Margaret Sorensen
Mr. Kenneth Wiley

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Schroon Lake

Ms. Amy Eaton
Michel Michelsen Lee

St. Hubert's Church, Star Lake

Mrs. Julie Lanphear

St. Mary's Church, Ticonderoga

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fecteau
Mr. John Gonyea
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Liddell
Rev. Christopher Looby
Mr. and Mrs. David Rutkowski
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Stewart
Mrs. Diane Valenti

St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Arsenault
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Connor
Mrs. Jeannette Keniston
Marie Mayotte
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Robillard

St. Mary's Church, Waddington

Mrs. Joan Andress

Church of the Holy Family, Watertown

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Booth
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Caughlin
Joseph Goss
Mr. and Mrs. James Keohane
Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis
Deacon Edward Miller
Mr. Charles Nevin
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Surace
Lucille Van Wormer

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Watertown

Mr. Ronald Perciaccante
Mr. Paul Reese
Miss Suzanne Williams

St. Anthony's Church, Watertown

Mrs. Sally Grzesiak
Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Spano
Mr. and Mrs. John Vespa

St. Patrick's Church, Watertown

Mrs. Karl Burns
Ms. Janice Gittino
Jacqueline Lee

St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy

Mr. and Mrs. Jon Denny

The CC of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph, Willsboro

Matthew Bosley
Joyce Marcianti

Other

Amanda Ames, Potsdam
Mary Bobak, Grand Island
Jay Boyea, Champlain
Deacon James Gillen, Jonesboro, ME
Alan Hughes, Canton
Jason Lewis, Liverpool
Leif Rozon, Lake Clear
Paul Seymour, Merrill



This listing reflects extraordinary, sustaining, special and patrons from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023. Although every effort has been made to include the names of every patron, some mistakes are inevitable. If, however, an omission or error has occurred, we do apologize. Please notify us at 315-608-7556 so that we may correct our records.

PLEASE NOTE: Parishes are listed with their legal parish name, not each individual worship site is listed as some worship sites are combined under one parish name.

Patrons
\$35 - \$49

Helene Shepard, Washingtonville

The CC of Alexandria

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bradley
Mrs. Frank Cavallario
Mrs. William Decker
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Giordano
Catherine Healy
Thomas Sourwine

Holy Angels Church, Altona

Mr. and Mrs. Denis Peryea

The CC of Holy Name and St. Matthew, Au Sable Forks

Mrs. Theresa Devlin
Mr. Timothy Devins
Deacon John J. Ryan

Prayer app gets spike from Super Bowl ad

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

The Catholic prayer app Hallow aired its first-ever commercial during Super Bowl LVIII, which saw the Kansas City Chiefs win their second consecutive championship on Feb. 11. Immediately following the airing of the ad, Hallow saw the biggest spike in downloads in its history, according to Alex Jones, CEO of Hallow.

"It was the most downloads in a single minute we'd ever seen," Jones told CNA. "We're already ranking ahead of Netflix on the App Store charts and Lent hasn't even started yet. Glory to God."

The 30-second ad was shown in 15 markets across the country.

The commercial began with Catholic actor Mark Wahlberg, who recently starred in "Father

Stu," blessing himself with holy water as he enters a church.

"We take this moment to give you thanks. We thank you for this time to come together as a family, as friends, and as a country. Help us Lord, especially this Lent, to grow closer to you. Amen," Wahlberg's voice said as images of a family at the dinner table, friends at a football game, a group of soldiers, and Catholic actor Jonathan Roumie receiving ashes on his forehead were shown.

The commercial ended with Wahlberg encouraging viewers to join Hallow in prayer this Lenten season.

"It was a phenomenal night. A dream come true. For the first time ever during the Super Bowl, we all got to take 30 seconds to give thanks to God," Jones, who is also co-founder of Hallow, told CNA in an interview.

"We've been blown away by

the responses to the spot," he said. "We've heard from many who were inspired to join us and give prayer a try for the first time in a long time this Lent."

Jones shared that they were "humbled" to see the response from people, receiving thousands of emails, tweets, and text messages from people sharing their thoughts.

"It was a huge bet for us," he said. "When we were producing the spot we decided really to just focus on making it all about Jesus - just on spending time in prayer with God. It was amazing to see how the spot resonated with so many. It was an honor to get to pray together and we're thrilled to continue to pray together with everyone this Lent."

Another faith-based ad aired during the Super Bowl was created by a nondenominational group with the intention of

sharing Jesus' love to all audiences. "He Gets Us" also aired two commercials during last year's Super Bowl, which were met with mixed reactions.

This year, the minute-long commercial was titled "Foot Washing" and showed several still images of individuals having their feet washed, including a woman outside of a family planning clinic.

The ad ends with the words "Jesus didn't teach hate. He washed feet."

According to the group's website, this year's theme was chosen to "focus on the thematic inverse of last year's commercial - one built on the premise of love and unity. And with an upcoming election year that will be filled with division and derision, we decided to focus on one of the most important directives given by Jesus - love your neighbor."

Resources to help you grow in faith this Lent

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

Lent is a time when Catholics around the world are invited to pray, fast, and give alms as the Church prepares to enter once again into the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. It is a time when the faithful often give things up such as desserts, junk food, or social media to remember Jesus' 40 days in the desert.

Many people also choose to add something to their spiritual practice to help them grow in faith. So with that in mind, here's a list of Catholic resources that can help you deepen your relationship with the Lord this Lenten season.

'Lenten Companion' with Father Mark Toups from Ascension

This year, walk with Jesus to Jerusalem using Ascension's "Lenten Companion." Father

Mark Toups will guide you to reflect on Jesus' suffering and death while inspiring you to celebrate in his resurrection and bring you deeper peace and healing. The Lenten journal includes daily reflections, prayers, and artwork. Plus there will be weekly videos each Sunday of Lent as well as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Easter. The weekly videos will be in the Ascension App, and Toups will also share daily audio reflections on the app that will be accessible for those with Premium subscriptions.

'Lenten Gospel Reflections' from Word on Fire

Word on Fire is offering a Lenten devotional that features the full Gospel reading for each day of Lent, a daily reflection from Bishop Robert Barron, space for journaling and answering reflection questions, and the Stations of the Cross. The "Lenten Gospel Reflec-

tions" devotional is free; you only have to cover the price for shipping.

'Rescued' Lenten devotional from Blessed Is She

Blessed is She's Lenten devotional is for the whole family. "Rescued: Lent with the Lamb of God" encourages the faithful to turn their eyes to the Lamb of God instead of focusing on our sins, our sacrifices, and our resolutions. "Rescued" places our focus on what Lent is truly about - through Christ's death, we are brought into new life. The devotional comes in a version for women, men, and kids and uses narration, storytelling, Scripture, sacred art, and imaginative prayer to walk you through Lent.

'A Time of Renewal' Lenten book study with Abiding Together

"A Time of Renewal: Daily Reflections for the Lenten Season" by Mother Mary Francis, PCC, is

a beautiful devotional that includes the daily Mass readings and a reflection. Join the hosts of the Abiding Together Podcast as they take listeners through this Lenten devotional. Each week of Lent they will post discussion and journaling questions along with a podcast episode.

'He Leadeth Me' Hallow Pray40 Challenge

Join Catholic actors Mark Wahlberg and Jonathan Roumie; Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT; Sister Mary Bernice; and Father Mike Schmitz in Hallow's Lent Pray40 Challenge. This Lent, Hallow will walk listeners through "He Leadeth Me" by Father Walter J. Ciszek, a Jesuit priest and missionary who was imprisoned for 20 years in the Soviet Union amid some of the worst conditions imaginable. Together with Ciszek's powerful story of surrender and other inspiring testimonies,

listeners will experience a transformative Lenten season focused on surrendering one's life to God.

The Pray More Lenten Retreat

The Pray More Lenten Retreat is an online, self-paced retreat featuring four Catholic speakers discussing topics such as hearing God's voice in prayer, praying with Scripture, fasting, God's divine mercy, a reflection on suffering, and several more. The online retreat aims to help you have a transformative Lent, become more intentional with your prayer life, deepen your faith, and slow down and reflect on your walk with Jesus.



FEBRUARY 21, 2024

VIRTUAL EVENTS

PODCAST PARISH MISSION

This Lent, join us for a unique spiritual experience with our new podcast, "Rending and Mending Our Hearts: Reflections on the Stations of the Cross."

Date: this 14-day parish mission, starting Feb. 19

Place: Subscribe now and join us in this sacred walk. <https://www.route74catholics.org/lent>

Features: Aligning with our Lenten theme "Rending and Mending Our Hearts," invites you to a reflective journey through the Stations of the Cross. Each episode will guide you through these profound stations, intertwining Jesus Christ's journey with our own paths of healing and spiritual renewal. Find this transformative journey on our website (above) or on your favorite podcast platform, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Podcasts.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? Consider joining others virtually who are listening and seeking to respond.

Date: Feb. 25, Mar. 10, Mar. 24

Time: 4 to 5 p.m.

Place: Online

Features: High school age men and older are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation.

Contact: You must register in order to attend, please go to www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

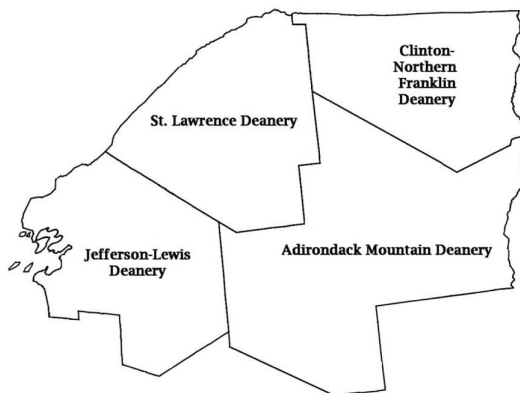
Father Craig MacMahon, OMV will talk with us about the first half (introduction - Chapter 12) of "Struggles in the Spiritual Life," by Father Tim Gallagher, OMV and answer your questions.

Date: Feb. 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features: This book will help you understand and conquer the struggles you face in your spiritual life. In chapter after



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

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

chapter, Father Gallagher presents a particular struggle as experienced by fictional characters and then provides the advice he gives to those who come to him for spiritual direction about that struggle.

Contact: If you haven't signed up for the Friendship Groups, here is the link: <https://mailchi.mp/sophiainstitute/friendship-groups> Once you have signed up, you will receive updates, including the Zoom link and discussion questions, about a week prior to the meeting.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

ALPHA

Lake Placid – All are invited to Alpha.

Date: Wednesdays, starting Feb. 28

Time: 6:15 p.m. to 8:15

Place: St. Agnes School

Features: Free to all, regardless of belief and includes dinner.

Contact: Go to <https://stagneslakeplacid.com/alpha> for more info and to register.

ADORATION

Lake Placid – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held Tuesday.

Time: 1 p.m. to 5:20 followed by Mass

Place: St. Agnes Church

Features: Come rest in the

presence of Jesus. Experience his mercy, love, healing, and peace.

Contact: To sign up as a sub or for a weekly hour, call 518-523-220. Sign-up is not necessary to attend.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND REFLECTION

Ellenburg – Join Us for "Faith, Fellowship, and Reflection.": Experience the Lenten journey like never before!

Date: Every Thursday during Lent (Feb. 22 and 29, March 7, 14 and 21)

Time: 5 p.m. Mass, followed by soup and salad and then a video from the Symbolon Series

Place: St. Edmund's parish hall
Features: "Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained" offers a systematic presentation of our Catholic Faith, guiding you through its "big picture" with our Creed as the compass. Led by trusted Catholic teachers, this series delves into the breadth and richness of our faith. All are welcome to attend this transformative Lenten program.

LENTEN SERIES

Ellenburg – Join us for a series of Lenten Talks, Sharing and Prayer.

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Adirondack House of Prayer

Schedule: March 23, Discipleship in Three Stories in Mark: come and discover the process of discipleship illustrated by three stories in the Gospel of Mark followed by a simple lunch and a Holy Hour based on the discipleship of the Woman at the Well; April 23, Eucharist and the Call to Discipleship: Come and join us for a presentation on the Eucharist and the Call to Discipleship followed by a simple lunch and a Holy Hour.

Features: These events are free and open to all. A donation to help cover lunch will be gratefully accepted.

Contact: For registration, contact Sarah at 518-534-9976 or Email: olaprayerhouse@gmail.com

FISH FRY

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish to have fish fries during Lent.

Date: Fridays Feb. 16 to March 22

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

Place: Holy Cross Parish Center

Cost: \$14

Menu: Haddock, coleslaw, beverage, tartar and cocktail sauce, roll with butter, dessert and the following sides on these dates, Mac & cheese on Feb. 16, 23 and March 15; French Fries on March 1, 8 and 15

Contact: 518-563-0730 for more information.

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

North Bangor – The communities of St. Augustine, and St. Mary's will sponsor a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner.

Date: Feb. 25

Time: Noon to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: \$13

Menu: Chicken and Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Cranberry Sauce, and Dessert.

BREAKFAST

Altona – At. Ann's Church to have a breakfast prepared by the Mooers Knights of Columbus.

Date: Feb. 25

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 5-12, \$7; 5 and under, Free

Menu: Juice, Coffee, Tea, Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Pancakes, Cinnamon Rolls, Home Fries

Contact: For more information, please call the Parish Office 518-236-5632

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

Malone – St. André Bessette Parish will host a Lenten Pilgrimage with an evening of healing, prayer, praise and adoration.

Date: Feb. 27

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

Features: The event will be presented by Shadow on the Water Ministries, Mike Nolan, Miriam Johll and Katie Rels.

LENT, SEASON OF TRANSFORMATION

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish presents, Season of Transformation.

Schedule: Feb. 26, March 4, 11 and 18 at 6:30 p.m. or Feb. 28, March 6, 13 and 20 at 10 a.m.

Place: St. Peter's Emmaus Room

Cost: Suggested donation is \$5 for the study guide

Features: During Lent, we strive to free ourselves from all kinds of clutter-material and spiritual-in order to focus on God and turn back to him with our whole hearts. If this "turning back" is genuine, it will be a reorientation, a transformation. To help us enter into this season, Amy Ekeh guides readers in exploring three key moments in the life and ministry of Jesus. The result will be a better understanding of the authentic transformation that God calls each of us to embrace and a renewed desire to live God's own outward-looking, self-emptying, laying-down-one's-life kind of love.

Contact: Please register for the day or evening session to: plattsburghsec@rcdony.org or call the Parish Office at 518-563-0730.

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FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to have a Fish Fry.

Date: March 1

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$14; Children 5-12, \$7; Take-outs, \$14

Menu: Fried fish, homemade macaroni and cheese, french fries, cole slaw, rolls, beverage and dessert.

Contact: For more info, contact Noreen at the rectory 518-846-7650 or email chazypa@rcdony.org

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Plattsburgh – The interfaith council of Plattsburgh and Clinton County will have an information presentation on how to take action against Human Trafficking.

Date: March 3

Time: 1 p.m. to 3

Place: Temple Beth Israel

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH MASS

Immaculate Conception and St. Andrew's Church will be a parish Lenten Program, "A Biblical Walk Through Mass"

Schedule: Brownville, Immaculate Conception, Tues. starting Feb. 20 until March 19; Sackets Harbor, St. Andrew's, Wed. starting Feb. 21 until March 20

Time: 6 p.m.

Cost: \$10 for all materials

Features: The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. In this study A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. This tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome.

Contact: Please register for the study at the entry of the church.

For more information contact Chris Lapointe at 315-783-5147 or Sister Flavia at 315-836-5272.

HELP STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Watertown – Take action against human trafficking, an informational presentation for parents, grandparents and parishioners.

Date: March 3

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

Features: Brief Film "Chosen" will be shown, panelists will share information and insights about the Signs, the ins and outs of grooming, social media dangers, and kidnapping from the mind of the predator, the child, and the parent. This event is sponsored by Sisters of St. Joseph in collaboration with local Churches, community organizations and schools.

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: March 3

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

Date: March 9

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

LENTEEN RETREAT

Watertown – Lenten retreat to be held for Pastors and Secretaries, Catechetical Leaders and Catechists.

Date: March 10

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: SSJ Motherhouse

Features: Join us for an after-

noon of prayer as we reflect on the "Eucharist and the Call to Discipleship and Mission." There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for personal prayer, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

LENTEEN MISSION

Croghan – Lenten Mission to be held with the theme "Walking to Calvary: A Eucharistic Journey"

Date: March 10, 11, & 12

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Stephen's Parish
Schedule: March 10, "Alone with the Alone": The Eucharist and Prayer; March 11, Jesus' falls: Meeting Him in my failure; March 12, Meeting Mary on the Way: Her Eucharistic Love

Contact: For More Information, Please Contact Stephen's Parish, 315-346-6958 (Father Donald Manfred) or (Tom Kalamas 315-523-5890)

SPAGHETTI DINNER AND BASKET RAFFLE

Adams – St. Cecilia's to have a Spring Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle.

Date: March 23

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Cost: Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$8; Children 10 and under, \$5

Features: Each basket has a value of \$20 or more. Baskets can be viewed at St. Cecilia's Kehoe Center. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Sales begin the weekends of March 9 & 10 and 16 & 17.

Drawings will be held at 6 p.m. on March 23. www.stceciliaandqoh.org

ST. LAWRENCE

TRUST TRUTH SERIES

Canton - Join Canton Catholics for a discussion on hot-button topics in the cold of our North Country winter!

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Sylvia's Lounge (below Josie's Pizza).

Schedule: Feb. 20, THE LEADER WE NEED TO COMBAT CANCEL CULTURE, Speaker-Fr. Raymond De Souza, Editor, Professor, and Pastor in Kingston, ON; Feb. 27, UNFREE-

DOM TO WORSHIP, THE PERILS OF BEING CHRISTIAN IN NIGERIA, Speaker-Okey Ndibe, Author and Visiting Professor at SLU; March 5, IS MY BODY REALLY ME? IDENTITY, TRANSGENDERISM, AND THE MEANING OF REALITY, Speaker-Fr. Leagon Carlin, Parochial Vicar at St. Peter's in Massena; March 12, I'M NOT DEAD YET, END OF LIFE ISSUES FOR THE LIVING, Speaker-Fr. Bryan Stitt, Pastor of St. Mary's in Canton; March 19, UNDER A SPELL, AN ENLIGHTENED AGE'S FASCINATION WITH THE DARK ARTS, Speaker-Elizabeth Pietropoli, Educator and Student Advisor

Features: Cash preferred for drinks. We hope to see you there!

Contact: Free childcare will be offered in St. Mary's Parish Center. Please call ahead to reserve your child(ren)'s spot at 315-386-2543 or for more information.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

Date: March 2

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION
Massena - Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: March 2

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Massena – First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

Date: March 2

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their

monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

Date: March 10 (Second Sunday of each month)

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

Contact: For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

ADORATION

Ogdensburg – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be held every Wednesday.

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: The Deacon Winter Chapel at St. Mary's Cathedral, enter through the glass doors on the Green Street side.

Features: A sign up book will be at the podiums at the front entrances of St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church, however you may attend adoration without signing up. Everyone is welcome and encourages to spend time with Christ.

ALPHA

Massena – You are invited to ALPHA.

Date: Tuesdays starting April 2

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Free to all and includes a free meal.

Contact: Parish office at 315-769-2469 or go to massenacatholics.com for info or to register.

CATHOLIC PARENTING

Potsdam – A series of workshops from the Franciscan University Catechetical Institute to be held on Catholic Parenting.

Date: First Sunday of the month from Oct. to April

Place: St. Mary's Rectory, second floor

Features: Attend all or only those that interest you. Child care can be provided. Event is free.

Contact: For more information contact Mike Neaton at 315-335-6302 or Liz Tarbox at formation-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

CALLED TO SERVE

Laptops instead of snowballs

Snow days were rare but welcome when I was a kid. Rare because I lived 300 miles south of the North Country in Queens County, part of New York City and part of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

It took a significant snowfall for the New York City public and parochial schools to close. I can't recall more than three or four times in my 12 years of parochial school attendance that a snow day was declared.

When it was, a snow day was considered a holiday by us. We kids would build snow forts, go sledding, and have snowball fights. We would enjoy the free time until our mothers had seen enough of our

bright rosy cheeks and called us in for cocoa or something. Good stuff.

I was appalled the other day as I watched the forecast of a winter Nor'easter and the eventual closing of New York schools. They did not declare a snow day, the kind we are used to up here. Instead, they invoked a day of distance learning.

The Brooklyn Diocesan newspaper, The Tablet, announced the plan on its web site. "As a forecast of as much as 5-to-8 inches of snowfall was predicted for the New York City area for Tuesday, Feb. 13, Catholic schools and academies in the Diocese of Brooklyn were directed to pivot to remote learn-

ing, diocesan officials announced Monday."

Pivot to remote learning! I can hear me, and my classmates, uttering a collective bad word at that announcement.

Now that I am much older, I suspect some parents and teachers would join our chorus of expletives. But we would comply.

We learned how to "pivot to remote learning" during the COVID years. Some would say that is one of the few positive results of the pandemic.

A few districts in our region have adopted the virtual classroom con-

cept during heavy snow fall, but all agree it is not the same as having kids in school. Many districts are wrestling with scores on Math and English tests that suggest children fell behind when they were forced to attend class remotely.

The teachers are not to blame. Some took to the new system well; others felt challenged. Then there was the inevitable technical problem. One report indicated about 40% of the public-school kids in New York City could not even log-in to the remote learning system February 13 be-

cause of a computer glitch.

In Connecticut, the state does not allow a remote learning day to be counted as a school day when they compute the district's 180 days of classroom pedagogy.

In fairness, a significant snowfall of 5 to 8 inches (a dusting by our calculation) brings a large metropolitan area to a standstill. We just hit the shovel or snowblower and move on. But that's us. I can hear the man on the street now. "We are tough, we are used to it!"



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

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

Around the diocese

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ALPHA

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Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Free to all and includes a free meal.

Contact: Parish office at 315-769-2469 or go to massencatholic.com for info or to register.

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Place: St. Mary's Rectory, second floor

Features: Attend all or only those that interest you. Child care can be provided. Event is free.

Contact: For more information contact Mike Neaton at 315-335-6302 or Liz Tarbox at formation-stp@gmail.com

DIOCESAN EVENTS

LEAD EVENTS

The following is a list of LEAD (Leaders for Evangelization and Discipleship) events that will be held across the diocese.

Schedule: March 3, Watertown, Hearthside, SSJ Motherhouse 1 p.m. to 3, "Incorporating Evangelization into Children's Faith Formation"; No Cost

- March 9, Norfolk, Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., "Creating a Culture of Vocations in the Parish"; No Cost, www.rcdony.org/CreatingCulture

- March 23, Ogdensburg, Wadhams Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., "What Are You Looking For? Day of Reflection", John 1:38, www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection, \$25

- April 7, Watertown, Hearthside, SSJ Motherhouse, 1 p.m. to 3, "Sacred Scripture the Big Picture"; No Cost

- April 10, Virtual, 6p.m. to 8, "Vocation of the Catechist"; No Cost

Features: We are all called

to know our faith and to share it with others. LEAD offers quality diocesan and regional events to support the parish ministries. All involved in parish ministries are invited to attend. If there is a cost associated with the event, parishes may receive a bill.

Contact: To register go to: www.rcdony.org/certworkshops unless otherwise noted.

CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

Norfolk – The Vocation Office in conjunction with LEAD will be presenting a conference "Creating A Culture of Vocations in the Parish."

Date: March 9

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center

Features: The speaker for the conference is Leticia Ramirez, from Vocation Ministry, Houston, Texas. Leticia Ramirez will share her experiences of supporting and promoting a culture of vocations in parishes and within families to

the priests and parish representatives and to catechetical leaders and catechists.

Contact: To register: <https://www.rcdony.org/CreatingCulture>. Free book "The Harvest" to the first 30 registered.

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of our Diocese.

Date: March 21

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass may be viewed at <https://www.rcdony.org/live-mass>. The Chrism Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

LEAD ANNUAL DAY OF REFLECTION

Ogdensburg – Welcome Catechists, Catechetical Leaders, Commissioned Lay Ministers & Candidates and all Parish Ministers to the Lead Annual Day of Reflection.

Date: March 23

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$25 per person

Theme: "What are you looking for?" John 1:38

Features: This event will be led by Bishop LaValley. Includes Mass, two talks, discussion, holy hour, benediction, and opportunity for confession.

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection

HEALING MASS

Potsdam – Bishop LaValley has scheduled a Healing Mass for those hurt by the Church on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Date: April 7

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

A GROWING VOICE

'Whatever God has in store'

Editor's Note: The following is an offering from Erin Savarie. Erin, 16, is a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville, and she participates in diocesan youth ministry activities, including Camp Guggenheim. At the invitation of the North Country Catholic, Erin is sharing a youth perspective. While we hope to make this a regular feature in these pages,



Erin Savarie

Erin is currently writing on a trial basis as she discerns where God is calling her.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

This is a question that most of us have been asked at some point in our lives. Children often come up with amusing answers such as wanting to be a flower or a firetruck. Some people are fortunate

enough to know from an early age what they want to do, while others spend their entire lives searching for their purpose.

So, what factors influence a person's career choice? I believe that our natural skills and talents play a significant role. Often, we are drawn towards careers that allow us to use our abilities in a meaningful and fulfilling way. For instance, a friend of mine enjoys baking and cooking and hopes to start a small

bakery business. Another friend dreams of becoming a mother and raising a family. As for me, I love writing, and it is something I'm truly good at. Therefore, my natural inclination is to pursue a career in writing.

However, the guidance of others can be even more influential than our own preferences. It is essential to remain open to the advice and guidance of family, friends, and, most importantly, to the Holy Spirit.

Many people have

shared beautiful stories of how they have been led by God or their loved ones to find their true calling. God has a plan for each one of us, and He watches over us, guiding us every step of the way. If we listen to Him and follow His will, we will discover our purpose and become who we are meant to be.

So, when someone asks me, "What do you want to do when you grow up?," my answer is simple: "whatever God has in store for me."

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Sharing the experience

A few days ago, someone asked me what color my car is. An innocent enough question. Actually, I have not seen the true color of my car since some time in December before it became covered with sand, salt, and ice. By the way, it is black.

Since December or so, much of our life has been covered over by road salt, snow, sand, and dirt. However, as the days get longer, and as our hopes get stronger, we are looking forward to seeing our lives once again. We know everything is there. We just can't see it.

Well, in today's Gospel, just the opposite happens. Peter, James, and John thought that they could see Christ. That is, until they go up on a mountain with him and suddenly experience a transfigured Christ. As the gospel writer tells us, his clothes became dazzling white. While that description may sound like a laundry detergent commercial, it means that now they see the fullness of Jesus.

My salt-laden car looks ok, but it will be much more dazzling once it goes through the car wash, or, heaven forbid, once I wash it myself. Just as someone who has cataract surgery can now see the world much more clearly, so too, the three disciples now see so much more of Jesus than they ever thought possible.

Try to imagine what you would do if you were Peter, James, or John. When Jesus started to dazzle and then when Moses and Elijah appeared, would you reach into your pocket for a cell phone to get a picture of the moment maybe even a selfie?

In the Gospel story, Peter wants to build three tents: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. These tents are shrines, shrines to commemorate the event and the experience. Today, we still build shrines, but with digital photography, we readily take pictures for the very same reason: to capture the event and the experience.

February 25

Second Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Romans 8:31b-34

Mark 9:2-10

*This homily is offered
courtesy of a priest of
the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

But can we really capture the event and the experience whether it's a shrine or a digital picture or even a video? Certainly, the event can be captured in pixels or on film whether stills or video. The picture will show exactly the event, what happened.

But can a picture capture the experience? Peter, James, and John were so moved by the transfiguration of Jesus that they wanted to capture especially what they experienced. For them, the tents or the shrines would be a reminder of their experience to help them experience all over again what they experienced in that moment of transfiguration.

Have you ever been in-

lived to a home to see vacation pictures? They want to share what they experienced during vacation. Admittedly, one can see the events, what they did, but it is very hard to share their enthusiasm, their enjoyment, and the thrills that they experienced during their vacation. We can enjoy their enthusiasm, but we cannot have the same enthusiasm as they do.

Peter, James, and John knew the excitement of this moment with Jesus. They experienced his divinity; they experienced Jesus as they had never experienced him before. Naturally, they want to reproduce and relive this experience as often as possible by building the shrines.

We can have very special spiritual moments every now and then. Likewise, our lives are like being on a roller coaster. We have high moments, and then some low moments. We would love to capture those high spiritual moments and put them in a jar so that when we come up short

in life, we could go to the cupboard and take out our saved jar of spiritual euphoria.

In a way, though, we can do that. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist there is more than a transfiguration. There is a transubstantiation. Bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. In addition to that radical change of bread and wine, we can take this body and blood of Christ into our lives thus allowing Christ to transform our lives. This Eucharist, so to speak, transfigures us. We do not dazzle or become snowy white, but we are transformed.

So, today, as we celebrate the Eucharist together, perhaps we can see ourselves as the tents or shrines that Peter wanted to build. May we become what we receive. May we truly be the Body of Christ in our world to our brothers and sisters. We have participated in the event of the Eucharist. Let us make sure that we share the experience of the Eucharist.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Lenten appeal

This Lenten season, will you give the gift of freedom to a suffering person?

Through your donation you can give both the gift of true spiritual and physical freedom in Christ. Your support helps missionaries proclaim the Gospel, build churches, and support mission priests, religious sisters and brothers, and lay pastoral leaders all over the world, as well as provide food, education and medical care to suffering people.

I wanted to share a story with you today that's such a powerful example of the kind of work you make possible through your support!

There's been a lot of transformation since in Cambodia in the past 50 years. The Khmer Rouge era (1975-79) saw Pol Pot's brutal regime unleash devastating violence on the population. Even after the communist dictatorship was toppled, impoverished Cambodians were left with deep emotional scars along with millions of landmines that dot the lush landscape.

It was against this backdrop that the Jesuits opened a mission in Cambodia in 1985, headed by Jesuit Bishop Enrique "Quique" Figaredo - affectionately dubbed "the Bishop of the Wheelchairs." They almost immediately began bringing wheelchairs to more than 30,000 disabled people across the countryside.

Today the wheelchair project employs 18 people, all amputees due to landmine injuries. They build an average of 100 chairs a week, selling a third of them to large organizations so they can give the rest to people unable to cover the production costs (about \$150). What a glorious example of faith in action!

"One person once told me that the wheelchair we give is a sacrament, because it transforms people's lives," the bishop said. "It is a visible sign of a visible relationship."

You and I are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of the heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We know that people left maimed and disabled by war are close to God's heart, and your contribution today will help bring them comfort, support, and the gospel. Your generosity brings the love of Christ to suffering people in Cambodia and beyond.

Together in Mission,

Sr. Mary Ellen

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ
Director

Of love and Lent

Editor's Note: In this new feature, which will run regularly as space allows, Father Bryan Stitt, director of Worship for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will answer questions about worship and related topics. To submit a question, email bstitt@rcdony.org.



FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

With Father Bryan Stitt, Diocesan Director of Worship

passion, death and resurrection and the Jewish feast of Passover.

Through the Passover, the blood of the lambs led to the Jews being freed from bondage in Egypt into the Promised Land. This is a clear foreshadowing of the death of Jesus (The Lamb of God) that led us out of bondage to sin to the freedom of heaven.

The Jewish calendar is based on the cycles of the moon. Their months start when the moon is full. Their annual cele-

bration of Passover is started on the 15th day of their month of Nisan, which always occurs after the vernal (spring) equinox. Therefore, Easter Sunday always falls on the Sunday after the first full moon after March 21st. Since Lent marks 40 days of preparation, Ash Wednesday falls just over 40 days before Easter - not because the Church hates heart shaped boxes of candy and pressure to be perfectly romantic one night of the year.

OBITUARIES

Ausable Forks – Anne V. (McDonald) Walsh-Rooney, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 16, 2024 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Richard Joseph Baker, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2024 at St. Mary's Church.

Chazy – Margaret (Edwards) Dwyer, 99; Services to be held in spring at Sacred Heart Church.

Chazy – Mary Langford Trombly, 94; Services to be held at a later date at Sacred Heart Church.

Keeseville – Pearl Friedah Kelley, 87; Services to be held at a later date.

Keeseville – Thomas Joseph LaMountain, 78; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2024 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Sam F. Villanti, 91; Military Graveside services at Arlington National Cemetery.

Lowville – Tina M. Wormwood, 63; Services to be held at a later date; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

Malone – Kimberly A. Savage Lamica, 57; Services held Feb. 17, 2024; burial in Morningside Cemetery.

Malone – Donald A. Lamitie, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Theresa A. (Kowalowski) Lasky, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 13, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in North Burke Cemetery.

Malone – Clarence R. Lord, 61; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2024 at Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home.

Malone – Carl F. Perry, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 19, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Daem Cemetery.

Massena – Mary Jane (Marsh)

Tricase, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Parishville – John W. Adams, Jr., 79; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2024 at Donaldson-Seymour Funeral Home.

Perru – Deborah J. Adams, 85; Services to be held at a later date.

Plattsburgh – Richard B. Knowles Sr., 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Potsdam – Lenore Marie (Kelly) Hennessy, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 16, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Mary Gladys Paige Orlyk, 84; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church.

Watertown – Patricia Ann (Robinson) LaPage, 92; Services to be held at a later date.

'A very holy and simple soul'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

said. "He would ask me and others if we knew what NCC stands for. We'd say, 'of course. It's the North Country Catholic.' He'd say, 'no. It's Normand Charles Côté.'" Father Canaan noted

that his friend overcame vision struggles and difficulties learning a new language - French was the primary language in his home growing up - to become a priest.

"He struggled academically," he said. "Some

of that struggle was because he had serious issues with his eyes. Eventually, a doctor in Montreal performed surgery on his eyes and corrected them. I never met his parents, but from my understanding,

his mother spoke very little English. I think it was hard for him to adapt to English in American schools. Some people didn't think he could become a priest. He thought it was funny that he ended up the oldest priest in the diocese after people didn't think he could make it."

In addition to filling in to celebrate Masses when he was able, Father Côté's ministry in retirement "consisted of a lot of prayer," Father Canaan said.

"It was Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours every day," he said. "And he would pray one rosary each day, but it was all 20 mysteries - every single day. In addition to the 20 mysteries, he also attached virtues to the mysteries. He would not only meditate on the mystery but also on the different virtues. He'd do maybe five mysteries in the morning, five more in the early afternoon - he broke it up. But he wouldn't even think of going to bed until he was done praying."

Father Côté also had a great devotion to Blessed Marie Leonie Paradis.

"He was a great pro-

moter and very proud of her cause," Father Canaan said. "Apparently, she was a relative, a distant cousin. I told his nephew and sister, when she was alive, that when Mother Leonie becomes canonized, if it's after Normand's death, I'll know he made it to heaven. He'll see it gets done. Recently, the Holy Father accepted her for canonization. I knew that would mean something to him. When I found out, I texted his nephew, Lowell, who had been very faithful in taking care of him over the last few years, and sent him the article. I said, 'you need to tell him she's going to be canonized. His mission is done.' Both Lowell and (Father Côté's) niece, Debbie, conveyed that. Within hours, he went to be with the Lord."

Father Canaan said his friend was also very devoted to the Third Order Franciscans in the Plattsburgh area, serving as their chaplain for decades.

"For a person who struggled academically, he was a very gifted man," Father Canaan concluded.



Communion means:

1. an act or instance of sharing;
2. a Christian sacrament in which consecrated bread and wine are consumed... as the body and blood of Christ;
3. intimate fellowship or rapport;
4. a body of Christians having common faith and discipline.
(according to the online Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

In the pages of our *North Country Catholic*, you'll find many "acts or instances of sharing." The newspaper shares stories of how our North Country neighbors - individuals, parishes, schools and organizations - are trying to follow the Lord's call and share His love. Reading those stories, we find similarities with our own lives. We find ideas to improve our faith and spirituality, and we find inspiration in seeing what the Lord is doing in the world around us. It helps connect us, despite how far apart we may be geographically. The newspaper helps create that "intimate fellowship or rapport" and helps us see our "common faith and discipline" in action. And, of course, we are drawn together by Holy Communion, Christ given to us, body and blood, soul and divinity.

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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Divine Mercy celebration planned in Watertown

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated at 3 p.m. on April 7 at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown. The celebration will include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the opportunity to go to confession and a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be blessed. The celebration will be approximately one hour with refreshments to follow.

In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, the Divine Mercy Novena will begin on Good Friday, March 29 with a gathering for prayer at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church. The gathering will include a brief background of Divine Mercy and by praying the chaplet to begin the nine-day novena.

The Divine Mercy Devotion consists of making a Novena of chaplets by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday, making a good confession & celebrating the Feast of Mercy in church the first Sunday after Easter, being merciful to others, placing our complete trust in Jesus, making a good confession, & receiving Communion on the Feast of Mercy Sunday without the stain of mortal sin.

According to the Divine Mercy message, "the soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on Mercy Sunday without mortal sin, shall obtain complete forgiveness of all sins and punishment."